

Opposition scolds government on Flower's Cove reversal

\$9-million health facility planned for community

THE TELEGRAM

The province has announced clinic services in Flower's Cove will continue to be provided on a 24-hour basis, but the Liberal Opposition says if the province had consulted residents, it wouldn't have cut hours in the first place.

Paul Oram, Health minister, met with regional community leaders Thursday to talk about operational and design work for construction of the new health clinic in Flower's Cove.

"We continue to carefully examine programming and design options for the new facility in Flower's Cove," Oram said in a media release. "As a result of this work and discussions with area residents, municipal leaders, MHAs and cabinet, we have decided to continue to provide 24 hours of care at this facility. Our government is committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of residents."

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones said the government may have reinstated 24-hour care, but it still hasn't addressed whether X-ray and lab services will be returned.

"I am pleased that the minister finally realized that his decision was

flawed and I can only hope he made this reversal for the right reasons," Jones said in a release. "These types of decision-making errors occur when you refuse to consult with the people who are affected, and this minister refused to consult with people

until a byelection was in sight.

"This government's philosophy of giving something up to get something back is not acceptable. The people won't be satisfied until they get all of the services back that this government so ruthlessly took away."

The government plans to build a \$9-million health facility in Flower's Cove.

The health department will seek

expressions of interest for design consulting services this fall.

The lab and X-ray services for peo-

ple in Flower's Cove will be provided at the Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony, the department said. Blood

collection services will continue in Flower's Cove.

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Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones