

# Government playing politics in Flower's Cove: Jones

**Liberal leader says province stalling lab, X-ray issue ahead of byelection**

BY JAMESMCLEOD

*THE TELEGRAM*

---

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones had some hard words for the provincial government's tactics on the Northern Peninsula ahead of a byelection.

The government has been under fire for cutting lab and X-ray service to the Flower's Cove medical centre.

"Today they're saying to the people of Flower's Cove, 'If you can find room in this square footage within this cost as well to a lab and X-ray facility then we will consider it,'" Jones said. "It looks like a stall tactic to get them through the next 19 days of the campaign."

The StraitsWhite Bay North district was vacated last month when cabinet minister Trevor Taylor announced that he was resigning for personal reasons.

Shortly after, then-health Minister Paul Oram announced that the government would backtrack on some of its cuts in Flower's Cove — the clinic would stay open 24 hours, when previously the plan was to scale back to 12 hours.

Jones said the people in Flower's Cove should not "roll over" and accept the consultative process, and keep pushing ahead of the byelection.

"The solution is if they want their services re-instated, that's what they have to push for," she said. "This is a government that once you put pressure on them, they do flip-flop, they do change their mind."

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones

Jones has said that she believes the lab and X-ray cuts announced in Flower's Cove and Lewisporte are the first salvo in a much larger plan for "disintegrating and gutting rural health care."

She defended her party's record, saying that the best way for the people to get proper representation is to elect the liberal candidate.

"Our party is committed to stand up for the issues of the people in this province," she said. "To advocate on behalf of the people, because their own MHAs are not doing it."



*Yvonne Jones*