

LOCAL NEWS

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Opposition says government trying to shut down house before nurses' strike **LATEST NEWS**

The Telegram

There's a lot of tired MHAs and staff at the House of Assembly in St. John's. Debate has been ongoing for nearly 23 hours straight and there is no end in sight as yet.

The Opposition says it is trying to stifle government attempts to push through a legislative agenda in order to close the House of Assembly early and avoid additional scrutiny from a nurses' strike.

Opposition House Leader Kelvin Parsons says in news release that government is trying to rush through important pieces of legislation in an attempt to have their legislative agenda finalized before a nurses' strike begins Wednesday.

With key pieces of legislation passed, he said, government would have the option of closing the House of Assembly as early as next week.

"There is no rush to pass this legislation. The House of Assembly can remain open for several more weeks," Parsons says. "Unfortunately, it appears government is more concerned about the House of Assembly becoming a focal point for the nurses' strike and are preparing to hide from public scrutiny."

He says the Opposition will challenge government to keep the House of Assembly open for the next few weeks to allow for public debate on the nurses' strike and health care in the province.

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