

## **Liberals accuse province of cutting funding**

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The provincial Liberals say the Danny Williams government made cuts to agriculture programs in this years budget.

Roland Butler asked about the cuts to the Agriculture and Agrifoods Development program in the House of Assembly, Wednesday.

But Natural Resources Minister Kathy Dunderdale said no money was cut from the program.

However, she explained \$6 million of built up, unused funding was not carried over this year, as was done in the past.

She said in tough economic times, the province decided to keep the amount in the program at its \$4 million annual allotment.

She also said more than \$30 million a year goes into agriculture programs.

Last week, the former president of the province's Federation of Agriculture, Merv Wiseman, told the Telegram he was " very disappointed, totally dismayed at the loss in the budget."

Wiseman said the large amount of leftover funding was because farmers had to cut too much red tape to access the program.