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The Commissioner on Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD), a branch of the Canadian Auditor General's Office, released its fall reports on October 4th. Among them is a report on Sustaining Canada's Major Fish Stocks. The findings of the report include: Out of 15 stocks in the "critical" zone (meaning severely depleted), only 3 have rebuilding plans; Only 21 out of 110 of the up-to-date Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) included an evaluation of whether or not objectives in the plans had been met; Most Integrated Fisheries Management Plans are either not up-to-date, non-existent or not publicly available and 80 out of 154 stocks examined did not have science-based reference points in place. This makes assessments of the health of the stock, and any related management decisions, relatively ineffective. Budget cuts to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as Strategic Reviews of the Department over the last several years have led to reduced investment in fisheries resources, despite the fact that many coastal communities depend heavily on wild fisheries.

More young Nova Scotians will have the chance to gain valuable on-the-job training with changes to the province's apprenticeship system. Amendments to the province's trade regulations increase training ratios for automotive service technician, truck and transport mechanic and cook apprentices from one apprentice per journeyman to two apprentices per journeyman. "We need to attract more young people into the skilled trades," said Marjorie Davison, CEO of the Nova Scotia Apprentice Agency. "This will double the number of opportunities for these high growth trades and allow more apprentices to get the training they need here in the province." Additional changes align the required hours for training with other provinces and territories, as well as reduce wait times for exam rewrites from three months to 30 days. These changes, which are set to take effect in spring 2017, advance the province's efforts to harmonize training and certification requirements with other provinces and territories and to improve mobility for those completing their training and certification out of the province.

A new \$3.75 million multi-year agreement will help victims of crime was announced on October 12th. The federal-provincial agreement provides a 50 per cent increase in funding per year from the Government of Canada for victim services when compared to the previous five-year agreement. "I want to thank the Government of Canada for their investment in victim services on behalf of all Nova Scotians," said Justice Minister Diana Whalen. "This agreement will help victims of crime navigate the justice system and receive the support they need." Projects and services covered by the funding agreement include: services for Mi'kmaq and other aboriginal Nova Scotians that are tailored to meet the unique needs of aboriginal victims of crime; services for tracking unpaid restitution orders; travel assistance for victims of crime to attend sentencing hearings to read their victim impact statements; testimonial aid equipment to help victims testify and/or read their victim impact statement in court; more specialized training for victim services officers and technology improvements. More than \$3.8 million will be spent on victim services in Nova Scotia this fiscal year, with \$750,000 coming as a result of this agreement.

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 May your heart and soul
 Be put at rest
 For now in heaven
 You become a guest
 May we not forget
 The price you paid
 For in the ground
 A heroes laid!

God bless and thank-you
Thomas A. Marshall, (Ex-Navy)

- Pte. Richard Green
- Pte. Nathan Smith
- Cpl. Paul Davis
- Cpl. Christopher Reid
- W.O. Frank Mellish
- Sgt. Darcy Tedford
- Cpl. Kevin Megeney
- Cpl. Chris Stannix
- Cpl. Tom Hamilton
- Sgt. James Macneil



Congregational Meeting DEBERT UNITED – NOVEMBER 7TH

By *Christine Urquhart*

There will be a Congregational Meeting of the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge on Monday November 7th, 7pm at Debert United Church. This meeting is to discuss asking Presbytery to reappoint Rev. Carolyn Rushton to continue on our charge until June 30th. It is also to take the time to talk about amalgamation. All interested folks are urged to attend.

Church services for the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge for November will be at 10am rotating between our three Churches: November 6 - Debert - this is Remembrance Sunday and the Debert Legion will be joining us for this service. Lunch to follow. November 13 - Glenholme, November 20 - Masstown and November 27 - Debert. Sunday School will be held each Sunday during Church time.

All children of all ages welcome! Those who attend really enjoy coming to Church and Sunday School, and Sunday School Superintendent Megan Donkin does wonders with the children! Bring your children or grandchildren to Sunday School today!

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