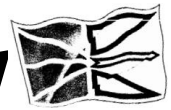


JUNE 29, 2001

Noteworthy



Agreement in Principle reached with LIA

Representatives of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Canada and the Labrador Inuit Association gathered in Nain June 25 to sign the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). The signing ceremony, and the release of land selection maps, is another step towards a final agreement on land claims and self-government with the Labrador Inuit.

"Today we mark a significant milestone, as this agreement is the first of its kind in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador," said Premier Roger Grimes. "The signing of this agreement will open the door to new opportunities for social and economic development for the people of this province, particularly the Labrador Inuit."

"I am proud to be able to be part of this historic event," said Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ernest McLean. "The signing of this agreement represents the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the province, the federal government and the Labrador Inuit. I am confident a final agreement will pave the way to a bright and prosperous future for all residents of Labrador."

Land selection maps released show the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA), which consists of approximately 72,520 square kilometres of land, as well as some 44,030 square kilometres of tidal waters within Canada's 12-mile limit. Within LISA, Inuit will own 15,800 square kilometres, known as Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL), where they will have the most rights and benefits. These lands will fall under the management and control of an Inuit Central Government.

The final agreement will provide for the establishment of the Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve of approximately 9,580 square kilometres which is also within LISA. The final agreement will also provide for the establishment of five Inuit community governments, as well as joint fishing and wildlife management boards throughout LISA. Under the final agreement, the Government of Canada will transfer \$140 million to the Labrador Inuit, as well as \$115 million for implementation. ❖

Receiving the World CELEBRATIONS in full flight

The world's largest kite will fly over Confederation Hill on June 30 and July 1 as part of the St. John's "Wireless Wizard" Kite Festival. Other highlights planned for the two-day Receiving the World event include fighter-kite competitions, kite demonstrations and live musical entertainment.

Along with the Wireless Wizard events both days, there will also be special events to celebrate Canada Day on July 1. The Canada Day sunrise ceremony will be held at Signal Hill at 5 a.m. Later that night, there will be a kite night flight at Quidi Vidi lake, followed by fireworks.

The Community Food Sharing Association will be collecting non-perishable food items at the event. Public parking will be available at the Confederation Building parking lots and access for persons with disabilities will be available via Gooseberry Lane. ❖

Volunteer Medal nomination process launched

In recognition of the International Year of Volunteers, Premier Roger Grimes recently revealed the design of the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Medal and outlined details on the nomination process.

"I am pleased to showcase for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador this province's symbol of volunteerism," said Premier Grimes. "In this, the United Nations' International Year of Volunteers, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is proud to introduce the province's symbol of volunteering excellence in the form of the Volunteer Medal."

Individuals, organizations and other groups are encouraged to nominate individuals to receive this prestigious volunteer award. Two individuals in each of the province's 48 electoral districts, one male and one female, will be presented with the medal later this year. Submissions will be accepted by the committee until September 30, 2001.

"This volunteer medal is a way of recognizing the long-term accomplishments of volunteers in this province," said the premier. "The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Medal will be presented to a small group of extraordinary volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to benefit others." ❖



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