

# Budget2015

## Balancing Choices for a Promising Future

### Stronger and Safer Communities

#### Community Safety

Building on past investments, including over \$1 billion in policing over the last decade, Budget 2015 includes a series of initiatives focused on creating safer communities, which include the following:

##### **Domestic Violence Court**

- Approximately \$1.65 million this year and \$4.7 million over the next three years for the establishment of a new Domestic Violence Court. A court will be located in St. John's and at another location on the island.
- \$100,000 is included as part of this overall investment, to research and develop a culturally and regionally tailored model for a similar court in Labrador.

##### **Policing, Fire Services and Corrections**

- More than \$5 million for fire protection vehicles and firefighting equipment for communities in the province.
- \$3.5 million toward the construction of three new Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments in Clarenville, Twillingate and Whitbourne, as well as the renovation of others.
- More than \$100,000 for institutional clothing for inmates at Her Majesty's Penitentiary, the province's largest correctional facility. Standardized uniforms will significantly improve safety for staff and inmates.
- Additional resources for the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary to recruit 10 new officers.

#### Protecting Women and Children

Approximately \$2.1 million for the continuation of the Violence Prevention Initiative. This includes:

- Approximately \$1.2 million to support eight Women's Centres, the Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network.

- \$1.035 million in operational support for the 10 Regional Coordinating Committees Against Violence, the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre and the Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- \$200,000 for the Aboriginal Women's Violence Prevention Grants program.

#### Access to Justice

Budget 2015 investments to improve access to justice include:

- \$5 million for implementation of recommendations arising from the external reviews of the Sheriff's Office and Legal Aid.
- \$600,000 for initiatives supporting the courts, including:
  - A new judge for the Provincial Court in Clarenville and new court officers for St. John's and Harbour Grace.
  - Video conferencing units at Provincial and Supreme courts will be replaced or installed.
  - Work on a review of the Rules of Court will continue.
- Legal aid tariff paid to private lawyers will increase from \$60 to a maximum of \$135 per hour.

#### Dam Safety

- \$100,000 in annual funding for next three years will support the development of a provincial Dam Safety Program. A comprehensive dam database will assist in developing regulatory tools to prevent dam failures in the province, thereby enhancing the safety of families and communities.

## **Moose Management Plan**

- \$1.8 million over five years to support a Moose Management Plan to address many issues including an appropriate population, hunting quotas and research requirements along with societal concerns such as moose vehicle collisions.
- As announced on Monday, April 6, two new Moose Reduction Zones will be established to provide greater opportunity for the removal of roadside moose through hunting as well as the ability to monitor and assess the effectiveness of such an approach in reducing moose-vehicle collision rates.

## **Mistaken Point**

- \$50,000 for two additional seasonal interpretation technicians at the Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve, which is currently under consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This ecological reserve is home to the oldest and most reliably dated collection of complex Metazoan fossils on the planet.

## **Home Energy Conservation Pilot Project**

- \$150,000 to continue the Home Energy Conservation Pilot Project which provides homeowners with electricity consumption information.