

**VON St. John's Chapter and Bennett Restaurants Recognized as
"Employers of Distinction" for 2009**

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February 25th, 2010, St. John's, NL – Victorian Order of Nurses St. John's Chapter and Bennett Restaurants were recognized today at the NL Employers' Council's seventh annual "Employer of Distinction" awards luncheon. They were selected from a group of seven progressive local employers vying for this highly prestigious award.

VON St. John's Chapter, the local branch of Canada's largest, national, not-for-profit, charitable home and community care organization, was awarded the Employer of Distinction in the small employer category. VON was recognized for their involvement of staff in decision making, work life balance, recognition of staff achievement, and commitment to safety. Bennett Restaurants, operators of St. John's area McDonald's restaurants, were the winner's in the large employer category. Bennett Restaurants was recognized for their progressive human resource focus; employee communication; dedication to the happiness, health and well being of staff; and their volunteer work in the community. Speaking on the recipients, Richard Alexander, Executive Director of the Employers' Council commented, "These are two organizations that some may not expect to receive an award of this kind, due to their industries. But, while these two organizations have compensation and benefits packages that would surprise most; the most important thing these employers have done is demonstrate a commitment to, and value of, employees in creative ways that go beyond just compensation. This creativity has helped them to recruit and retain quality staff throughout the years. "

The Employer of Distinction Award recognizes employers in this province that excel at leadership, innovation, creativity, and a fundamental belief in the value of a healthy, safe, and motivated workforce. Nominated organizations are judged on five key areas: Health and Safety, Compensation and Advancement, Presence in the Community, Stakeholder Awareness, and the overall implementation of Human Resource Best Practices. Nominees scoring over 80% on their submission are short-listed, and the winners are decided by an independent judging panel.

Other short listed organization's this year included: Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation, Noble Drilling (Canada) Ltd., Shepell fgi, St. Jude Hotel, and Teck Duck Pond Operations. The Atlantic Canadian law firm of McInnes Cooper was the corporate sponsor of this event.

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**** *Onsite interviews with winning organization's can be arranged.* ****

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