

# Modern Times

What are two recent events that have impacted your life?  
How do international events affect our province?

## Introduction

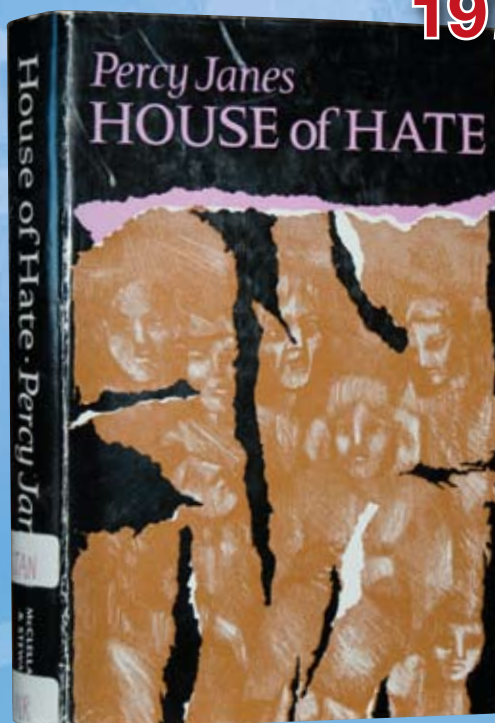
The years after the Smallwood era saw continued change as eight new premiers led Newfoundland and Labrador from the 1970s through the first decade of the 2000s. Some of the changes that have occurred over the last 40 years have their roots in the last 500 years of our history and continue to play out today. Other changes have occurred because of new developments, such as the discovery of oil off our coast.

The following timelines reflect some of the cultural, social, political, and economic events that have occurred in the last 40 years. While not all-encompassing, they indicate some of the milestones that have shaped who we are today. As you review them, think about what other items you would add to the timeline to help tell the story of our province.

## The 1970s

The beginning of the 1970s saw the fall of the Liberal government led by J.R. Smallwood, which had held power since 1949. A change in government brought new ideas and renewed optimism for the future with a greater government emphasis on rural development. Like the 1960s, the 1970s were prosperous times for many rural areas as the inshore fishery was modernized by the introduction of larger boats and the exploitation of new marine species. Although the first hints of trouble in the cod stocks appeared during this decade, there was still optimism about the fishery's future. This confidence was reflected in a cultural revival that began during this period in Newfoundland and Labrador.

1970



6.105 *House of Hate* by Percy Janes

- Percy Janes' novel *House of Hate* is released by Toronto publishers McClelland and Stewart. The book is praised for its gritty, realistic portrayal of a dysfunctional Corner Brook family.
- The MV *Christmas Seal*, a floating tuberculosis clinic that operated in hundreds of remote communities along Newfoundland's coast since 1947, completes its last trip.

1971



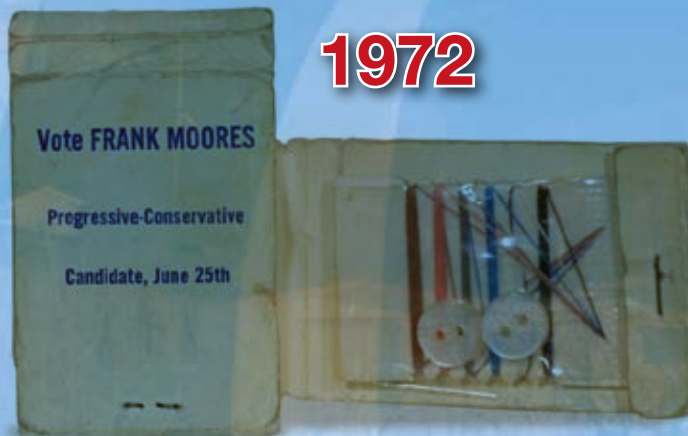
### 6.106 Burgeo Strike

The strike centred on the plant owner's opposition to workers joining the NFFAWU (Newfoundland Fishermen Food and Allied Workers Union). The provincial government eventually settled the dispute by buying the plant. The outcome was seen as a victory for NFFAWU.

- A strike by fish plant workers in Burgeo is instrumental in the formation of the Fishermen Food and Allied Workers Union, the first province-wide labour union for workers in the fishery.
- A hard-fought provincial election pits Smallwood's Liberals against the Progressive Conservatives. The result is a near-tie: 21 Conservatives, 20 Liberals, and 1 independent (Burgess of the New Labrador Party). Smallwood refuses to resign as premier.
- The Liberal government establishes the Newfoundland Human Rights Commission, with Gertrude Keough as its first commissioner.



# 1972



## 6.107 Frank Moores campaign sewing kit

Small campaign items such as badges, fans, and even sewing kits were quite common during this period.

- After the Supreme Court confirms a Conservative victory in St. Barbe District, Smallwood resigns as premier on Jan. 18, 1972 and the Progressive Conservatives under Frank Moores form the new government. Moores wins a general election held on March 24, 1972, defeating a Liberal Party led by Edward Roberts. The Conservatives remain in power for the next 17 years.
- The Mummers' Troupe is founded by Chris Brookes and Lynn Lunde, and becomes one of the most active theatre companies in Newfoundland over the next 10 years. Their plays often deal with politically and socially controversial topics.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Craft Development Association (later to become the Craft Council of Newfoundland and Labrador) is formed to support and promote a high standard of excellence in craft production.
- Don Wright, Heidi Oberheide, and Frank Lapointe establish St. Michael's Printshop on the southern shore of the Avalon Peninsula to provide fine art printmaking facilities to provincial and visiting artists.
- Cassie Brown's non-fiction book *Death on the Ice* is released, telling the story of the 1914 sealing disaster in which 78 men died at the ice.
- The Newfoundland Status of Women Council is formed.
- Several Aboriginal groups unite to form the Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, later known as the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI).

## 6.108 Cod on a Stick

This theatrical show took a comedic look at stereotypes of Newfoundlanders.

- The show *Cod on a Stick* premieres in Toronto, the first performance by the satirical Newfoundland comedy troupe CODCO.
- An oil refinery at Come By Chance begins production, but is unprofitable from the start.
- Construction of a linerboard mill at Stephenville is completed. The project, begun by the Smallwood government, was intended to boost the Stephenville economy, which had been struggling since the closure of the U.S. military base in 1966.
- After a lifetime of playing at weddings, dances and other community events, French-speaking fiddler Émile Benoit gains province-wide attention at age 60 after he places second in a violin contest in Stephenville.
- Newfoundland visual artist Christopher Pratt is named an Officer of the Order of Canada.
- The Labrador Inuit Association is formed.
- Women are eligible for jury duty for the first time.



# 1973

# 1974



## 6.109 Souvenir hard hat from opening of Churchill Falls Hydroelectric project

- The hydroelectric project at Churchill Falls is completed.
- Dorothy Wyatt is the first woman to become mayor of St. John's.



# 1975



## 6.110 Smallwood Liberal Reform Badge

The Liberal Reform Party eventually rejoined the Liberal Party.

- Former Premier Joseph Smallwood attempts a political comeback by forming the Liberal Reform Party. However, Frank Moores and the Conservatives win a second term in the general election. Smallwood's Liberal Reform Party elects four members, including Smallwood, who retires from politics soon afterwards.
- Hazel McIsaac is the first woman elected to the Newfoundland House of Assembly since Confederation.
- Teenage fiddler Kelly Russell begins playing with, and learning from, Rufus Guinchard and other traditional musicians.
- NIFCO, the Newfoundland Independent Filmmakers' Co-operative, is formed.
- The Western Regional College of Memorial University, later named Grenfell College, opens at Corner Brook.

# 1977



## 6.112 Commemorative Canada Games Coin

The Canada Summer Games left infrastructure behind that is still used.

