



# Noteworthy

## **Government to help areas in economic distress**

The provincial government is launching an initiative to provide assistance to areas of the province where significant numbers of people have not been able to find work or enough work to support their families, and where entire communities are in distress as a result.

Industry, Trade and Rural Development Minister Beaton Tulk said that \$2 million is being provided to target areas where circumstances are creating hardship for entire families and communities. The funding will be allocated on the basis of need, with the active involvement of MHAs who will have a critical role to play in working with communities and towns to ensure that those in greatest need will benefit from the available resources. Project selection under this initiative will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

"Government does not have and does not plan to introduce a province-wide program that addresses the needs of each and every individual who requires additional work to qualify for EI, but is always sensitive to extraordinary circumstances in the province as they may evolve over time. While our overall economy remains strong and continues to grow, we recognize that there are pockets or areas within the province where circumstances justify government intervention and our fiscal position can accommodate," said Minister Tulk. "We don't have a province-wide problem that would justify a province-wide government intervention. In fact, the overall employment picture in the province is better now than it has ever been. But we do have areas of concern, and we intend to act accordingly."

The \$2 million available for assistance is being provided by the Department of Industry, Trade and Rural Development from its existing budget, where unanticipated savings have been identified from slower than expected cash flow payments under various federal-provincial economic development agreements. ❧

## **The House comes to Television**

"This administration is committed to being the most open and accountable government in the province's history," Premier Roger Grimes stated last week as he officially opened the House of Assembly to cameras. "When I became premier, one of my commitments was to implement concrete measures allowing the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to have confidence that government was forthcoming and accessible."

The premier, along with House Speaker Lloyd Snow, representatives from Rogers Cable and leaders of the other political parties, participated in a news conference to mark the occasion. Premier Grimes reiterated the point that televising House sessions will improve government's policy of openness and increase the level of accessibility for rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

With the televising of the House, communities all across this province will have ready access to information and issues discussed during House sessions. Residents will be able to watch their representatives participate in House discussion from the comfort of their homes. ❧

## **Former Governor's diaries for provincial archive holdings**

Tourism, Culture and Recreation Minister Kevin Aylward accepted the diaries, photographs and correspondence of former Newfoundland Governor Walter Davidson at an event held at the Colonial Building where he also opened the exhibit, "Davidson's St. John's." Davidson's granddaughter, Caroline Charles-Jones, presented the detailed documents of the governor's time in Newfoundland from 1913-1917.

"The Governor's diaries are a vivid daily account of everything he lived through during this time and truly a rare find for any archive," said Minister Aylward. "The wealth of detail Governor Davidson provided us in these diaries, which

includes everything from daily weather conditions to the notable events surrounding the beginning of World War I, offers us an eyewitness account to one of the most significant periods in our social, political and military history. These diaries allow generations of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to live and experience everything that Governor Davidson did and saw."

The exhibit will run from November 9 to March 22 and the general public can visit the exhibit, free of charge, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Colonial Building. ❧

