

LOCAL NEWS

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Rural medical services continue to be eroded: Opposition

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The Telegram

The provincial government's announcement that laboratory and X-ray services will no longer be offered in Lewisporte and Flower's Cove is an example of how health-care delivery in rural areas of the province continues to be downgraded, says Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones.

Both Lewisporte and Flower's Cove have new health-care facilities, but government has made a decision to centralize services in larger towns, Jones said.

"Both Lewisporte and Flower's Cove serve dozens of nearby communities at their facilities," she said. "Removing laboratory and X-ray services will impact thousands of people living in these regions. It is unfortunate that this government continues to centralize services to the detriment of rural communities without considering the consequences on the people who live in these areas of our province."

Jones says most people have accepted that some health-care services can only be accessed in major tertiary areas like St. John's. However, they expect basic services such laboratory and X-ray services to be readily available and easily accessible.