

Release report on old Janeway, MHAs urge

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Opposition

MHAs want the provincial government to release the results of environmental testing at the old Janeway hospital site in Pleasantville.

"I want to see the report immediately," NDP Leader Lorraine Michael said.

The Telegram revealed Thursday that the province commissioned environmental testing of the old Janeway site after the former hospital building was demolished.

Any hazardous materials were supposed to be removed before demolition.

But the government won't release the results of that testing. Transportation and Works Minister Trevor Taylor said it would be "premature" to release the report, which the province last week.

That's not good enough for Michael, who represents Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi. Her district includes the old Janeway properties.

"I think it's just absolutely unacceptable that the minister is saying he just received it recently, it's currently being reviewed, and to release it before that process is complete would be premature," Michael said.

"Why? Why would it be premature? I mean, the report is the report."

Michael said she will be requesting it from the minister.

"I think the people in my district who live in that area are going to be quite disturbed when they read (Thursday's) paper. ... They're going to want to know, were there materials in that building, and I'm going to need an answer for them."

She noted there is housing in the area, along with the Tommy Sexton centre, which has a residential wing for HIV-AIDS patients with compromised immune systems.

"It's an extremely important area in terms of needing to know if hazardous materials are being released into the air," Michael said.

Liberal Opposition works and environment critic Roland Butler said he hopes nothing is wrong at the site, but also wants to see the report.

"There must be some concern for government to send a consultant in after the building has been demolished, and when this was supposed to be all removed first," Butler said.

"For this report to be in now, and apparently the department has had it for a week or so, I'm sure those people must have concerns about it. And you'd think if there's nothing wrong, come out and say it, and put people's minds to rest on the issue."

— Photo by Joe Gibbons/The Telegram



Workers go about in their excavators on Tuesday morning clearing away the final remnants of the former Dr. Charles A. Janeway site in Pleasantville.