



# METIS MESSENGER

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The **METIS MESSENGER** is published by the Labrador Metis Nation (LMN) on a quarterly basis. The LMN is an Aboriginal representative organization formed in the late 70s to enhance, promote and protect Metis individuals, territory and culture through recognition and protection of their constitutional and inherent Aboriginal rights.

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## MAJOR COURT VICTORY FOR LABRADOR METIS ‘No More Excuses’

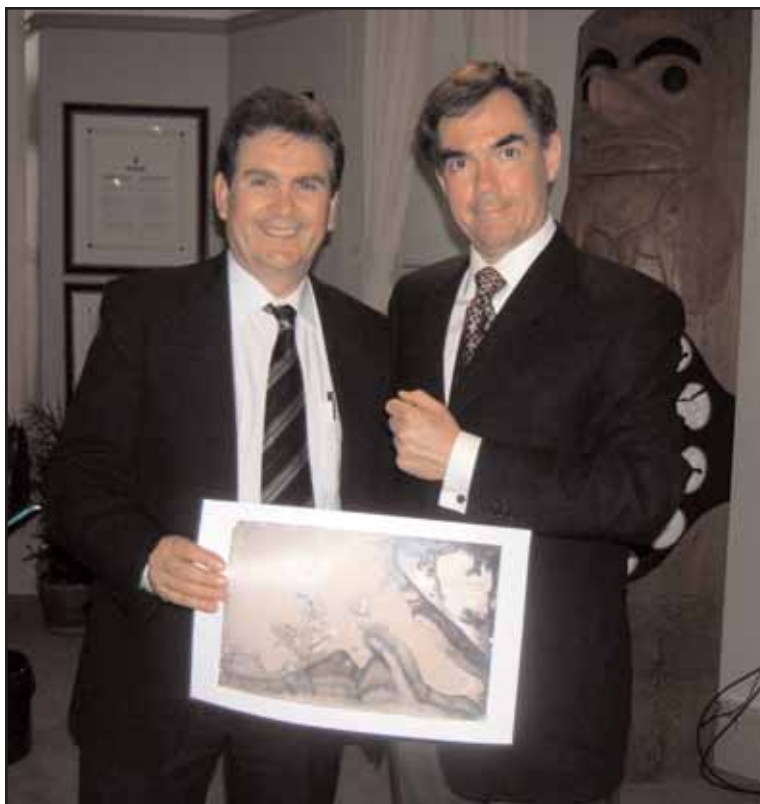
Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague is calling on the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to immediately enter into meaningful consultations with the LMN on resource and other land developments taking place or proposed for the region.

“We have said all along that governments have a legal obligation to consult with the Labrador Metis on all developments that will have an impact on our ancestral lands,” says Montague.

“We now have the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador on our side, and it’s time for the government to accept the fact that we will accept nothing less than the same standard of consultation that is afforded to other Aboriginal groups in Labrador.”

In a decision handed down July 19, the Hon. Justice Robert Fowler said the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador “had and continues to have an ongoing duty to engage in meaningful consultation with the Labrador Metis people as represented by the Labrador Metis Nation”, and that the failure to do so “is not justified”.

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### RISK ASSESSMENT

**Labrador Metis Nation President Chris Montague with Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice in Ottawa on June 8. Mr. Montague called on the Minister to move forward with an independent review, as well as a risk assessment, of the Labrador Metis land claim. It is hoped the recent Supreme Court decision will help speed the process. Here, Mr. Montague presents the Minister with a copy of a map which is believed to depict Newfoundland Governor Hugh Palliser approaching Inuit (Karalit) kayaks during the Peace and Friendship Treaty event of August 21, 1765 at Chateaux Bay in southern Labrador.**



## Melville Metis Elders Group Keeping Busy

Members of the Melville Metis Elders Group have been very busy over the past month. Activities have included afternoon socials, craft days, a day at the North West River Beach Festival, Metis Friends and Family Day and a beautiful garden tour. The activities are a great way to get the elders interacting with one another, meeting new people, having fun and getting involved in the community. From left, front: Elder Councillor Ken Mesher with elders Marge Goudie, Jane Lethbridge and Jim Purdy, with Woodward Aviation's bus driver Leon Richards during a trip to North West River.