- Canada declares a 200-mile offshore Exclusive Economic Zone. This initiative contributes to optimism about the future of Newfoundland's fisheries.
- Newfoundland's first McDonald's restaurant opens in St. John's.
- The Avalon Mall in St. John's undergoes a major expansion. First opened in 1967, the Avalon Mall is the largest shopping centre in the province.
- The Innu Nation files its first land claim with the federal government, concerning land in central Labrador. The federal government decides there is not enough evidence supporting the claim, but gives the Innu Nation money to conduct further research.
- The Labrador Inuit Association files a land claim with provincial and federal governments for land on coastal Labrador, which after 2002 becomes known as Nunatsiavut.
- Seal hunt protests reach a peak as French actress Brigitte Bardot joins protesters at the ice, stirring up anti-sealing sentiment. The Newfoundland government responds by launching a campaign defending the hunt.
- The Canada Summer Games are held in St. John's.

# 1976



## 6.111 Figgy Duff

The group disbanded shortly after the death of founder Noel Dinn in 1993.

- Noel Dinn forms the band Figgy Duff. They travel across Newfoundland, learning traditional songs, which they bring to new audiences.
- The Come By Chance oil refinery becomes bankrupt and is closed for the next decade.
- The Stephenville linerboard mill, plagued by cost over-runs and timber shortages, closes.
- Greenpeace joins the International Fund for Animal Welfare in protesting the seal hunt off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. Protesters claim the hunt is inhumane and non-sustainable.



1978



### 6.113 L'Anse aux Meadows

The only verified Norse site in North America outside of Greenland

- The medieval Norse site at L'Anse aux Meadows is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Rising Tide Theatre Company is formed. One of the province's longest-running theatre companies, Rising Tide continues performing into the 2000s. It is best known for its *Revue*.

1979



### 6.114 Newhook Badge

Hazel R. Newhook was twice elected as MHA for Gander – first in 1979 and again in 1982. Prior to her election (and Lynn Verge's, also in 1979) only two women had been elected Members of the House of Assembly: Lady Helena Squires in 1930 and Hazel A. McIsaac in 1975.

- Hazel Newhook and Lynn Verge become the first women appointed to the provincial cabinet.
- Brian Peckford replaces Frank Moores as premier and wins a general election on June 18.
- The first major oil discovery (Hibernia) off Newfoundland and Labrador is made.
- The Stephenville Theatre Festival begins.
- Kelly Russell founds Pigeon Inlet Productions, an independent record label dedicated to promoting and preserving traditional Newfoundland music.
- The Association for New Canadians is founded in St. John's, offering programs and services for the growing immigrant community.
- The Canadian Forces air base at Goose Bay becomes a site for NATO low-level flight training.

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE CULTURAL RENEWAL OF THE 1970s

Starting in the 1970s, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians experienced a renewed interest in our traditional culture. Musicians travelled around the province learning traditional songs from older performers, and writers, actors, artists, and filmmakers used their skills to capture aspects of traditional culture that might otherwise have been forgotten or lost. Likewise, the Folklore Department at Memorial University of Newfoundland, which was founded in 1968, began collecting and recording some of the sociofacts and mentifacts unique to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Here's what some of the individuals involved in this cultural renewal had to say about this important mission:

*"The people of Newfoundland have been settled in a comparatively isolated area for a long period of time and have developed a unique cultural response to their environment ... We have in this province one of the last areas in the English-speaking world where customs and practices survived long after they died out elsewhere. The folklorist can still learn from people who observed these customs, how they were performed and what they meant."*

– Herbert Halpert, folklorist and founder of the Department of Folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland

*"I've always been driven by a love of Newfoundland and Labrador, capturing the stories of this place where struggles have been great and challenges many."*

– Donna Butt, one of the founders of Rising Tide Theatre



**6.115 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have shared their artistic talents well beyond this province. Here, Kelly Russell performs with Figgy Duff in Montréal in 1977.**



## The 1980s

Newfoundland's cultural revival and renewed sense of pride continued into the 1980s under the Progressive Conservative government of Brian Peckford. It was also a time when major strides were made in promoting the rights of women and Aboriginal peoples. While the fishing industry was troubled by the closure of fish plants and the reorganization of the major fishing companies, hopes for the future began to turn to the offshore oil industry. Although deeply saddened by the

province's first great offshore tragedy – the sinking of the Ocean Ranger in 1982 – there was optimism as the government's struggle for greater ownership of this industry resulted in the 1985 **Atlantic Accord**. However, other new business ventures failed to stimulate the economy. The most famous example of this was the ill-fated greenhouse project that contributed to widespread political unpopularity for the Peckford Conservative government at the end of the decade.

# 1980

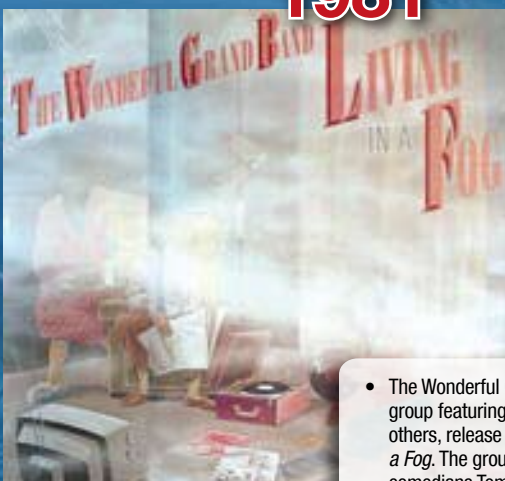
### 6.116 The Union Jack is Replaced

The new Newfoundland flag is raised for the first time in simultaneous ceremonies around the province on June 24, 1980.

- Newfoundland adopts a new provincial flag, designed by artist Christopher Pratt, to replace the Union Jack.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council is formed. Its role is to provide funding for visual, literary, and performing arts, as well as folk arts and crafts.
- The play *West Moon*, by Newfoundland poet and playwright Al Pittman, is performed for the first time on Halloween night in St. John's. In the play, the dead in a Newfoundland graveyard come alive to tell the story of an abandoned rural community.
- Terry Fox begins his cross-country "Marathon of Hope" in St. John's, making it as far as Thunder Bay, Ontario before recurring cancer forced him to quit his run.
- The Matrimonial Property Act gives divorced women the right to receive a share of property assets acquired by themselves and their former husbands during the marriage.
- The Conne River Band Council files a land claim on behalf of 1400 Mi'kmaq for land in southern and central Newfoundland. The federal government later rejects the claim, though it gives the Mi'kmaq funding for further research.



# 1981



### 6.117 *Living in a Fog*, the Wonderful Grand Band's first album, was released in 1981.

Shown are the front cover and a picture of the band from the back cover.

- The Wonderful Grand Band, a music and comedy group featuring Ron Hynes, Sandy Morris, and others, release their popular album *Living in a Fog*. The group, with the addition of CODCO comedians Tommy Sexton and Greg Malone, are already local stars due to their half-hour TV show, which runs from 1980-1983.
- Though groundfish landings are still increasing, fish processing companies are forced to close many plants due to weak markets and debt.





1982

6.118 Article on the Ocean Ranger tragedy, *The Evening Telegram*, Feb. 15, 1982

This tragedy occurred 315 kilometres (196 miles) east of St. John's.

- The oil rig Ocean Ranger sinks, causing the death of all 84 people on board – the first loss of life in the new offshore oil industry.
- Premier Brian Peckford and the Progressive Conservatives win a second election.
- *The Dictionary of Newfoundland English* is published.



Damsi Chandrasekara

1983

- *Pigeon Inlet*, a locally produced TV series based on Ted Russell's short stories about life in outport Newfoundland, airs on CBC.
- The federal government intervenes in the fishing industry, reorganizing the offshore fishing companies into two large companies – one known as Fisheries Products International, based in Newfoundland and owned by the federal and provincial governments, and a privately owned one in Nova Scotia.
- Margaret Cameron becomes the first woman in Newfoundland and Labrador to be appointed a Supreme Court justice.
- Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, attract huge crowds on an official visit to the province.

6.119 *Pigeon Inlet* publicity photo, c. 1983

*Pigeon Inlet* was a popular Newfoundland television program in the 1980s.



1984

- Pope John Paul II visits Newfoundland as part of a tour of Canada. This is the first papal visit to the province.
- The Supreme Court of Canada rules that the federal government, not Newfoundland, has jurisdiction over offshore mineral resources.
- David Blackwood: Prints 1962-1984 tours public galleries in Canada, the United States, and Europe.
- The Mi'kmaq of Conne River are recognized as status Indians by the federal government.

