


St. Anthony Coast Guard Radio officially signs off

St. Anthony centre now consolidated with Goose Bay; Goose Bay to service both areas


Stephen Roberts stephen.roberts@northernpen.ca (mailto:stephen.roberts@northernpen.ca)

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After months of waiting, St. Anthony Coast Guard Radio is signing off.

On August 19, the process to consolidate St. Anthony Marine Communications and Traffic Centres (MCTS) with MCTS Goose Bay took place. The Goose Bay centre will service both areas.

In 1912, a marine radio station was established on Belle Isle in the Strait of Belle Isle. In 1969, the Belle Isle station was closed and services were transferred to a site closer to St. Anthony. In 1996, the MCTS radio was first established in a new building in St. Anthony.

There were 15 positions between the St. Anthony and Goose Bay Marine Communications and Traffic Centres; after consolidation there will be 13 positions at MCTS Goose Bay.

There are no changes to technical service positions and four jobs will continue to be based in St. Anthony. Coverage will remain the same.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, Fisheries and Oceans Canada says there is no reduction in staffing levels by combining these two centres as both are now staffed single stand. Once consolidated, MCTS Goose Bay will have two officers working at all times with new, updated equipment, offering an enhanced service, covering the same area that MCTS Goose Bay and MCTS St. Anthony previously covered.

The modernization of the Goose Bay centre will also be of great benefit, according to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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“The new technology will increase automation and use of text-to-speech technologies to reduce workloads related to the Continuous Marine Broadcast, permitting employees to have an even greater ability to focus on the safety services they provide to mariners,” they explained in a release to the Northern Pen. “MCTS officers are highly trained, certified professionals. Before keeping watch, they complete a rigorous six-month training program at the Canadian Coast Guard College and study their geographical area of responsibility.”

Furthermore, the new technologies will reduce the overall workload for MCTS employees and allow them to focus more of their time on watch to provide safety services.

“Equipment will be more reliable, service disruptions will be reduced, and coverage will remain exactly as it is today because the network of radio and radar towers across Canada will not change,” said Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Maps outlining the area of responsibility before and after consolidation are located on their website: <http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/Marine-Communications/Home>.

stephen.roberts@northernpen.ca