## *Supreme Court rules province has a 'duty to consult'*

*Continued from Page 1*

The LMN filed court action against the Government of Newfoundland after attempts failed to enter into meaningful consultations on development of Phase III of the Trans-Labrador Highway. The court proceedings wrapped up last fall in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

"From this day forward, both the provincial and federal governments have no more excuses," says Montague.

"Whether it is roads or resources, we must be fully engaged as partners. We must be consulted on all fronts. That is the clear and irrevocable message from

the Supreme Court."

Montague is also calling on the Government of Canada to begin a process of entering into formal negotiations on a land claims agreement with the Labrador Metis.

"The federal government now has clear idea of how a court is likely to rule when it comes to our claim," says Montague. "There is no reason whatsoever to discount our claim."

Meanwhile, Montague says the Supreme Court ruling will have major implications for the proposed Lower Grand (Churchill) River hydro develop-

ment and Markland Resources mineral sands project further downstream. He notes that it also gives strength to projects being proposed by the LMN such as the Height of Land Wind Park.

"The Supreme Court ruling is a great victory for the Labrador Metis," Montague says. "The provincial government can no longer ignore our concerns."

**Note:** A copy of the Supreme Court decision is available on the LMN website at [www.labmetis.org](http://www.labmetis.org).

**TransContinental**

## MOVING FORWARD

# Cartwright hosts Annual General Assembly

The Labrador Metis Nation held its General Annual Assembly May 27-28 in Cartwright, with the theme *Moving Forward*.

The AGA began in the gymnasium of Henry Gordon Academy Saturday morning with a Meet-and-Greet.

The business meeting, which began at 9:45 a.m., with an opening prayer and nominations for chair and returning officer.

Clarice Blake Rudkowski accepted the position of chair and Lisa Dempster accepted the position of returning officer.

The 2005 AGA minutes were read and reviewed by the assembly before Mr. Montague began his report, which included discussion of Trans-Labrador Highway, land claims, corporate recognition, forestry, the environment, Mealy Mountains Park, tourism, the communal fishery, financial accountability, the Height of Land Wind Park, and Lower Churchill. The President's Report was followed by Gary Parsons, Walters Hoffe, who presented the Labrador Metis Nation's financial reports for 2004-05 and 2005-06.

The afternoon business began with a report on fisheries and aquatic Species at Risk by Claude Rumbolt, Fisheries

Development Specialist. Greg Mitchell, Environmental Advisor, followed with a State of Land Report. Delegates then voted on resolutions. The meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m. after brief closing remarks from the President and the closing prayer from Elder Councillor Don Davis.

The Assembly banquet was held at the Cartwright Hotel, with keynote speaker Mr. Don Kallusky, Director of Aboriginal Affairs for Canada and Alaska, ESS Support Services Worldwide. He also made a special presentation to the children of Henry Gordon Academy.

Special presentations by the President were given to Mr. Kallusky and the LMN Council. Mr. Montague made two very special presentations one to Don Davis and Bernie Heard for their years of dedication and commitment to the LMN.

Lisa Dempster, the returning officer announced the winners of the election, as follows: Kirk Lethbridge, Vice President; Kathy Pardy, Councillor, and Allan (H) Dyson, Councillor. The board as reintroduced and joined with the new members.



**President Chris Montague, right, made several presentations during the AGA closing banquet, including one to newly-elected Vice-President Kirk Lethbridge for his past year of service as an LMN Councillor. Other LMN Councillors were presented with gifts as well.**

Sunday was filled with various workshops geared to be appealing to the many demographics among Metis.

Jamie Snook, Metis Development Corporation, started the morning off along John Douglas, President, Ventus Energy Inc., with a workshop on the Height of Land Wind Park.

Melita Paul and Darlene Wall, Learning for Life ~ Preventing Diabetes, followed with an educational and fun way of learning about and how to prevent diabetes.

Cathey Earles, co-ordinator of the HIV Aids Labrador Project, conducted a workshop simultaneously with the Learning for Life ~ Preventing Diabetes workshop. The workshop covered both HIV Aids, but focused more on the education of Hepatitis C.

Amy Moss, Business Analyst, MDC, conducted a workshop on Entrepreneurship, which explained what resources are available to those interested in owning a business and the services provided by MBC that could assist them.



Some of the delegates at this year's Annual General Assembly in Cartwright.

