

## **Impact of World War Two on Newfoundland & Labrador**

**Economic Impact:** With the construction of military bases and the opportunity to work on these bases and in Canada, unemployment in Newfoundland was at an all time low. In addition, many people earned salaries as part of the Canadian and British Armed Forces.

- **Economic dislocation:** occurs when large numbers of people move from one type of employment to another.
  - The commissioned government regulated the wages of Newfoundlanders working on military bases in an attempt to keep people in other sectors of the economy from moving into employment on the base.
  - They did not want the other sectors to fail do to a lack of workers, nor did they want to increase their wages to match that of people on the base.
- **Employment of Women:** More women entered into the workforce to take the place of men who had enlisted in the Armed Services as well as taking jobs such as secretaries, waitresses, stenographers, etc.
- **Economic Surplus:** The money shortage Newfoundland faced in the 1930s was replaced with an abundance of money. This was fueled by high employment, high wages and new businesses an Newfoundland became more of a consumer-based society.
  - Newfoundland now had so much wealth, so it was able to lend millions of dollars in interest-free loans to Great Britain's war effort.

**Social interaction:** one-tenth of the population of NL consisted of military personnel during the war and this presence was felt in all communities. Some effects were positive, while others were negative:

<b><u>Positives</u></b>	<b><u>Negatives</u></b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Military and locals socialized freely and attended numerous concerts, dances and sporting events.</li><li>2. The standard of living was improving in education and health care causing people's expectations to increase in terms of prosperity and optimism for the future.</li><li>3. Many women married American and Canadian servicemen, suggesting good relations between servicemen and local communities.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Families were forced to move in order for military bases to be constructed.</li><li>2. Venereal disease, alcoholism and single parenthood increased while local men felt resentment toward servicemen who drew the attention of local women.</li><li>3. Social and cultural changes such as the loss of traditional languages and resentment over locals not being able to use land on bases since it was deemed "foreign soil".</li></ol>