

# LOCAL NEWS

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## Jones calls for ministerial task force for Labrador West

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Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says the provincial government needs to take a good look at what is happening in Labrador West with the downturn in the mineral sector.

She said the economy of the region is struggling and that government must take a more proactive role to address the concerns and to help people.

Jones says she has written Premier Danny Williams recommending that government establish a ministerial task force to offer assistance and support to displaced workers in western Labrador.

Jones, who was in Labrador West earlier this month, says people are dissatisfied with the reaction from government so far.

"People in Labrador West are frustrated and feel they are not receiving similar treatment and support offered to other regions of the province," Jones said.

"It is obvious that a task force or partner committee with government needs to be established to examine the impact of job losses, create new job opportunities, identify transitional programs for displaced workers, and to determine if there are municipal grants available to assist the towns of Labrador City and Wabush through these difficult times.

"There are also projects that can be fast-tracked such as the hospital, college and Trans Labrador Highway that will create short-term employment that could help displaced workers and bridge the financial gap of families," Jones suggested. "There certainly needs to be action and the absence of any measurable government presence is frustrating to people in the region."

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