

INSIDE TOMORROW

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BRIEF

Father convicted of incest
Corner Brook — A Northern Peninsula man has been convicted of having sexual intercourse with his daughter. The decision was brought down by Judge Kymil Howe in provincial court in Corner Brook Tuesday. The man, who cannot be identified because of the relationship with the victim, was also found guilty of one count of sexual assault. The trial was held in late January in Port au Choix and concluded in Corner Brook. The man testified he drank at least 20 beer on the night the offence occurred and had no recollection of events between the last time other witnesses saw him and the time he awoke on a kitchen floor the following morning. In making her decision, Howe said she found the daughter, who was 15 years old at the time of the offence, was a credible witness even though there were some inconsistencies in her testimony. A date for sentencing had not been

Toews announces cash for crime prevention

Two programs aim to keep people out of prison

By JAMES McLEOD
THE TELEGRAM

In a break from his government's tough-on-crime image, federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews was in Mount Pearl Tuesday to announce money for two crime prevention programs.

The Nunatsiavut government will receive more than \$1.2 million to set up a mobile multidisciplinary team to support at-risk individuals in Inuit communities in Labrador.

In addition, the Northeast Avalon YMCA will get \$691,000 to implement the alternative suspension project, which gives students suspended from school a place to go.

"We're here today because we believe that ensuring safer streets involves crime prevention as well as getting tough on offenders," Toews said.

These projects will provide at-risk individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador with alternatives to a life of crime, substance abuse and violence.

The announcement was made at the Mount Pearl YMCA, and Stephane Vaillancourt, CEO of the Quebec YMCA, praised the government's funding decision.

"The expansion of alternative suspension from a local to a national program highlights the impact of the support service," Vaillancourt said.



Public Safety Minister Vic Toews (right) speaks to Nunatsiavut's acting minister of health and social development Danny Pottle in St. John's Tuesday following a funding announcement for crime prevention programs. — Photo by James McLeod/The Telegram

The alternative suspension program was developed in Quebec for students who were kicked out of school and had no place to go.

Vaillancourt said the YMCA gives students homework help and tutoring while they are out of school, and then works to re-integrate them into the classroom.

"We don't want the youth to come

back. The experience is meant to be one time," he said.

Danny Pottle, Nunatsiavut's acting minister of health and social development, said the government's funding would work to help fight the problems his community faces.

"Many of these issues stem from the effects of colonization and inter-generational trauma," he said.

"The Nunatsiavut government has been lobbying for clinical mental health services and resources for many years. From this funding announcement, it is evident that the federal and provincial government have listened and become actively involved in this partnership."

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