

For Immediate Release

Child and Youth Advocate Initiates Investigation

The Child and Youth Advocate, Darlene Neville, announced today her intention to conduct an Investigation of psychiatric services and programs provided during the past year by the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre.

Notices of the Advocate's intention to conduct this Investigation were provided to the Acting Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Don Keats, and the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority, Ms. Louise Jones, on Monday, December 15, 2008, as required by the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*.

The recent closure of Unit J4D at the Janeway, the only inpatient psychiatric unit in the Province for children and youth, coupled with recent events and public concern regarding the availability of inpatient psychiatric services and programs at the Janeway, prompted the Advocate to initiate this Investigation.

The Advocate anticipates completing the Investigation early in the New Year and will provide her recommendations to Government.

For further information, please contact Shirley Prior, Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, at (709) 753-3636.

December 16, 2008