

LOCAL NEWS

Last updated at 12:10 PM on 07/10/09

Opposition doesn't buy reason Oram stepping down

LATEST NEWS 

The Telegram

Health Minister Paul Oram was probably pushed into resigning, suggests Opposition Liberal MHA Kelvin Parsons.

"I think there's more to this resignation than meets the eye," said Parsons, reacting to the news, as Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones is travelling and unavailable.

Parsons said his observations of Oram as an MHA and minister and in the House is Oram is the "most combative individual MHA I have encountered."

Oram claimed blood pressure is his reason for leaving government, but also blamed the media for hounding him and his family.

But Parsons said he's used the media in the past for his own purposes, such as slugging other politicians.

"Mr. Oram has a far tougher skin than he puts on. He's extremely combative in the house. He's been known to juggle eight or 10 balls in business at one time," Parsons said.

Parsons speculated that there was a falling out.

"The premier no doubt has been disturbed by what's going on in the department since he has been there," Parsons said, noting Oram didn't go to a less stressful portfolio or out of cabinet, but is leaving the government altogether.

Further updates later and full coverage in Thursday's print edition.