6.120 Medallion commemorating the visit of Pope John Paul II to Newfoundland and Labrador.

On behalf of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Royal Canadian Mint created a special medallion for each location visited by the Pope.





# 1985



6.121 Labrador Metis Nation logo.

- The Labrador Metis Association is formed, later changing its name to the Labrador Metis Nation. In 2010, the Labrador Metis Nation changes its name once more, becoming "Nunatukavut" to reflect its members' Inuit heritage. Nunatukavut means "our ancient land."
- Premier Brian Peckford returns to power, but his Progressive Conservatives lose eight seats in the House of Assembly.
- The governments of Newfoundland and Canada sign the first Atlantic Accord, an agreement on sharing revenues from, and management of, offshore mineral resources. Pat Carney, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, states that one of the

fundamental principles of the Accord is that "the principal beneficiary of these resources should be Newfoundland and Labrador because that is in the national interest."

- The copper and zinc mines at Buchans close.
- The Rising Tide Theatre troupe performs its first annual *Revue* program.
- An Arrow Airlines plane crashes at Gander, killing 248 American servicemen and crew members.

## 6.122 Tamils found off the coast of Newfoundland, from *The Evening Telegram*, Aug. 12, 1986.

All Tamil refugees were brought to central Canada and eventually attained citizenship.

- 150 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka are found in two overcrowded lifeboats in the waters of St. Mary's Bay and are rescued by local fishermen.
- Ethel Cochrane becomes the first female senator from Newfoundland.
- *The Adventure of Faustus Bidgood*, the first feature-length film produced in Newfoundland, is released. The film took 10 years to complete.
- Provincial civil servants working in transportation, public works, and general service sectors go on strike.

# 1986



## 6.123 Development begins on Sprung Greenhouse, Newfoundland Hydroponics—popularly known as "Sprung"—received significant financial support from the provincial government, which thought it would help diversify the local economy. From *The Evening Telegram*, June 26, 1987

- The provincial government enters a joint venture project to develop a hydroponic greenhouse to grow cucumbers – better known as the Sprung Greenhouse Project – in Mount Pearl.
- The Come By Chance oil refinery re-opens.
- *CODCO*, a half-hour sketch comedy featuring Mary Walsh, Tommy Sexton, Greg Malone, Cathy Jones, and Andy Jones, debuts on national CBC television, beginning a four-year run.
- Gros Morne National Park is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The Mi'kmaw community at Conne River is recognized as an official reserve, the Samiajij Miawpukek Indian Reserve.
- Fishery Products International is privatized.

# 1987







1988

#### 6.124 An Innu demonstration at the Canadian Forces Base in Goose Bay

- Labrador Innu invaded the Goose Bay air base to protest low-level flying, which they claim harms animal populations and threatens Innu hunting culture.
- The Newfoundland Railway closes after over 100 years of service. (Construction of the railway began in 1881 and was completed across the island in 1897-98.) Although passenger service ended in 1969, freight trains continued to run until June 1988.
- Negotiations begin over the Labrador Inuit Association's claim for 116 000 square kilometres (44 787 square miles) of land and sea in northern Labrador.

#### 6.125 A change in leadership

1989 sees three premiers hold office in a three-month period.

- The Sprung Greenhouse Project is abandoned as provincial government losses in the venture are well over \$20 million. The project is widely criticized and contributes to the decline in Premier Peckford's popularity.
- Premier Brian Peckford resigns from politics. He is replaced as leader by Tom Rideout, who is premier for one month before being defeated by Liberal Clyde Wells in a general election.
- Visual artist Rae Perlin receives a Life Achievement Award at the annual arts awards of the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council for her prolific drawings and paintings.

1989



## A GLIMPSE INTO THE JOURNEY FOR ABORIGINAL SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE '80s



**6.126 Mi'kmaw Chief Misel Joe, leader of the Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River)**

Many of the efforts begun in the 1960s and 1970s by Aboriginal groups to move toward self-determination were beginning to achieve results by the 1980s. This decade saw the Mi'kmaq Conne River Band begin their legal battle for a land claim and be recognized as status Indians by the federal government. In 1987, The Mi'kmaw community at Conne River was recognized as an official reserve. The '80s also witnessed the establishment of the Labrador Metis Association (later the Labrador Metis Nation and today known as Nunatukavut). Labrador Innu gained worldwide attention for their efforts to fight low-level flying over their traditional grounds and negotiations began over the Labrador Inuit Association's claim for land and sea in northern Labrador. Here's what some of the individuals involved in this movement for self-determination had to say:

*"[Self-government] means that we can put together a traditional form of our own laws, looking at our own judicial systems of how it used to work in the past and how we can mold those two together, the new and the old, and make them work for us ..."*

— Chief Misel Joe, leader of the Miawpukek First Nation (Conne River)

*"When I went in there, the airport runway, it was just women first. So I put my tent outside ... Now I'm thinking that's my own ... This belongs to Innu land, and I wasn't scared ... just before six o'clock, the military police, RCMP, came and then he took me in jail ... (I thought) I'm going to speak because I am not doing something bad. I'm doing this to help my people, to help the children, to protect the land, to protect the animals."*

—Elizabeth Penashue, Innu Elder speaking on her involvement with the protests in the '80s against low-level flying over Innu traditional lands



## The 1990s

The early 1990s saw what may have been the greatest change ever to Newfoundland and Labrador's economy – the closure of the cod fishery. Although cod stocks had been declining for many years, few were prepared for this major industry to be shut down altogether. With thousands of people thrown out of work, many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians had to adjust

to a different way of life. Rural communities were hit the hardest as many of their residents left to find work elsewhere in the province or left Newfoundland and Labrador altogether. As the fishery continued to decline, the future promise of offshore oil with the development of the Hibernia and Terra Nova oil fields gained new importance.



6.127 Article from *The Evening Telegram*, June 23, 1990

- The Government of Newfoundland votes to rescind approval for the federal government's Meech Lake Accord, which it had approved in 1988. The new premier, Clyde Wells, draws national attention for his opposition to the Accord.
- The Independent Review of the State of the Northern Cod Stock, chaired by Dr. Leslie Harris, releases its report. The report concludes that the cod stock is in crisis.
- The Government of Canada, the Government of Newfoundland, and four oil companies sign an agreement to develop the Hibernia oil field.
- The Naskapi Montagnais Innu Association, representing the Innu of Labrador, changes its name to the Innu Nation. With Daniel Ashini as its chief negotiator, this group files a new land claim with the federal government.
- Mount Cashel Orphanage in St. John's closes, after allegations of sexual abuse against children by priests and Christian Brothers. A commission of inquiry set up to deal with the issue finds that the Roman Catholic Church failed to provide adequate leadership in dealing with the charges of abuse.

## 1991

6.128 Bust of Joseph Smallwood. Sculpted by Hans Melis, the bust was officially unveiled in the Confederation Building on July 1, 1987.

- Former Premier Joseph Smallwood dies at age 90.
- The Labrador Metis Association files a claim with the federal government for land in central and southeastern Labrador.



*Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells opposed the Meech Lake Accord on the grounds that, by giving Québec special powers, it went against the constitutional equality of the provinces. Events in the Newfoundland and Manitoba legislatures spelled the death of the Accord. A revised plan also failed in a national plebiscite in 1992.*



# 1992

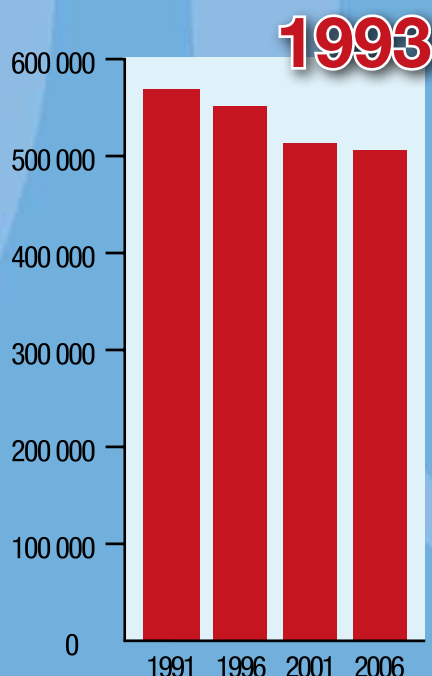


## 6.129 A cod in a coffin

A piece of folk art made in response to the cod moratorium, by Daniel J. Murphy of Dunville, c. 1993

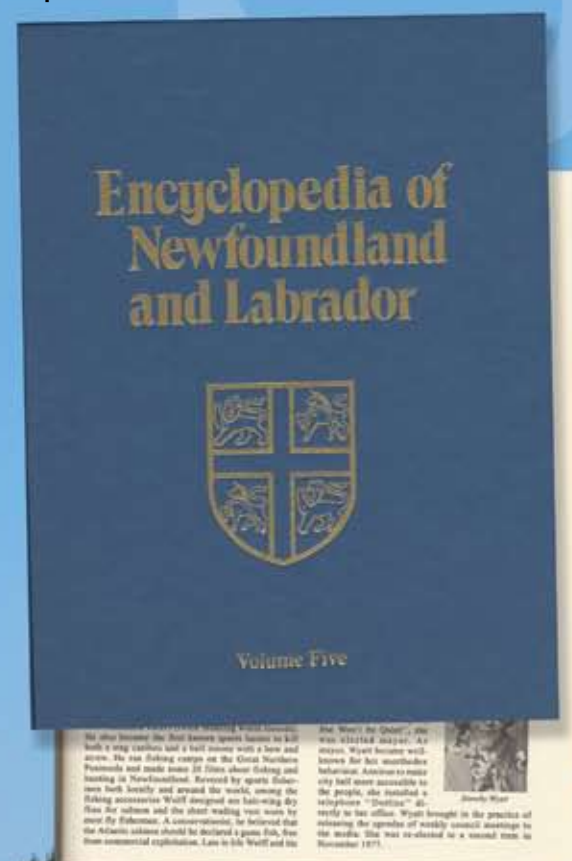
- The federal government announces a moratorium on the northern cod stocks. Initially, the moratorium is supposed to last for two years, although the closure continues indefinitely. The government also announces a compensation package for fishers and plant workers left without work.
- The federal government's new plan for constitutional change, the Charlottetown Accord, wins the support of the Wells government and of a majority of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, but is defeated in a national referendum.
- A Royal Commission on Education recommends that Newfoundland's system of denominational schools should be dismantled.
- Bernice Morgan's first novel, *Random Passage*, is published. It tells the story of early settlement in a Bonavista Bay outpost.
- The feature film *Secret Nation* is released. The movie suggests there may have been a conspiracy to rig the results of the 1949 referendum.

## 6.130 Newfoundland and Labrador population, 1991-2006



- For the first time, the population of Newfoundland declines from the previous year. This trend continues steadily for the next 15 years, mainly due to people leaving the province after the collapse of the cod fishery.
- The Liberal government led by Clyde Wells wins a second term in office.
- The Rising Tide theatre troupe begins a summer festival at Trinity, which becomes an annual event.
- The band Great Big Sea performs its first official gig and releases a self-titled album. Their blend of traditional folk sounds with a lively rock style makes them an instant hit locally.
- *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a satirical comedy based on a newscast, begins airing on national CBC television. It features Newfoundland and Labrador comedians Mary Walsh, Cathy Jones, Greg Thomey, and Rick Mercer.

## 6.131 Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador covers all aspects of the province's history and culture in five volumes, which were completed between 1981 and 1994.



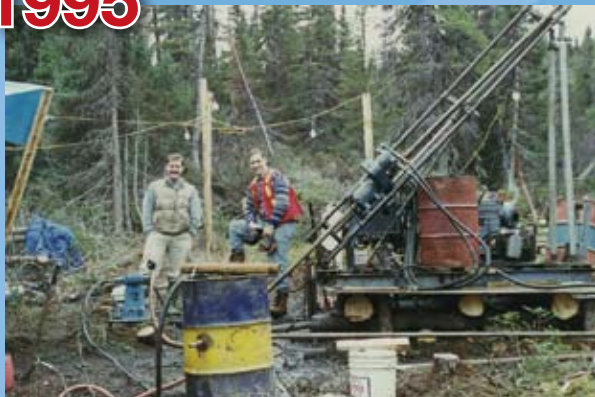
# 1994

- The fifth and final volume of the *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador*, a project originally conceived by former premier Joseph Smallwood, is published.
- The government attempts to privatize Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, but public opposition forces it to abandon the plan.
- The federal government puts a stop to the recreational food fishery, which had allowed limited amounts of cod fishing after the closure of the commercial fishery.
- The American naval base at Argentia, which began operation in 1941 during the Second World War, closes.
- The American department store giant Walmart comes to Canada, acquiring the 122 Woolco stores across Canada. Woolco stores in Newfoundland become Walmarts.
- VANL (Visual Artists Newfoundland and Labrador) is formed to represent the concerns of visual artists.
- Mushuau Innu (from Davis Inlet) force RCMP and a judge out of the community, claiming they want control of their own destiny and they find sentences too harsh. The RCMP closes its detachment, but promises police services from a community to the south whenever the residents of Davis Inlet request it. Chief Katie Rich and another woman from the community, Nympha Byrne, are jailed for their part in the incident.





# 1995



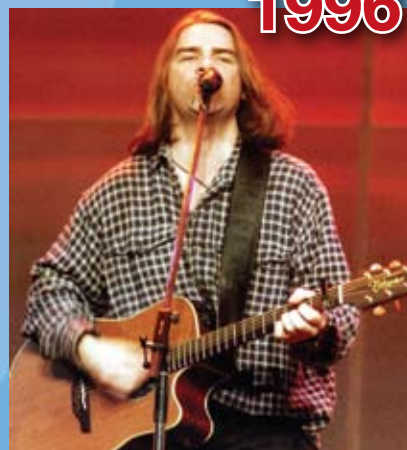
- Two Newfoundland prospectors, Albert Chislett and Chris Verbiski, discover deposits of nickel at Voisey's Bay, Labrador.
- Lynn Verge becomes leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, making her the first woman to lead a political party in Newfoundland.
- Petro-Canada announces plans to develop the Terra Nova oil field, the second largest on the Grand Banks.
- Despite the closure of the cod fishery, the value of the fishery as a whole increases (although still employing fewer people than previously) because of a growing shellfish industry.
- The federal government acknowledges that Aboriginal groups have an inherent right to self-government.

## 6.132 Prospectors Albert Chislett and Chris Verbiski at an exploratory drilling site in the early days of their Voisey's Bay explorations

In 2003, Inco released mining figures indicating that Voisey's Bay is the sixth largest nickel magmatic sulphide deposit in the world and also contains copper and cobalt.

## 6.133 Alan Doyle singing at the 1996 East Coast Music Awards

- Clyde Wells resigns as premier. He is replaced by Brian Tobin, a federal cabinet minister. The Liberals win a strong majority in the February general election.
- INCO (International Nickel Company) acquires ownership of the Voisey's Bay development.
- The Hibernia platform is towed to its permanent site on the Grand Banks.
- Great Big Sea wins "Entertainer of the Year" at the East Coast Music Awards, an honour they continue to win every year until 2001.
- The Innu Nation signs a Framework Agreement with the federal government regarding their land claim.



# 1996

# 1997



## 6.134 Hibernia's first oil

This oil, drawn on November 17, 1997, was the first from the Hibernia oil project. Then premier Brian Tobin noted that, "November 17, 1997 marked the birth of an industry in this province."

- The Hibernia oil field produces its first oil.
- The government holds a referendum on the controversial issue of denominational education: 73 per cent of voters vote to replace the denominational school system with a single government-run system of public schools.
- Cabot 500, a cultural event, focuses on the 500th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage to Newfoundland. The celebrations include a royal visit and the arrival of a replica of Cabot's ship *Matthew* at Bonavista.
- The Newfoundland T'Railway, a network of hiking and recreational trails built along the old rail beds, is established as a provincial park.
- Innu and Inuit protesters block construction of a road and airstrip designed to serve the proposed Voisey's Bay mining development. The Voisey's Bay Nickel Company suspends construction to enter negotiations with the Innu and Inuit.

## 6.135 Cover from Gerald Squires' 1998 exhibition

- The exhibit "Gerald Squires: Journey" at the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador highlights the 40-year career of visual artist Gerald Squires.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador signs an agreement with the Government of Québec concerning the recall of Churchill Falls hydroelectric power for sale outside the province.
- Wayne Johnston's *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, a fictional account of the life of Joseph Smallwood, becomes the first Newfoundland novel to be shortlisted for the national Giller Prize.

# 1998

## Gerald Squires Journey

selections from four decades' work







6.136 From *The Evening Telegram*, Feb. 21, 1999

- Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Pasadena, and Stephenville jointly become the first communities in Newfoundland and Labrador to play host to the Canada Winter Games.
- The Liberal government of Premier Brian Tobin wins re-election.
- Newfoundland and Labrador celebrates its 50th anniversary as a province of Canada.

## A GLIMPSE INTO THE EFFECTS OF THE COD MORATORIUM IN THE '90s



6.137 From *The Evening Telegram*, July 3, 1992

The closure of the Newfoundland cod fishery has sometimes been referred to as the largest layoff in Canadian history. About 30 000 fishers and plant workers – 12 per cent of the province's labour force – were put out of work by the closure of the fishery. To aid these former fishers and plant workers, the government created the Northern Cod Adjustment and Rehabilitation Program (NCARP) to provide income support to approximately 28 000 people for the two years following the moratorium.

In 1994, NCARP was replaced by The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS), when it became apparent that the two-year moratorium had turned into an indefinite closure of the fishery. The purpose of TAGS was to encourage fishers to leave the fishing industry and retrain for other jobs. However, these programs met with limited success. Not only was retraining and re-education difficult for many people who had spent their lives in the fishery, but those who completed the programs did not necessarily end up with jobs due to the province's high unemployment rate.

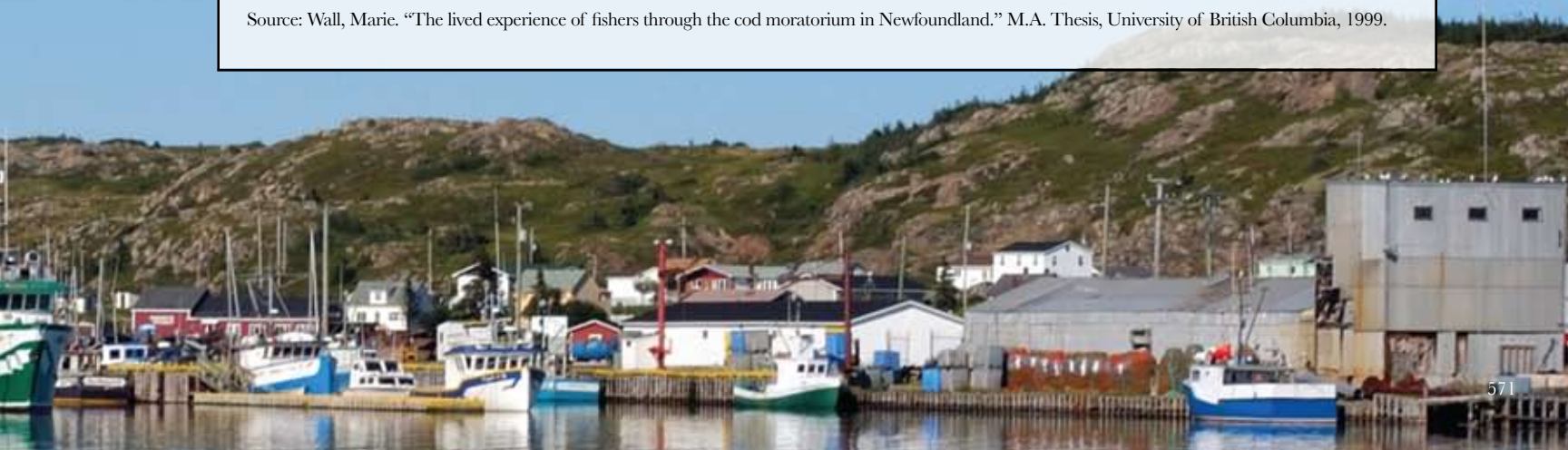
The following quotes are from interviews conducted with fishers in 1998, six years after the moratorium:

*"I went to school, I took a couple of different courses since '92. I took a pre-sea deckhand course that was ... a six- or seven-month course. I thought I might get something out of that, but no. I have resumes in everywhere, all over the place, the Coast Guard, different shipping companies, tug boats, contractors, just can't get nothing to do, that's it."*

*"Everybody knew these TAGS weren't going to last forever, it just couldn't last, and the fish never come back. That's the bottom line. Now the fish never come back and they not going to be back for next year and the TAGS is gone."*

*"Well, someone said to me the other day (about this young fellow whose wife had a baby about a month ago) ... Edmond has got to go today, he is going to Toronto.' I said, 'That must be some hard for that man ... And this young fella ... said, 'It is hard for anyone to go away. Nobody really wants to go away.'"*

Source: Wall, Marie. "The lived experience of fishers through the cod moratorium in Newfoundland." M.A. Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1999.





## The 2000s

As a new millennium opened, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were still struggling to come to terms with changes resulting from the closure of the cod fishery eight years earlier. Although the province's population continued to decline for most of the decade, especially in rural areas as people were forced to search for work elsewhere, this trend halted in 2009. Another positive

note near the end of the decade was Newfoundland and Labrador became a "have" province for the first time. This new prosperity came mostly from offshore oil revenue. As oil is a non-renewable resource, this raises the question of what we can do to diversify and strengthen our province's economy so we will prosper when this resource is gone.



# 2000

### 6.138 Article from *The Telegram*, Oct. 17, 2000

- Premier Brian Tobin resigns and returns to federal politics. He is replaced by interim leader Beaton Tulk, who serves as premier until the Liberal Party meets to choose a new leader in early 2001.
- The provincial government announces the construction of The Rooms in St. John's, a \$40 million complex that will house the provincial art gallery, archives, and museum.

# 2001

### 6.139 Premier Roger Grimes

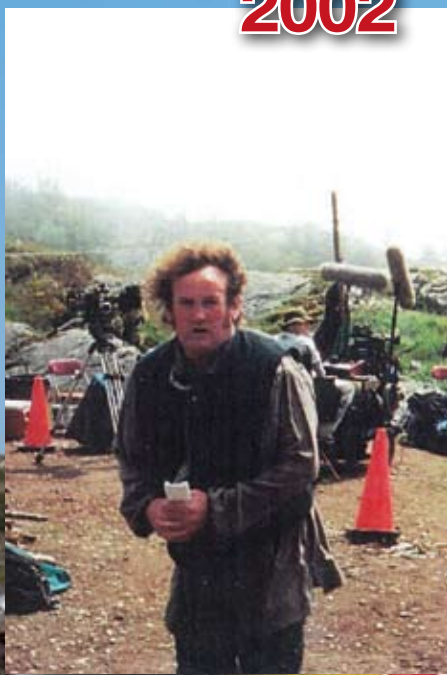
- Roger Grimes is chosen as leader of the Liberal Party and becomes the province's new premier.
- The Labrador Inuit Association signs a land claims Agreement in Principle with the federal and provincial governments.
- The name of the province is officially changed from "Newfoundland" to "Newfoundland and Labrador."
- The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States impact Newfoundland and Labrador when dozens of planes, unable to continue on to America, are diverted to airports here. Thousands of stranded passengers arrive in Gander, St. John's, Stephenville, and Goose Bay, where they receive a warm welcome from local people and respond with gratitude.



# 2002

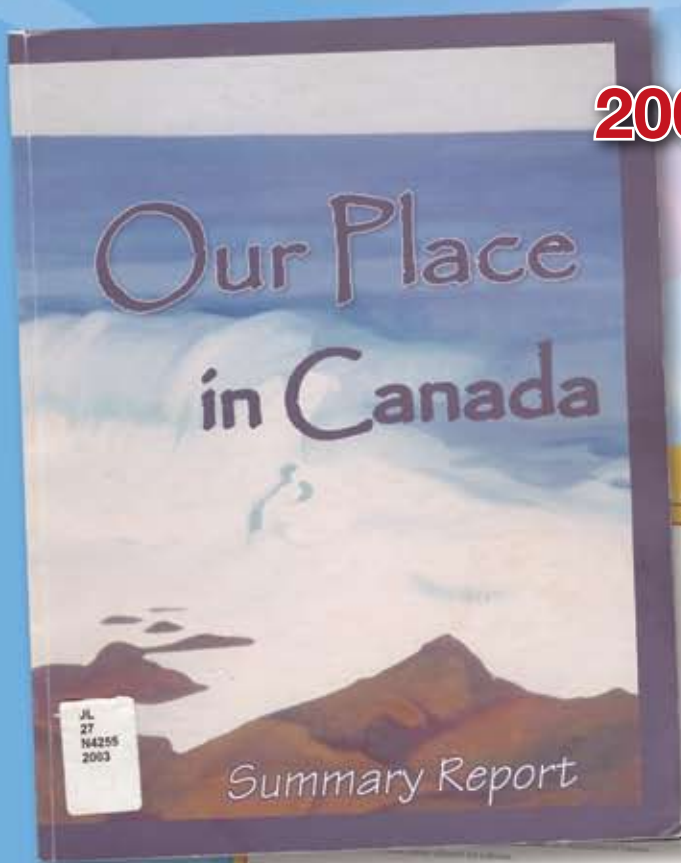
### 6.140 Actor Colm Meaney on the set of *Random Passage*

- The eight-hour miniseries *Random Passage* airs nationally on CBC television. Based on Bernice Morgan's novels, the miniseries is one of the largest dramatic productions in Canadian television up to its time.
- Newfoundland and Labrador wins an offshore boundary dispute with Nova Scotia. A maritime boundary is established to separate the offshore areas of the two provinces, leaving Newfoundland and Labrador with almost 70 per cent of the area that was in dispute.
- Inco signs an agreement with the province to develop the Voisey's Bay nickel mine.
- The Terra Nova oil field begins production.
- Because of inadequate housing and services, and numerous social problems, Innu of Davis Inlet are moved to the new community of Natuashish, built by the federal government. The new community was set apart as reserve land on Dec. 11, 2003.
- Residents of Great Harbour Deep agree to have the provincial government resettle them.



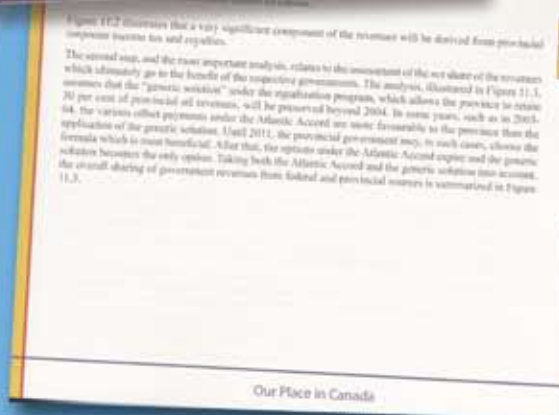


2003



**6.141 Cover and inside page from the report of the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada**

- A Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada releases its report.
- The Provincial Advisory Council on Foreign Overfishing recommends that the province push for Canadian custodial management of the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.
- Premier Grimes pushes the federal government for a joint management regime over the fisheries adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador.
- The Progressive Conservative Party wins a majority in the general election. Danny Williams becomes the new premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- *Down to the Dirt* by Joel Thomas Hynes is published. Also later adapted as a stage play and movie, the novel earns wide acclaim for its gritty depiction of urban Newfoundland life.



2004

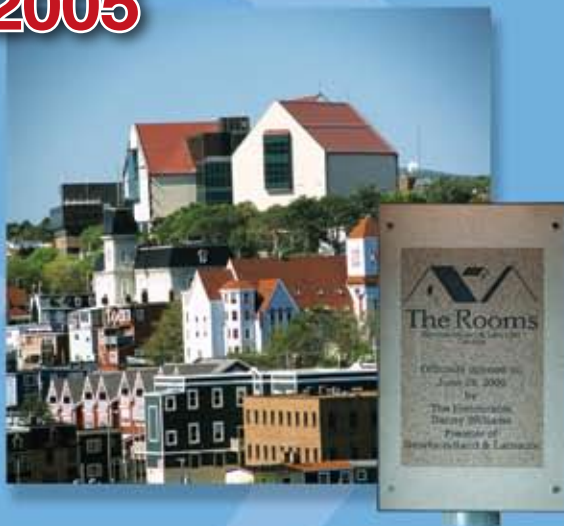
**6.142 Corporal Jamie Murphy**

- Corporal Jamie Murphy becomes the first person from Newfoundland and Labrador to be killed in the Canadian Forces mission in Afghanistan.
- During a dispute with Prime Minister Paul Martin over oil revenues, Premier Danny Williams orders Canadian flags removed from all public buildings.
- The provincial government launches a fiscal restraint program, following an independent review of the province's finances and debt situation. Public sector employees go on a month-long strike to protest a wage freeze; the dispute is settled by back-to-work legislation.
- The fast-growing offshore oil industry accounts for the construction of 119 new homes and \$370 million in retail sales, boosting the provincial economy.





# 2005



## 6.143 The Rooms

- The Rooms, housing the provincial art gallery, archives, and museum, opens in St. John's.
- The province signs the second Atlantic Accord with the federal government, which allows Newfoundland and Labrador to keep revenues from offshore oil and gas without reducing the province's equalization payments, until Newfoundland and Labrador achieves the status of a "have" province.
- The White Rose offshore oil field begins production.
- As a result of their land claim, the Inuit of Labrador become a self-governing people and form the Nunatsiavut Government, representing about 5000 Inuit. The agreement is signed in January and comes into effect in December. This is the first modern land claims agreement in Atlantic Canada. The Nunatsiavut Government has the power to establish its own justice system and pass its own laws regarding resource management, education, health, culture, and language.
- Premier Williams delivers a statement of apology to the Inuit of the former communities of Nutak and Hebron.

## 6.144 Brad Gushue

- The Canadian Men's Curling team wins an Olympic gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Skip Brad Gushue and team members Mark Nichols, Jamie Korab, and Michael Adam become the first Newfoundlanders ever to win an Olympic gold medal. (Russ Howard of New Brunswick is also a member of the team.)
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announces that it will take the lead, through Newfoundland Hydro, to develop the proposed Lower Churchill hydroelectric power project.
- Premier Danny Williams apologizes for the head tax Newfoundland imposed on Chinese immigrants before it became part of Canada in 1949.
- Auditor General John Noseworthy releases the first of a series of reports revealing a spending scandal that eventually implicates four current or former Members of the House of Assembly.

# 2006



## 6.145 Provincial and National Gross Domestic Product – 2007 (Shown as per cent change from previous year)

# 2007



- Newfoundland and Labrador experiences greater economic growth in this year than any other Canadian province. This is largely due to growth in the offshore oil industry, which now accounts for 35 per cent of the province's Gross Domestic Product, and in the mining industry.
- Premier Danny Williams calls a general election in which his Progressive Conservatives are returned to power with a large majority government. The Opposition is made up of three Liberal MHAs and one New Democrat.
- The federal Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper changes the formula for equalization payments to provinces, which means a significant loss of revenue for Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Canada Post issues stamps honouring Newfoundland and Labrador artist Mary Pratt as part of its "Art in Canada" series.
- The Cameron Inquiry begins an investigation into the case of hundreds of breast cancer patients who were given inaccurate test results by Eastern Health.



