

# Butler suggests mould problem will mushroom

## Liberals call for more air-quality testing, inspections in schools

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Liberal

MHA Roland Butler has been asking the government for mandatory air-quality testing in schools for several years and did so again in the House of Assembly on Wednesday.

"We have continuously asked government to conduct air-quality inspections in all schools throughout the province and for inspection reports to be made public," he said during period.

He then asked Education Minister Darin King to admit the inspections are needed.

But King said the tests aren't needed because they often can't detect mould.

"Those who do air-quality testing will tell you that air-quality tests will only give you a certain degree of information about detecting mould in schools," he said.

King contends the tests wouldn't have found mould in the two schools that have currently delayed their openings this year — St. Matthew's Elementary in St. John's and Peacock Elementary in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

King said mould was only found after renovations began on the schools.

"It's because we are doing the work that we are finding the problems," he said before suggesting if the previous Liberal government invested more on school maintenance the problem wouldn't be so bad.

But outside the House, Butler wasn't buying King's answer that airquality tests don't find mould.

He also asked why it was only days before the schools were scheduled to open for the year that the mould was found.

Butler said without regular tests, the problem of school closures caused by mould will continue.

"I can assure you, there's more coming yet," he said.