*Continued on Page 4*

## *Employment Assistance Services - Kausiutik Uvluriak*

# Serving Lodge Bay to Paradise River

The Labrador Metis Nation has recently renewed its fifth agreement with Service Canada to oversee the successful delivery of EAS services in Zone 4. The purpose of EAS is to provide Employment Assistant Services such as Counselling, Job Search Assistance, Career Decision Making Support and Workshops.

Some Community-based training initiative's that EAS was involved in this year include: FM 1V (Port Hope Simpson-with participants from surrounding area; MED A1 (Cartwright, Charlottetown, and PHS); ROC MC (Cartwright, Port Hope Simpson); Basic Net Construction (Charlottetown and PHS); and ABE (Port Hope Simpson regional site location).

More than 160 participants enrolled in these courses. In many cases the same

fisher person may have done both MED and ROC-MC.

### **POST SECONDARY TRAINING**

The EAS staff is continuing to see an increase in the number of clients pursuing post-secondary options. This can be contributed to several factors. More and more students are finishing high school than just a few short years ago and the majority of them are furthering their education.

Last September, over 65 students from Zone 4 enrolled fulltime in post secondary studies at various colleges and universities, and over 40 students thus far apply for post secondary studies in the fall. The 'type' of training youth are choosing is increasingly becoming more longer term, more meaningful type employment - i.e. university programs, engineering, techno-

logically advanced, and programs related to employment in the medical field.

In addition to post-secondary training, there were several other programs that were carried out in some or all communities in Zone 4. They included Job Creation Partnerships, Targeted Wage Subsidies, Self Employment Benefits, Provincial Job Creation, as well as a range of youth programs, including Summer Career Placement, SWASP, etc

The EAS offices provides assistance with job search/labor market information, employment counseling, career decision making and funding applications. Workshops are also available upon request for resume writing/interview tips, career awareness, funding presentations and things to consider when choosing a career, etc.

## *'Moving Forward' theme of AGA*

*Continued from Page 1*

Esther Williams, Violence Prevention Coordinator, held a Crime Prevention Workshop. This workshop was held for the Metis youth members and explained the types of abuse, warning signs of abuse, how to help someone who is being abused and where to find help.

Clarice Blake Rudkowski, of Grand Riverkeeper Labrador Inc., was the keynote luncheon speaker. She spoke about the importance of Grand River and the environmental concerns of damming the waterway.

Later, Vice-President Kirk Lethbridge and Councillor Christa Turnbull conducted an Addictions and Peer Pressure workshop for youth. The workshop provided an educational and safe atmosphere for youth to discuss their experiences with drugs. There was also a showing of an Street Spirits video about drugs.

Joe Goudie and Gary Pittman of Parks Canada conducted an information session on the feasibility study for the Mealy Mountains/Akamiaspishku National Park. Information supplied detailed the objective of the study, which is to engage communities in helping to determine the feasibility of a national park, the project's background, progress made thus far, an introduction of the traditional uses of the land area, as well as suggested approaches for management.

Over the two day event booths were setup for registration, selling crafts, and purchasing LMN gear, HIV Aids/Hepatitis Awareness. There was also an environmental booth showcases beautiful scenic shots and maps where members could indicate where their cabins and trap lines are located.

The AGA wrapped up at about 4 p.m. Sunday.

### **Aboriginal Family Centre gearing up for fall season**

The Aboriginal Family Centre, located at 38 Grenfell Street in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, is a federally-funded initiative designed to meet the needs of Inuit, Innu and Metis children and their parents/caregivers living in the area.

The program focuses on children from infancy to six years of age and offers a pre-school/day-care setting where families can take part in planned activities free of charge. The Centre provides transportation, training opportunities, parenting programs, a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) resource library, a school readiness program, social nights as well as a pre/post Natal Healthy Baby Club.

If you would like to learn more about the Aboriginal Family Centre, please call 896-4398/4399 or drop by the office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. p.m Monday to Friday. Fall registration will begin on Aug. 21.

# Metis Friends and Family Day

## Giant Success

This year's Metis Friends and Family Day, held on July 15 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, was a giant success.

A long list of carnival and cultural events created a comfortable atmosphere that everyone seemed to enjoy. The unique activities and attractions offered demonstrated our distinct identity and showcased our beautiful and valuable heritage. Children were given the opportunity to see first hand some of the traditional tools, and items that their grandparents and great-grand parents might have used, and visitors to Happy Valley-Goose Bay were able to observe real Metis culture as it exists today.

