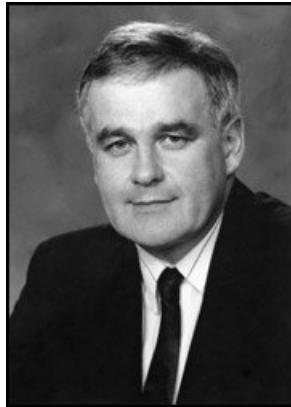


A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



I am pleased to present ***Fast Forward: The Report of the Five-Year Post-Secondary Graduate Follow-Up Study***. To achieve a vibrant and successful future, it is important that the youth of this province make sound and informed post-secondary choices. While previous studies of post-secondary graduates examined their short-term employment outcomes, this report is designed to address the growing need for high-quality labour market information on the long-term outcomes of post-secondary graduates.

Fast Forward highlights the results of a study conducted by the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education in 2000-2001 to determine the labour market outcomes of 1995 post-secondary graduates, five to six years after graduation. It provides information on graduate employment and earning outcomes, the relationship of education to employment, graduate satisfaction with employment, further education since graduating, sources of funding for post-secondary education and out-migration.

The findings of this report indicate that the outcomes of 1995 post-secondary graduates are quite favourable five years after graduation. Overall, the majority of graduates were employed in full-time jobs that were directly or indirectly related to their post-secondary education. Graduates of longer programs in particular showed extremely positive outcomes, with greater full-time employment and higher wages.

I am confident that you will find ***Fast Forward*** to be an excellent information resource for career planning. I encourage parents, educators, career counsellors, and program administrators to use the findings of this report to encourage our youth to make informed decisions about their post-secondary choices. Most importantly, students will find this information invaluable for understanding what to expect after graduation. I invite you to view this publication on the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education Web site at www.gov.nl.ca/youth.

JOHN OTTENHEIMER, MHA
St. John's East District
Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education