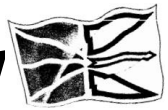


JULY 13, 2001

Noteworthy



Government to draft class action legislation

Premier Roger Grimes and Justice Minister Kelvin Parsons recently announced government's intent to draft class action legislation. Such legislation would allow many related claims to be dealt with in an efficient, effective and fair manner.

"Government's goal is to draft a comprehensive Class Proceedings Act that would eliminate the guess work associated with the province's current regime, a combination of the Rules of Court and common law, and replace it with a fair and logical framework for class actions," said Premier Grimes.

"Government recognizes that the applicable law regime in place in this province cannot accommodate a class action lawsuit," explained Minister Parsons. "Class action legislation would allow a single plaintiff, as a representative for many with similar claims, to move forward with a claim that, when decided, settles all of the group's claims."

Three provinces have class action legislation in place: Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Other provinces are considering class action legislation, including Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

"It is this province's intention to use the Uniform Class Proceedings Act, prepared by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, as a model for our proposed legislation," said Minister Parsons. "The UCPA draws from the best aspects of the Ontario and British Columbia legislation and is a model other provinces are also exploring."

Government will consult with the judges of the Newfoundland Supreme Court, the Law Society of Newfoundland, the Newfoundland Branch of the Canadian Bar Association and consumer groups prior to preparation of draft legislation.

MARCONI artifacts on display in province

For the first time in 100 years, the artifacts and documents relating to Marconi's December 12, 1901, achievement have been returned to Newfoundland for an exhibit in the Colonial Building, St. John's.

On July 12, Premier Roger Grimes and Kevin Aylward, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, officially opened *An Unmistakable Sound: Marconi's Transatlantic Success*, an exhibit of authentic equipment, documents and photographs of Marconi's efforts 100 years ago.

When Marconi arrived in St. John's in 1901, he brought with him seven crates which contained two balloons, 25 tanks of hydrogen gas, six kites, aerial wire, receiving apparatus and more. For the first time in 100 years, all his receiving apparatus, equipment and his documents have been returned to Newfoundland for the exhibit – *An Unmistakable Sound: Marconi's Transatlantic Success*, in the Colonial Building, St. John's, from July 12 to October 31, 2001.

Battery recycling more convenient

Changes to the Charge Up To Recycle! program now make it more convenient for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to recycle used rechargeable batteries. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's program has expanded to include additional rechargeable chemistries, as well as more retail and community drop-off locations in the province.

"Recycling programs are a great way to help our environment by reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill sites. This program diverts rechargeable batteries from landfill sites which in turn keeps harmful by-products out of those sites, and I encourage everyone to recycle their used rechargeable batteries," said Environment Minister Ralph Wiseman.

The program accepts batteries commonly found in cellular phones, laptop computers, camcorders, power tools, cordless phones, and children's toys. In Newfoundland and Labrador, consumers can drop-off used rechargeable batteries free of charge at a number of retail locations including Radio Shack, Canadian Tire, Future Shop, and NewTel Mobility.

In addition to retail locations, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the City of St. John's have introduced programs to enable employees to recycle used rechargeable batteries. The stewardship program for provincial government employees will include distribution of collection boxes to all government offices throughout the province.