Some of this year's main events included: a Traditional Food Tasting Tent; an Elder's Tent filled with traditional items and refreshments; an Un-plugged Acoustic Music Tent with both youth and adult musicians; Kid's Corner with face painting, craft making, and a story reading tent; Native Games demonstrations; a Metis Fashion Show; a Metis Pride Essay Contest; and an array of scheduled events like a scavenger hunt with a twist and a traditional obstacle course. These events were well received and a primary source of entertainment.

A great committee of volunteers was organized to plan and deliver Metis Family and Friends Day. Volunteers from United Cultures Youth Center, the Community Youth Network, the Multi-Cultural Youth Gathering, LMN Staff and many independent community members gave their time and energies to put fun-filled day in motion.

There was a great deal of generosity shown by local business and projects; every donation was appreciated and helped to make Metis Friends and Family Day possible.

It is hoped this event will be held on an annual basis so that people young and old, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal may



**Traditional native games were among the highlights at this year's event.**

gather in friendship, learn about each other, and celebrate culture and family together. The LMN embraces its culture and desires to extend a hand out to the community in friendship; this event is the perfect opportunity to do just that. With enough resources available, next year's Metis Friends and Family Day is hoped to be even better. Metis friends all over Labrador are encouraged to organize their own events so that we might celebrate our culture together region wide.



The Elder's Tent and the Traditional Food Tasting Tent were popular attractions at this year's Metis Family and Friends

## Liz's Walk

# Creating an awareness of type 2 diabetes

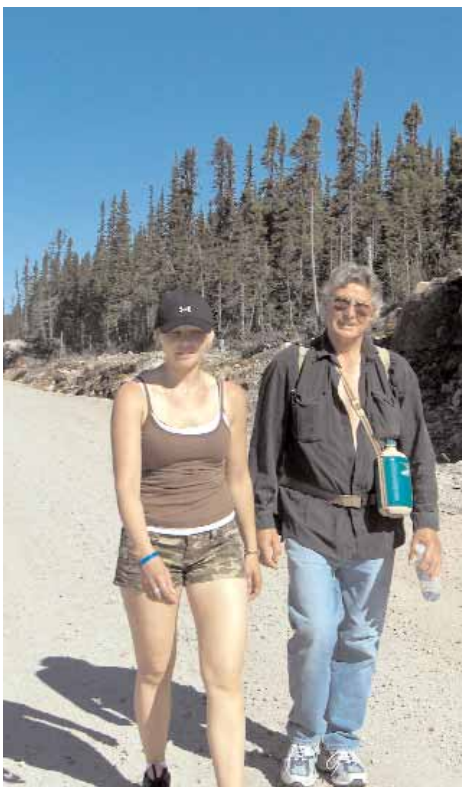
This year the Learning for Life ~ Preventing Diabetes Project partnered with Guy Poole to do a walk in memory of his wife Liz in an effort to raise awareness of type 2 diabetes.

Liz Poole lost her battle to diabetes in September 2004 at the early age of 57. In order to keep Liz's memory alive, Guy set out to walk some 200 kilometers in and out of six communities in southern Labrador connected by road.

The walk began in Pinsent's Arm on May 29 and finished in St. Lewis on June 5. Over 200 walkers participated during the week. Town councils, businesses and volunteers played a vital role in making this walk a success.

A special recognition goes out to two girls from Charlottetown, Amy and Clara Campbell, who walked over 50 kms each over a period of two days. The walk was a personal journey for both girls, as their grandmother battles with diabetes. Their other grandmother passed away due to complications of diabetes many years ago before the two were born.

In addition to the awareness raised, donations and sponsors were received, totaling over \$4000.00 to date. The



funds will be distributed between the Canadian Diabetes Association for research and diabetes awareness activities through the Labrador Metis Nation.

Other communities in Labrador also took part in similar walks during the summer.

