

Trans-Labrador Highway needs cellphone service: Jones

St. John's —

Government's satellite phone service on the Trans-Labrador Highway is no longer effective and cellphone coverage is a must for commuters in Labrador, says Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones.

Problems with the satellite phone service were highlighted recently when George Andrews and his family were stranded on the Trans-Labrador Highway in -50 C weather, an Opposition news release states. The satellite phone service malfunctioned and the family survived only because a passing vehicle stopped.

"Unlike the Trans-Canada Highway, there is no cellphone service on Labrador highways and government has, instead, provided satellite phones to drivers," Jones said. "Recent events have again demonstrated that this service is not reliable and needs to be re-evaluated. It is time government partnered with the private sector to provide this service in regions of the province that currently have no cellphone service."