

Fund MUN program: Liberals

Questions on psychology course reopens MUN presi- dential search scandal

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its new president last month.

Jones said the government should make saving the course a priority as 200 people in the province are currently on a waiting list to see a psychologist.

But King said Jones was casting "fear and doubt" into the students taking the program, as MUN has stated publicly it has no plans to cancel the program.

The

fate of a doctorate program in clinical psychology at Memorial University, which was featured in Monday's Telegram, came up in the House of Assembly later that day.

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones asked Education Minister Darin King if the province would commit to funding the program as some students fear it may be cut due to money issues.

King said he couldn't make such a commitment, but said discussions with MUN on the school's budget priorities were ongoing.

"I can only say to the member opposite that the decision on program offerings is one of Memorial's," he said. "They're autonomous; they make their own academic choices about programming."

But that's when Jones raised an issue that dogged former education minister Joan Burke.

"Mr. Speaker, they didn't mind intervening to select a (MUN) president a couple of years ago, but they got a huge problem to intervene to save an important program at our university," she said.

In 2008, the Canadian Association of University Teachers accused Burke of political interference and putting the school's autonomy in question after she revealed she had interviewed and rejected potential presidential candidates

King chose to ignore Jones' comment and instead thanked her for giving him the chance to talk about the new MUN president.

MUN finally named Gary Kachanoski — a soil scientist and a former vice-president at the University of Alberta —