If you would like more information about Liz's Walk or any other diabetes awareness activities, please get in touch with the following:

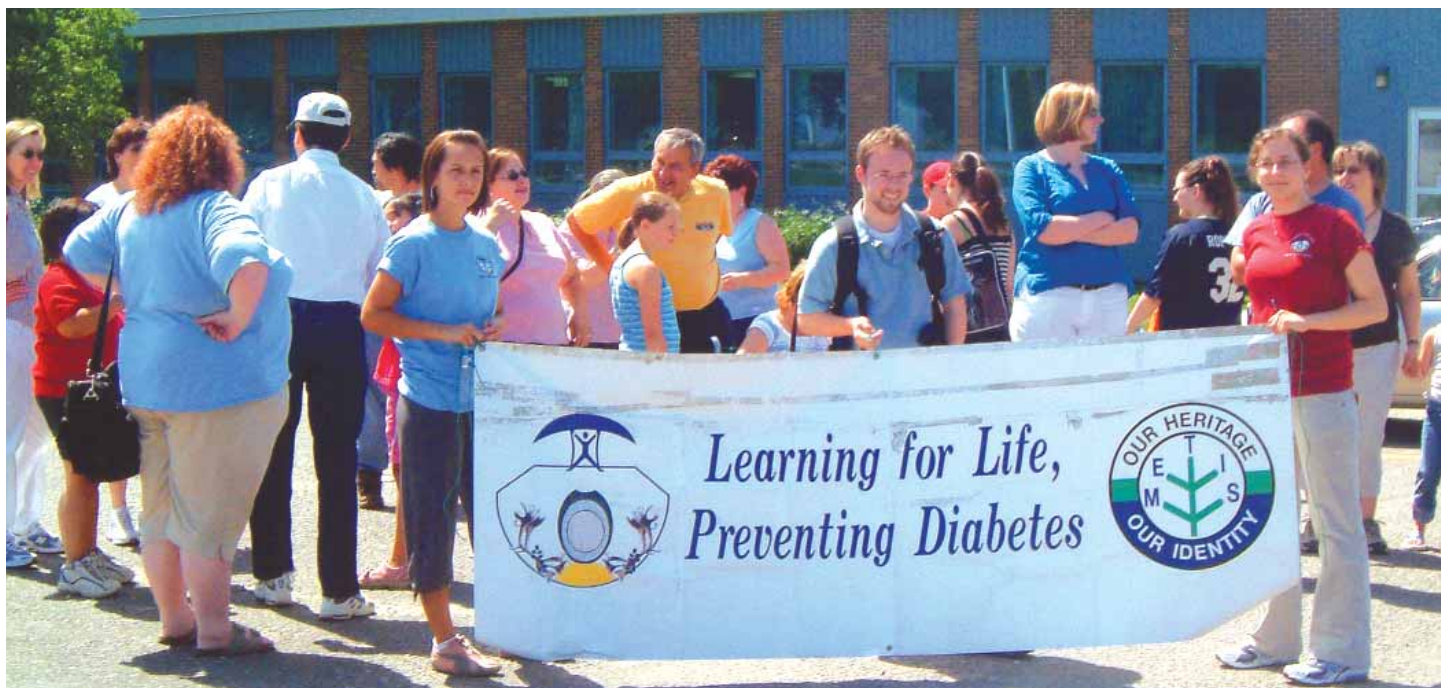
### **Darlene Wall**

Diabetes Awareness Coordinator  
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### **Melita Paul**

Diabetes Awareness Assistant  
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Email: [mpaul@nf.aibn.com](mailto:mpaul@nf.aibn.com)

**Guy Poole with daughter  
Vanessa on the Trans-Labrador  
Highway in southern Labrador.**



A Fair crowd turned out to participate in a walk in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.



## Metis Elders enjoy a meal of fresh sea-run salmon

This is the third season for the LMN Communal Food Fishery. Every year hundreds of members partake in the net fishery, which is not only a valuable food source but represents a traditional practice of Metis culture and lifestyle. This summer was an especially busy season for the food fishery as more members learn of the program. With just over 1,000 members fishing for themselves or other Metis members, a total of 6,000 were distributed. For the elderly and disabled who are unable to partake in the fishery themselves and have no one to fish, there is a community freezer in place. With the big hearts and hard work of our volunteer fishers and staff, LMN distributes the fish along the south coast and Lake Melville areas to those in need. If you would like to access fish from the community fridge, please call the LMN office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay or any of the LMN guardian offices along the south coast to have two fresh salmon delivered to you!

**Photo: President Chris Montague presents Charity Wagner with her two salmon.**

## Elder, youth event instills pride, creates awareness

**By Melita Paul**  
Diabetes Awareness Assistant

This event was one I looked forward to for some time. It was a time to do traditional activities and to learn from a Metis Elder, Guy Poole.

