

Chapter 11

Moving into a New Century

Economic Challenges: during the 80' and 90's the economy suffered from high unemployment (UI) rates... the UI rate in 1985 was 20.8% which meant fewer people paid income tax causing government revenue to drop and unable to afford many of the social programs people depended on. Moreover, on July 2 1992 the Federal Government announced a moratorium, or complete ban for a long time on the northern cod fishery. This directly affected 30,000 people, many of whom had lost their jobs. As a result many had to move away in search of employment. Many blame the increased number of fishing vessels and the technology enabling more efficient methods of catching and harvesting the fish.

However by 1999 NL. have rebounded to have the fastest growing provincial economy.

New Sea-based economy has been driven by crab, shrimp, lobster and many other species raised in fish farms. Opportunities in the oil industry enabled people to look toward an oil boom as an alternative to fishing. Hibernia was discovered in 1979 but a production delay for 20 years was partly due to concerns over possible damage to the fisheries from oil spills and the safety of the offshore workers (Ocean Ranger Tragedy). Another obstacle was the conflict between the provincial and federal government over ownership and control of the offshore. There are more major oil projects that will employ many workers and increase GDP considerably. With more oil discovery, NL'ers wanted greater benefit from the province's oil and in February of 2005 Prime Minister Paul Martin agreed to allow NL to have 100% of the provinces share of the revenues from offshore.

New Land-based opportunities such as mining and tourism have expanded.

- Mining: the discovery and development of the Voisey's Bay mine site with large deposits of nickel has contributed greatly to the provinces economy. However, after its discovery in 1993 there was an extensive debate over the environmental impact and the implications of the project for the Innu and the Inuit. In 1995 the deposit was purchased by Inco. and by 2002 an agreement between Inco. and the province was signed which called for the construction of a mine and mill concentrator as well as a processing facility in Placentia Bay.
- Tourism: is a very important aspect of the economy. Many businesses and small communities rely solely on the industry. The government has realized this and starting 1949 they developed infrastructure like roads, hotels, parks and historic sites to encourage people to visit. It is estimated that the industry brings in over \$300 million, supports over

24,000 businesses and employs both directly and indirectly 26,000 people province wide.

Identities in the Modern Era

Aboriginal Movement: in 1969 the federal government proposed a policy that would eliminate the Indian Act and other treaty rights causing aboriginals to lose their special status. They would be treated as individuals and not as communities. The Aboriginal people unanimously rejected it. By the 70's Aboriginals from the entire province came together to form the Native Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (NALA) which helped fight for the rights of all Aboriginals in the province.

- **Rights and Land Claims**: some Aboriginal peoples of Canada as a result of their ancestors' long-standing use and occupancy of the land had been given special rights. These Aboriginal rights include the right to hunt, fish and trap on ancestral lands. Over the next 20 years the concept has been broadened to include self-government and a greater awareness of the status of Aboriginal peoples. In 1984 the Miawpukek First Nation was registered as a band under the Indian Act and has become the model for economic and social success. In Labrador the Innu were registered in 2000 and by 2005 the LIA signed a Land Claims Agreement. Much of the progress for Aboriginal Peoples can be attributed to the effectiveness of the Aboriginal organizations and its leaders.

Elizabeth Penashue: lives in Sheshatshiu and has devoted much of her time fighting industrialization and military exercises in her native Labrador. She has been tirelessly fighting for the rights of Innu and advocates the return to traditional way of life. Every year she goes on a walk from her home to her family's traditional hunting grounds at Minipi. She uses the month long walk as a protest against industrialization and military activity as well as a way to introduce the younger members of the community to their traditional way of life. She was nominated for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Peace award in 2003.

Read over the patterns and colours of the NL flag on page 308 in your book.