

LOCAL NEWS

Last updated at 2:53 PM on 09/02/09

Jones says children should not be sent to Waterford Hospital for treatment of mental health issues

LATEST NEWS



The Telegram

Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones is calling on the province's Child and Youth Advocate to get involved to protect the rights of children sent to the Waterford Hospital in St. John's for treatment of mental health issues.

Jones said that in December, two adolescents were transferred to the Waterford Hospital from the Janeway Children's Hospital for what was deemed a temporary stay.

Jones said one of the children is still at the Waterford on a ward with 25 adult patients who suffer from mental disorders.

"After speaking to a parent of one of these children, it is certainly obvious that the Waterford Hospital is the wrong environment for young people dealing with mental health issues," Jones said.

"It has already been proven that there is a lack of appropriate facilities available in the province to help mentally ill children, but the Waterford should not be used for this purpose. There are treatment facilities outside Newfoundland and Labrador that should always be utilized before the Waterford. It saddens me that children are being forced to witness some of the acts and behaviours of mentally ill adults at the Waterford Hospital."

Jones said the provincial government is failing to provide necessary assistance to have them placed in a more appropriate facility. She is calling on the Child and Youth Advocate to get involved to protect the rights of the children.

09/02/09