

Noteworthy

Environment Minister pleased recovery rate approaching 70 per cent

According to figures released by the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB), the recovery rate for beverage containers throughout the province increased eight per cent in 2002 compared to 2001. At the end of this past year, the recovery rate for beverage containers was approximately 68 per cent, which is an 18 per cent increase over a two-year period.

The Minister of Environment, Kevin Aylward said: "This significant increase in the recovery rate since 2001 is to be commended. The programs introduced to encourage more recycling are obviously working. Public education is a key element of the provincial waste management strategy and the awareness created through the Beverage Container Program, administered by the MMSB, is very important."

"There are several factors responsible for these positive results; an increase in the consumer refund in February 2001 undoubtedly had a significant impact," said Gordon Seabright, MMSB chair. "Other factors that contributed to the growth in volumes were the provincial School Recycling Contest, MMSB's marketing and public education campaign and an overall increase in consumer awareness of recycling and the environment."

In order to maintain this momentum, MMSB will continue to provide recycling information to the public and launch recycling programs to assist residents, businesses, schools, fundraising groups and Green Depots in their recycling efforts for beverage containers.

The province's Beverage Recycling Program is administered by MMSB, a Crown agency of the Department of Environment with a mandate to develop, implement, and manage waste diversion programs in Newfoundland and Labrador. ☞

Minister promotes provincial petroleum industry

Mines and Energy Minister Lloyd Matthews is in Calgary this week to speak to members of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and to address the Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI) World Oil Conference on January 27 and 28. Minister Matthews will be the keynote speaker at a Monday breakfast meeting sponsored by CAPP and at Tuesday's conference luncheon.

"Speaking engagements and meetings such as this provide the province with an opportunity to highlight the positive and exciting things taking place in our petroleum industry," said Minister Matthews. "It is necessary to take advantage of such events to promote our oil and gas resources and to encourage new exploration to the national and international investment community."

Mr. Matthews says that Newfoundland and Labrador is recognized as a strong player in the global petroleum industry, and world conferences such as this will increase exposure, as well as significant business potential, for the province. ☞

Town Hall forum on insurance

Walter Noel, Minister of Government Services and Lands, will be hosting a Town forum to discuss insurance issues on Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road, St. John's. Participants will include representatives of insurance companies, insurance brokers, the legal profession and the business community.

"My department receives many calls from consumers concerning insurance matters. This will be a chance for people to have questions answered and make recommendations about how their needs may be better served. I encourage everyone with an interest in this important issue to attend and make their views known," said Minister Noel. ☞

Pre-Budget consultations resumed

The pre-Budget consultations being held by Finance Minister Joan Marie Aylward resumed Thursday, January 30, with a session at the Holiday Inn in Stephenville at 9 a.m.

The roundtable discussions are being held to provide an opportunity for individuals to voice their opinions on the direction they would like to see government take in developing its 2003-04 Budget.

Other sessions are scheduled for Corner Brook on February 3, St. John's February 4 and Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador City on February 5. In addition, an electronic town hall is scheduled for February 8. ☞

