

Stranded Williams Harbour residents need subsidy: Jones

St. John's —

Liberal Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones wants the provincial government to help people in Williams Harbour who are stranded due to dangerous ice conditions in the area.

In a news release Thursday, Jones said warm temperatures in the area have prevented the ice from forming. Usually, residents of Williams Harbour can travel over the ice by snowmobile when they want to leave the area. Meanwhile, the weather has been cold enough to create slob ice, making it too dangerous to travel by boat.

According to Jones, the remaining mode of travel, by airplane, is expensive, with flights costing up to \$180 one way to go to Port Hope Simpson — a trip lasting less than 10 minutes.

Jones said she has spoken to Transportation and Works Minister Trevor Taylor and asked for a subsidy for residents who need to fly to get goods and services outside the community. The subsidy would be temporary, until weather permits regular mode of travel. Jones said Taylor indicated he would look at the situation.

"I am hopeful government will provide some sort of assistance to the people of Williams Harbour. These are exceptional circumstances and government must put in place some type of plan that will make necessary travel affordable for residents that are currently stranded," Jones said.

Taylor could not immediately be reached Thursday.