There were seven youth that participated in this event and they were very interested in what knowledge the elder had to share. We did various traditional activities, such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, lighting a fire and story telling, etc. It was a beautiful day in

the Big Land.

Guy also talked about the importance of culture and the heritage that we carry as being a Metis. He told them to be proud of who they are and to fight for our rights to continue to do traditional things.

I talked about diabetes, its symptoms, complications, risk factors, etc. Guy talked about Liz and her battle with diabetes during her lifetime up on until it took her life in 2004. He told the kids that they need to be aware of the dangers of getting this

disease. It was reality to the kids that diabetes can kill.

It was an enjoyable experience for all and it makes you realize that those are the kind of events that need to happen more often with our youth. The knowledge of our Elders needs to be passed on to the youth in order for them to appreciate who they are as Aboriginal people. Guy was also an excellent person to fill this role, not only his passion for the land and our rights as Metis people, but also his personal experience with diabetes.



### Labrador Metis Youth Ambassador

Sarah Curl, 15, of St. Lewis will be attending Level II in the fall. Sarah likes to hang out with her friends, talking on the phone, playing darts, riding snowmobile, having bonfires, playing with her dog, watching television and movies and surfing the internet. She also enjoys traveling and attending conferences. Sarah says she's an easy person get along with, and that she I don't like people who lie or talk about others behind their backs. She dislikes spiders, heights and green foods. Later in life, once she completes high school, Sarah hopes to pursue a career as a paramedic or a early childhood educator.

## Metis Business Centre partners with CESO to deliver quality assistance

May 3-4, 2006, participants representing various sectors of the Upper Lake Melville region gathered at the Metis Business Centre in early May to partake in a workshop, entitled "*Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors within Development Organizations*".

This was the third of a series of workshops delivered at the Metis Business Centre this year in partnership with the Canadian Executive Services Organization. Other workshops offered this year included "*Aboriginal Financial Management*" and "*Seminar in Marketing*".

CESO is a not-for-profit organization that helps to build proud independent communities. Over 3,000 distinguished volunteer advisers on the CESO roster share their professional experience by serving as mentors and trainers to clients and partners at home and abroad ([www.ceso-saco.com](http://www.ceso-saco.com)).

Throughout this year, CESO has proven to be an invaluable resource. MBC would like to thank the organization and the volunteers for their time and assistance. A special thanks to those who participated in the training. MBC looks forward to working with CESO in the near future to offer more training opportunities to Metis communities throughout Labrador.

If you are interested in starting your own business or expanding upon an existing business, please contact Amy Moss at MBC at your convenience to learn more about our services.

#### Metis Business Centre

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### MEMBERS NEEDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LMN members requiring emergency medical assistance are able to take advantage of several programs.

LMN President Chris Montague donates one-third of his annual salary to enable members to access needed medical care and services. For more information, please contact the LMN office at 709-896-0592, or toll-free at 1-877-896-0592.

**Hope Air** is a national registered charity founded in 1986. We help Canadians in financial need fly to necessary medical treatment. To find out whether you or a loved one qualifies for assistance, please call toll-free 1-877-346-HOPE (4673), or e-mail at [mail@hopeair.org](mailto:mail@hopeair.org). For more information,

please visit [www.hopeair.org](http://www.hopeair.org).

The Government of Newfoundland implemented the Medical Transportation Assistance Program in 1998 to assist residents who incur substantial costs when travelling via commercial air to access insured health services which are not available within their health region and/or within the province. For Labrador residents, the government pays the first \$500 of expenses (once in a 12 month period) and the remaining claimable expenses are cost-shared at 50 per cent. For more information, please contact the office of the Minister Responsible for Labrador Affairs at 896-3099 or toll-free at 1-866-996-5670.

### **NOTICE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The new deadline for receiving applications for post secondary training is Feb. 15. Applications will only be processed for the semester immediately following the date of application. Applications for ongoing semesters that an applicant has already enrolled in will not be eligible. As well, applications for reimbursement for studies already completed cannot be accepted.

**UNIVERSITY:** In accordance with Service Canada policy, a maximum of 64 weeks of university studies in an undergraduate degree may be funded. **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION:** Applicants must be at least 19 years of age and have been out of the secondary school system for a minimum of 24 months. Applicants will be given a two-year time line with the understanding that there is a clear career path and goal upon completion. All other funding requests must be received at least 20 working days prior to the program start date.