

Catch a Wave!

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"The time is now for each of us to develop personal strategies, in our lives and our businesses and our organizations, that will open the way for all Newfoundlanders & Labradorians to become self-sufficient," said **Ray Johnson**, who hosted the event. "If our youth want to stay and work here, we must work together build a province that can sustain them."

A group of grade six students from **Mary Queen of Peace elementary school** in St. John's were also in attendance. In this conclusion, host Ray Johnson pointed out that six of these children had left the room at various times throughout the presentation. He went on to explain that this represents the 23% decline in our provincial youth population that is expected, through the government's the best case scenario, by the time these children are ready to enter the work force 14 years from now in 2020.



This event was presented in conjunction with the following groups: the Community Linkages Concept Committee (CLCC); Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth (FINALY!); the Newfoundland and Labrador Defense League (NLDL); and the Newfoundland and Labrador Young Farmer's Forum (NLYFF).

For more information on this initiative, please visit www.WeStand.ca

For more information and coverage from this event, please visit our www.finaly.ca/news.htm ■

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Message from the Chair

Futures in Newfoundland and Labrador's Youth – or FINALY! – is a non-profit organization that is just what it sounds like – a group that strives to help youth realize opportunities to build a bright future here in the province.

Our organization is unique because we serve all young people in the province in a variety of areas. We equip youth with skills and knowledge to contribute to the economy and the social fabric of Newfoundland and Labrador. FINALY! has proven its commitment to the future prosperity of this province. We develop and implement initiatives that focus on entrepreneurship, leadership, and employability skills.

Over the past year we have had Youth Development Officers (YDOs) working in rural Newfoundland and Labrador organizing workshops and seminars that have been extremely successful. We are also working closely with Regional Economic Development Boards (REDBs) <http://www.intrd.gov.nl.ca/intrd/economicboards.htm> and the provincial government's Rural Secretariat <http://www.exec.gov.nl.ca/rural/> to create programs and forums for youth to have a voice in the economic and political process.

FINALY! is excited about a very busy year. We have a strong board of directors also known as the Provincial Youth Council (PYC). The 13 members of the PYC represent every region of the province and are all between the ages of 15-30.

We're organizing the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET) Conference in April. In addition to the many incredible speakers and sessions, it will also feature a dynamic forum and film festival especially for youth entitled OUT ON A LYMN.

We'll follow through with initiatives in rural Newfoundland and Labrador and continue our dialogue with government on new partnerships. The promotion of Newfoundland and Labrador will be very high on our priority list as we focus on our involvement with the Community Linkages Concept Committee (CLCC).

The CLCC is a grassroots movement started in the Fall of 2006 with Ray Johnson of Buddy Wasisname and the Other Fellows. Its mission is to challenge all local people to uncover the possibilities in our own backyard.

On behalf of the PYC, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our supporters, the federal government, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and Service Canada, and the provincial government, through Innovation, Trade and Rural Development (ITRD) and Human Resource, Labour and Employment (HRL) for their commitment to the success of FINALY! ■

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