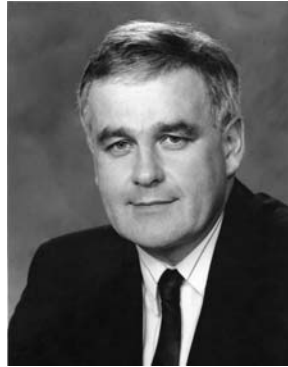


## A Message from the Minister



I am pleased to present *The Apprenticeship Experience: 2003 Survey of Registered Apprentices of Newfoundland and Labrador*. This report, the first of its kind in this Province, provides insight into the experiences of apprentices as they progress through the apprenticeship system.

The federal government predicts a national shortfall of skilled tradespersons into the next decade. In this Province, the business community has identified an increasing need for skilled labour. Given this demand and the positive labour market outcomes for certified tradespersons, research into Newfoundland and Labrador's apprenticeship system was warranted.

This report focuses directly on the experiences of apprentices including their employment status prior to registration as well as their current status, their in-class technical training and on-the-job work experience, their satisfaction with in-class and on-the-job experiences, difficulty in finding trade-related employment and finally, their pursuit of advanced level training.

Key findings of the report indicate the majority of surveyed apprentices successfully completed their entry-level classroom training. While most have logged some on-the-job hours, apprentices in a number of trades are experiencing difficulty in finding sufficient hours in trade-related employment to meet the requirements for journeyperson certification.

I anticipate wide use of *The Apprenticeship Experience* by policy makers and program administrators in forming and shaping policy to address concerns within the existing apprenticeship program. To ensure that Newfoundland and Labrador has a skilled workforce to help us build and maintain a vibrant economy, it is important that our apprenticeship system be accommodating to all those whose goal it is to work in the skilled trades. I am confident that *The Apprenticeship Experience* will assist us in this process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Ottenheimer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JOHN OTTENHEIMER, MHA  
MINISTER