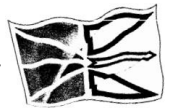


Noteworthy

MAY 4, 2001



Newfoundland and Labrador

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

Newfoundland and Labrador and the Republic of Ireland are continuing to facilitate trade with one another. Recently, the Government of the Republic of Ireland announced the establishment of Newfoundland and Labrador Business Partnerships, a private-public partnership organization which will manage the memorandum of understanding between the two jurisdictions.

"The establishment of Newfoundland and Labrador Business Partnerships is a significant strategic development which demonstrates a strong commitment on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Ireland," said Industry, Trade and Rural Development Minister Beaton Tulk. The minister noted that the MOU has already resulted in several business ventures and agreements.

Newfoundland and Labrador created St. John's-based Ireland Business Partnership in 1997, a year after the MOU was signed, to manage the trade arrangement. Vince Withers chairs the executive committee of the provincial organization. Noel Treacy, T.D., Minister of Science and Technology for Ireland, will chair Ireland-based Newfoundland and Labrador Business Partnerships.

"We anticipate the development of a strong, successful relationship between Ireland Business Partnerships and its counterpart in Ireland with a defined focus on trade and business development," said Minister Tulk. "Newfoundland and Labrador values its relationship with the Republic of Ireland and remains committed to the success of the MOU between our two regions." ❧

C-NOPB announces call for bids

The Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board recently announced a new call for bids for the province's offshore area. Fourteen parcels and almost two million hectares will be up for bid this year. Premier Roger Grimes also promoted this new call at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Texas.

Last year, \$88 million worth of work expenditures was committed and major growth in the petroleum sector is anticipated for the future with Terra Nova beginning production this year, White Rose under review and the potential for a Hebron/Ben Nevis project. Industry interest has extended beyond the Jeanne d'Arc Basin into the South Whale Basin, the Flemish Pass area and offshore western Newfoundland.

Bidders must submit their work expenditure bids to the C-NOPB by November 20, 2001. Winning bids are based solely on the amount of money a bidder plans to commit to exploration on the parcel during the first five years. The province offers a stable economic base, significant natural resource potential, world class research facilities and \$1.2 billion worth of onshore infrastructure for the offshore oil and gas industry. ❧

Support and recognition for libraries

Libraries across the province received a boost from government recently through a donation of books and recognition of Library Week. Kevin Aylward, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation presented the first of 100 copies of Marconi's Miracle to be distributed to public libraries throughout the province.

"This book will not only educate our young people on the history of communications in their own province, but also hopefully show them the results of hard work and inspire them to pursue their own dreams," said the minister. The minister's presentation was part of the official launch of Library Week 2001, from April 29 to May 5.

Judy Foote, Minister of Education, also recognized the importance of Library Week. She said that the availability of reading materials is a significant factor in improving public literacy. There is a direct correlation between a population's literacy and its economic prosperity.

"The Newfoundland and Labrador Library Association chose as their theme - Let Libraries Carry You Away - a very appropriate theme which speaks to the world of possibilities reading opens up to us," said Minister Foote. "We read to enhance our education, for work-related research, or simply for the pleasure of it." ❧

