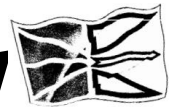


JANUARY 12, 2001

Noteworthy



Government announces

HOME HEATING FUEL REBATE

Finance Minister Lloyd Matthews announced that the province is offering a one-time, \$100 rebate for households using home heating fuel where an individual in that household receives any amount of the Newfoundland and Labrador HST credit, the Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit, or the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit.

"Government recognizes that there are people who are adversely impacted by the high cost of home heating fuel," said Minister Matthews. "This program is designed to provide those in greatest need with some modest relief."

The minister also noted that increased fuel costs are an international problem beyond the scope of any provincial government to fix.

Government estimates that, in comparing today's price for home heating fuel with the average price over the past 32 months, households will spend between \$40 and \$70 more on HST on an annualized basis. The minister stated that even though the rebate will not cover the increased cost, it will more than offset the increased provincial HST.

Individuals will have to apply for the rebate and provide documentation showing that home heating fuel was used in the previous six months. Application forms will be available from the Department of Finance, in provincial newspapers, in provincial Human Resources and Employment offices, Government Service Centres, the Seniors' Resource Centre in St. John's, on government's Web site at www.gov.nf.ca, or by calling 729-1695 in the St. John's area, or toll free at 1-877-729-1695.

The application deadline is March 31, 2001. ☞

MARCONI CELEBRATIONS

Premier Beaton Tulk and Sandra Kelly, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, recently outlined plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi receiving the first wireless signal across the Atlantic Ocean. *Receiving the World: 100 Years of Wireless Communications* celebrations will take place throughout 2001 and highlight the province's rich heritage in the global communications industry.

"Once again, an event of profound and international significance occurred right here in Newfoundland and Labrador, and we are delighted to recognize the anniversary of this special event," said Minister Kelly. The Marconi celebrations will also promote the province's developments and capabilities in the information technology sector.

Some of the events planned include an industry-based IT and Communications international conference, "Wireless Wizard" Kite Festivals, a Marconi Affiliated Events Program, a Soirees and Times Program and an Exhibit and Interpretation Program. More information about the Marconi celebrations can be found at www.gov.nf.ca/marconi. ☞

Department honoured for excellence

The American magazine *Business Facilities* announced that the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology has been awarded second place in the Regional Economic Development Incentive Program Category of its 2000 Economic Development Achievement Awards Program.

The monthly magazine, written for top-level executives in all industry and service sectors, awarded the department second place for its Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprise (EDGE) program. The EDGE program was established in 1995

to attract a wide spectrum of businesses to the province. The program offers incentives to eligible out of province businesses to set up in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"I am very pleased that the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology has been recognized for this prestigious award by *Business Facilities* magazine," said Industry, Trade and Technology Minister Sandra Kelly. "This is an affirmation that initiatives such as our EDGE program are effective in the international business community." ☞



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