

CABINET SECRETARIAT NOTE

Title: Media Reports on Children Sniffing Gasoline in Davis Inlet during Christmas

Issue:

- Media recently reported a reoccurrence of gasoline sniffing by children/youth who were removed from the Davis Inlet last year for treatment of solvent abuse. The children, who were returned from treatment programs in Alberta to Labrador during the Fall for ongoing treatment at the Charles J. Andrew Solvent Abuse Treatment Center in Sheshatshiu, had returned to Davis Inlet for Christmas.

Current Status:

- Reports from Health Labrador Corporation confirmed that several children who had returned home while the Charles J. Andrew Center closed for Christmas vacation had engaged in gas sniffing while in the community. The two Community Services Workers in Davis Inlet who were available to the children throughout the Christmas holidays responded to the behavior. Two youth were subsequently removed from Davis Inlet and placed with relatives in Sheshatshiu for the remainder of the Christmas holidays. Nine youth under age 18 years were recently charged with break and enter of two homes. The homeowners were away from the community during Christmas. All but two of these youth were involved with Child, Youth, and Family Services. Other than these reported incidents, the community of Davis Inlet was described as being quiet during the holidays.

Action Required:

- No action is deemed necessary at this time. Health Labrador Corporation has responded to the incidents in an appropriate manner. The children/youth who were home for Christmas will be returning to the Charles J. Andrew Center this week. The Board, through the Child, Youth, and Family Services Program, has recently provided follow-up services to the families in Davis Inlet through social work teams who spent December 4 - 14 in the community. In addition, there are two Community Services Workers employed in the community full time with access to the Director in Region, as well as consultation and support from the social workers employed in Sheshatshiu. There is a plan for the social work team to go into Davis Inlet again January 21 - 25, 2002. The Main Table for Davis Inlet will be meeting at the end of January or early February for further discussions on the long term healing strategy.
- Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs has advised that Minister McLean will be interviewed by CBC at 4:30 pm today.

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January 8, 2002