



Noteworthy

Changes in legislation benefit people living with disability

Gerald Smith, Minister of Human Resources and Employment, and Julie Bettney, Minister of Health and Community Services, announced legislative and policy changes to allow for the establishment of support trusts by family members on behalf of adults with disabilities. These changes will allow support trusts to be exempted when determining eligibility for social assistance and supportive services.

"This decision represents a continuation of government's longstanding commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to be full and active members of their community, with the appropriate supports in place to ensure an independent lifestyle," said Minister Smith. "It also reflects government's ongoing willingness to partner with families, community agencies and persons living with a disability to find ways to cooperate on fostering these goals."

Families whose adult children are in receipt of programs and services such as social assistance and home support services can now establish a support trust up to a maximum of \$100,000, without the services received by adult children with a disability being affected. Previously, money set aside in trust for a family member living with a disability was classified as a liquid asset and influenced a client's eligibility for government supports.

"An exemption for support trusts when determining eligibility for government supports will allow families to provide for the future of their adult children who have a disability," said Minister Bettney. "The trust will help offset additional costs associated with living with a disability such as communications devices, renovations, vehicle modification and other special needs which cannot be provided through programs offered by Human Resources and Employment and Health and Community Services."

Labrador: a vital part of this province

The Government of Canada introduced a resolution in the House of Commons last week to change the province's official name to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, from the Province of Newfoundland, and an official amendment was granted.

Premier Roger Grimes, Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Tom Lush and Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ernest McLean are pleased with the federal governments' resolution.

"Labrador is an important and vital part of this province," said Premier Grimes. "The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is firmly committed to ensuring official recognition of Labrador as an equal partner in this province, and a constitutional name change of our province will reiterate that commitment."

This move by the federal government follows a resolution made in April 1999 by the House of Assembly that called for the constitutional amendment of the Terms of Union to include Labrador in the official name of the province.

Showing our support for Canadian Forces

This province has developed a new initiative to show support for the Canadian men and women going overseas and those protecting our country on the homefront.

Premier Roger Grimes has announced the launch of a new website dedicated to and in support of the Canadian Forces fighting the war against terrorism. By visiting www.gov.nf.ca/messages, individuals are able to write and post electronic messages, as well as read messages posted from other individuals.

"Men and women of the Canadian Forces need to know that the public supports them in their fight against terrorism and crimes against humanity," said Premier Grimes. "I am sure

our messages will lift the spirits of those who defend our freedoms and peace of mind."

Government is encouraging individuals to show support for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians serving their province and country. Approximately 10 per cent of Canada's full-time military personnel are Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

"The people of this province have a long and proud tradition of serving Canada's military," said Premier Grimes. "I strongly encourage all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to give the dedicated members of our forces a solid vote of confidence and to pray for their safety and success in their campaign."

