

## **Premier will come bearing gifts today**

### **Funding Vibrant Communities expected to receive**

*C2*

*Published Monday December 15th, 2008*

*Telegraph-Journal*

SAINT JOHN - Premier Shawn Graham and his Saint John cabinet colleagues will deliver more than \$350,000 in funding this afternoon to help enhance the city's social infrastructure.

"This announcement is part of the government's commitment to reduce poverty in New Brunswick," said a government source.

Premier Graham, Hon. Ed Doherty, Minister of Supply and Services, and Hon. Mary Schryer, Minister of Social Development, and other local dignitaries will deliver the good news to Tom Gribbons, chair of Vibrant Communities Saint John, at the North End Recreation Centre at 195 Victoria St.

Funding totalling \$375,000 over a three-year period will be provided to Vibrant Communities, which was established to develop and lead a community response to reducing poverty in Saint John.

"This funding is also part of the government's commitment to the recommendations in Benefit Blueprint, the community-based initiative aimed at optimizing the economic growth and social benefits from major industrial projects in this region," added the source.

Benefit Blueprint recommended a Neighbourhood Capacity Building program to give an important boost to initiatives aimed at reducing poverty. The provincial funding will be used by Vibrant Communities to help the residents of five priority neighborhoods in the city.