# 2008

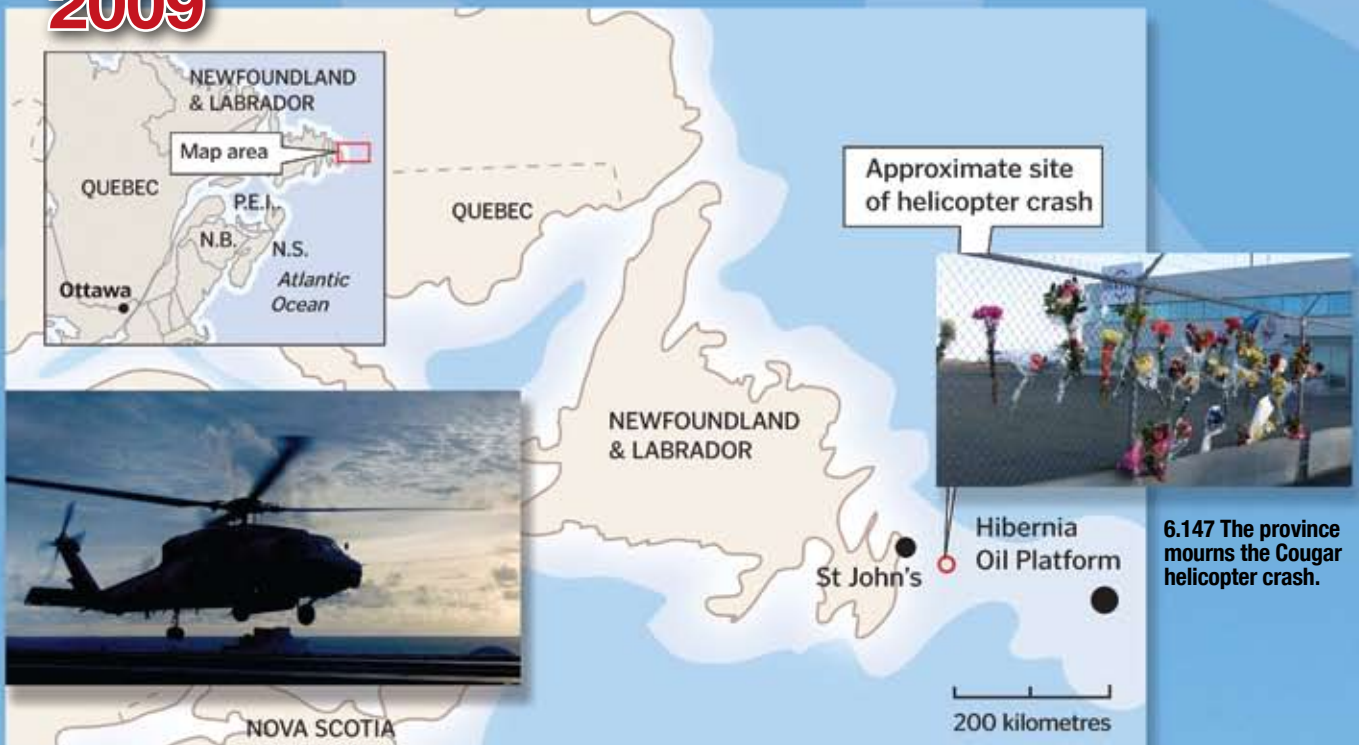
## 6.146 *Mishta-Shipua*, Angela Antle (Neon)

Artist Angela Antle's comment on our province's changing status.



- For the first time since entering Confederation in 1949, Newfoundland and Labrador achieves the status of a "have" province.
- During the federal election, Premier Danny Williams actively campaigns against the federal Conservative party led by Stephen Harper. The federal Conservatives win a minority government, but no seats in Newfoundland and Labrador.
- World oil prices reach a record-setting \$147.27 a barrel in July, but tumble in the fall due to a recession in the United States. Falling oil prices cut into profits in the offshore oil industry.
- Thousands of Mi'kmaw members of the Federation of Newfoundland Indians living outside of the Conne River Reserve accept an Agreement in Principle with the federal government to form a landless band under the *Indian Act*. This establishes the Qalipu Band as the first landless band in Canada.

# 2009



**6.147 The province mourns the Cougar helicopter crash.**

- A Cougar helicopter travelling to offshore oil platforms crashes, killing 17 of the 18 people on board.
- A deal is announced for the construction of a commercial processing facility at Long Harbour to process nickel from the mine at Voisey's Bay.
- The pulp and paper mill at Grand Falls-Windsor closes.
- The Cameron Inquiry releases its report on inaccurate breast cancer test results at Eastern Health.
- The population of Newfoundland and Labrador, which has decreased by over 10 per cent since 1993, shows an increase for the first time in 15 years.
- A series of tourism and cultural events celebrates Newfoundland Captain Bob Bartlett's role in the first successful expedition to the North Pole, 100 years ago.
- Michael Crummey's novel *Galore* is a finalist for the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction.





## A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THE OIL INDUSTRY IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

The story of oil in Newfoundland and Labrador actually goes back to 1812, when a man named Parsons skimmed oil from the surface of Parsons Pond in western Newfoundland to use as a treatment for rheumatism. A small oil refinery later operated there in the early 1900s. However, hopes for a major offshore oil industry here didn't begin until the 1950s when seismic studies suggested there were significant oil reserves offshore. Major oil discoveries continued throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. By 2009, the gross value of oil production was \$12.7 billion and the oil industry accounted for about 26 per cent of the province's Gross Domestic Product. However, in that same year, oil production was down at all three producing oil fields – a reminder that the oil reserves will not last forever. Ultimately, how will oil impact our province? Here are some comments:

*"One area of concern is the co-existence of the oil and gas industry and the fishery, and their mutual dependence on the ocean ... Every precaution must be taken to ensure that these industries operate parallel to each other and that safety and preservation are paramount ... We cannot compromise one industry at the expense of another ... It is critical that we find the right balance between development and the environment."*

– Excerpt from *Developing a Provincial Energy Strategy For Newfoundland and Labrador* (2006) by the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour (NLFL)

*"We have a sustainable industry going forward for the next 30 years or so with what we have already found, but if we're going to grow this industry, we have to have new discoveries."*

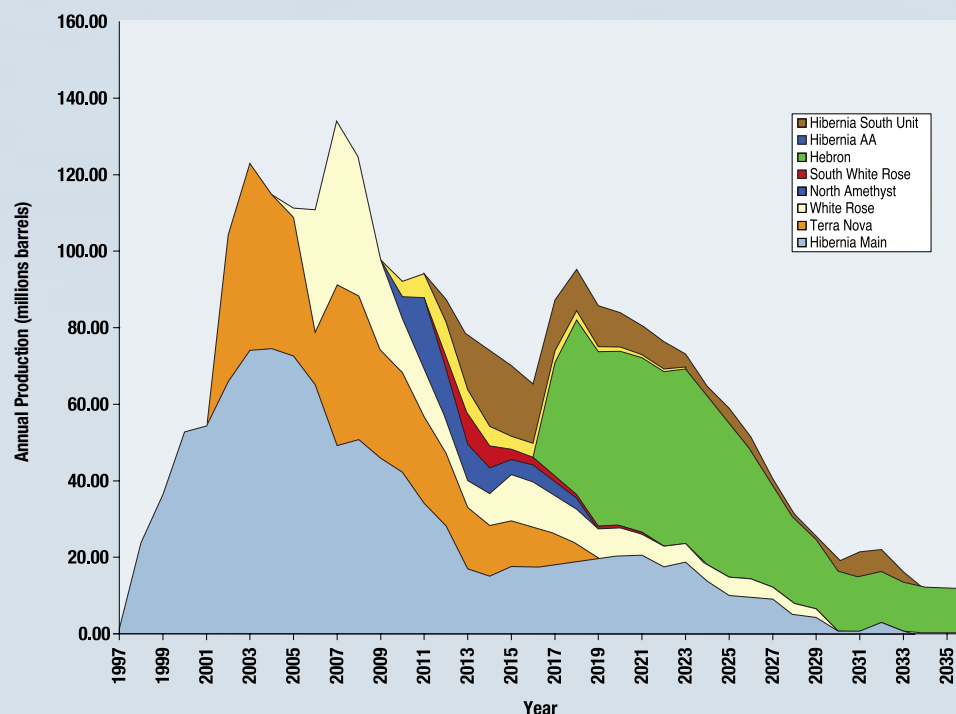
– Max Ruelokke, Chairman and CEO of the Canadian-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

*"The discovery of oil and gas resources off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador several decades ago set our province on a whole new course. Our future changed in an instant, with the first discovery of black gold."*

– Danny Williams speaking to the Atlantic Canada Oil and Gas Summit, May 30, 2005

### 6.148 Offshore oil production forecast for Newfoundland and Labrador to 2035

Based on information from Canadian-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board







## Exercise:

Create a timeline for the next five years identifying several main social, political, economic, and cultural

events for each of the five years.

## Questions:

1. Select two events in this timeline that have affected you/your family. Explain why.
  2. Select two events in this timeline that have affected your community/area. Explain why.
  3. Given the data provided on oil production,
  4. Based on present research and technology, how will the oil industry affect Newfoundland and Labrador's economy in the future?
- will the fishery become as significant in Newfoundland and Labrador's future as it was in its past?





# AT ISSUE

## Providing Government Services Today

6.149 Examples of services provided by government



We have seen in this chapter that access to government services can improve the standard of living for local residents. Consider, for example, how much more difficult life was for people in the 1920s and 1930s than it was in later decades, when the Commission and provincial governments made a wider range of social services available to the public. Health care improved and became more affordable. So did education.

After Confederation, people in this province became eligible for federal and provincial social assistance programs. These included family allowances, war veteran allowances, unemployment insurance, and old age pensions. By the end of the 1960s, paved roads were commonplace on the island and many homes had access to electricity, running water, and sewage systems.

Today, we continue to benefit from services and programs delivered by the federal, provincial, and

municipal governments. Governments provide citizens with clean running water, paved roads, public transit systems, ferry services, schools, textbooks\*, pensions, employment insurance, hospitals, subsidized medical services, garbage collection, recycling programs, snow clearing, parklands, fire departments, museums, galleries, archives, and many other valuable resources.

Services such as these enrich our lives, but they are also very costly. Governments generally pay for them

*\*Including the textbook you are reading right now!*



#### 6.150 Some of the services provided by each level of government

MUNICIPAL	PROVINCIAL	FEDERAL
Garbage collection	Hospitals	Employment Insurance program
Snow clearing	Education	Canada Pension Plan program
Fire fighting	Policing (RNC)	Policing (RCMP)
Water purification	Ferry services	Justice
Road and sidewalk maintenance (including signs and traffic signals)	Provincial airstrips operation and maintenance	Airport control (airport authorities)
Recreation facilities operation and maintenance (eg, parks and playgrounds)	Provincial parks operation and maintenance	Ports control (port authorities)
	Highway construction	Food inspection
		Public sites operation (eg, historic sites, national museums, national parks, national galleries)

with the tax dollars they collect from local residents and businesses. However, the tremendous expense of maintaining multiple programs means that governments cannot afford to deliver an equal number of services to all communities. Often, cities and towns with the largest populations receive the most services because they have the largest tax bases.

In rural areas, people pay less property and other taxes than they do in urban areas. This means that municipal governments in small communities have relatively little

money to spend on new roads, bridges, electricity lines, and other public services. It is also less economical for the provincial and federal governments to maintain schools, health-care facilities, and other resources in places with small and scattered populations. Generally, the lower the population density, the higher the per capita cost of delivering public services. Retaining adequate numbers of teachers, doctors, nurses, and other professionals in remote settlements is another challenge.





Administering hundreds of sparsely populated settlements dispersed over a wide area has been a recurring problem for Newfoundland and Labrador governments. Different solutions have been tried over the decades with varying degrees of success. In 1935, for example, the Commission of Government created the Newfoundland Ranger Force to provide government services in isolated and northern areas.

After Confederation, the government sponsored resettlement programs to encourage rural residents to move to larger growth centres. By bringing the population together, government officials hoped to deliver better public services more affordably. However, many of the people who resettled were disappointed by their economic and social circumstances after

the move and struggled to adjust to life in their new communities. Others were angry that hundreds of settlements disappeared under the programs; they felt that resettlement was a betrayal of the culture and traditions that made Newfoundland and Labrador distinct.

Today, many rural communities are faced with the problem of maintaining tax bases that are large enough to afford necessary public services. Communities that are able to do so are referred to as economically sustainable. Often, small communities must decide to go without certain services so that they can afford other, more essential ones. Neighbouring municipalities may also decide to jointly pay for services they can then share – such as regional water systems or garbage

**... they felt that resettlement was a betrayal of the culture and traditions that made Newfoundland and Labrador distinct.**





collection. Cooperation between the various levels of government can also help communities remain economically sustainable. Cost-sharing with the provincial and federal governments, for example, makes it easier for some municipalities to afford a

wider range of programs and services, such as water treatment, solid waste management, road building, and public transit. Government officials may also introduce salary increases and other incentives to attract doctors, teachers, and other professionals to rural areas.

## ***For Discussion:***

1. People in Newfoundland and Labrador have access to a greater range of government services today than they did in the 1930s. Would this make it easier for local families to withstand another Great Depression? Explain your answer.
2. List some of the public services to which your community has access. Rank them by what you consider to be their order of importance. Discuss why you believe some services are more or less important than others.
3. Why do larger towns and cities often have a greater number of public services and programs than smaller communities? Do you believe this makes sense? Explain your answer.
4. Would you want to move to a larger centre where more government services and programs existed? Would you want to move to a smaller community where fewer services existed? Why or why not?
5. If you were a member of the provincial government, how would you try to give rural residents greater access to public services?

## ***Questions:***

1. Consider your daily routine (brushing your teeth, driving to school, etc.). How many of your activities are made easier by public services such as municipal water supplies and paved roads?
2. How would your life change if the government stopped providing public services?
3. How has greater access to public services made your life different from your parents' lives when they were your age? Your grandparents?
4. Why is it difficult for some rural communities to maintain tax bases that are large enough to pay for essential services?





# Chapter Six Review

## Summary

In this chapter we studied main events in Newfoundland and Labrador from 1948 to the present. We began by examining the referendums of 1948 and Confederation with Canada in 1949. We studied Smallwood's economic plan for the new province, and his social policies. We focused specifically on resettlement, and the issues associated with this policy. Changes in Aboriginal lifestyles during this time period were examined. The chapter concluded by presenting, in timeline format, some of the major social, political, economic, and cultural events in Newfoundland and Labrador from the 1970s to the 2000s.

## Key Ideas

Specifically, we examined the following key ideas:

- In 1948 two referendums were held in Newfoundland to determine the future status of the colony.
- After a hard-fought campaign, Confederation with Canada won a narrow victory over responsible government.
- Smallwood's government worked to diversify the economy from 1949 to 1972 through the establishment of small-scale industries and the funding of mega-projects.
- Social policies were introduced to provide a better standard of living for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.
- Providing essential services throughout the province was a challenge for Smallwood's government. This led to new policies such as resettlement of communities.
- Aboriginal groups in the province continued to experience changes in lifestyle after Confederation with Canada in 1949.
- Many social, political, economic, and cultural events impacted the province from the 1970s to the present.
- The Longshoremen's Protective Union and the Fishermen's Protective Union were two of the larger early unions in Newfoundland and Labrador.



## Key Terms

Centralization Program  
Confederate Association  
Confederation  
Federation of  
Newfoundland Indians  
Fisheries

Household Resettlement Program  
Innu Nation  
Labrador Metis Nation  
Mega-project  
Nunatsiavut  
NunatuKavut

Resettlement  
Responsible Government League  
Social welfare programs  
Status Indians  
Terms of Union

## Questions

1. What were the main reasons why Confederation with Canada won a victory over the responsible government option in the second 1948 referendum?
2. How successful were the Smallwood government's efforts to diversify the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador from 1949 to 1972? Support your answer with three examples or arguments.
3. Was the Smallwood government successful in significantly improving the standard of living for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians? Support your answer with three examples or arguments.
4. Use a graphic organizer to give the main arguments for and against resettlement of isolated communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Using this information, should resettlement have become a government program?
5. How did Confederation with Canada make Aboriginal people vulnerable to outside forces over which they had no control? What was the most significant change for Aboriginal groups?
6. From the timeline, select an event from each of the following areas which has had the greatest impact on Newfoundland and Labrador. Explain your choices.
  - a. Political
  - b. Social
  - c. Economic
  - d. Cultural