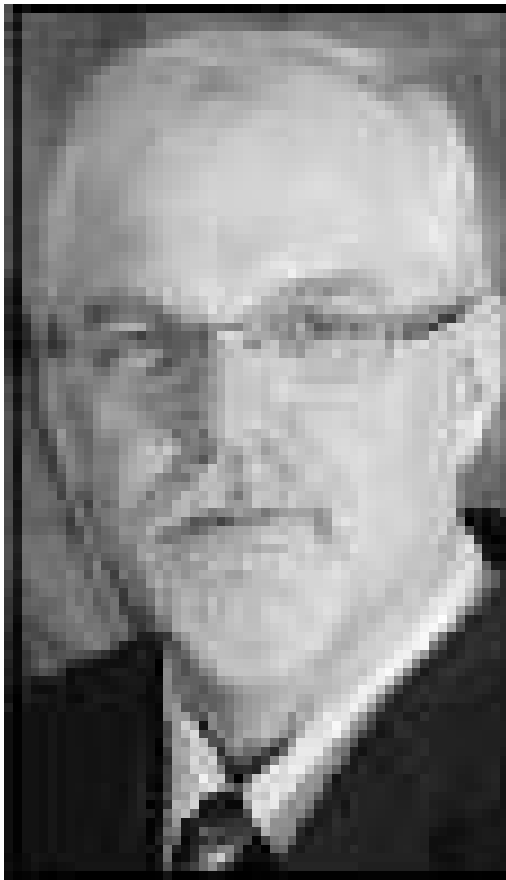


## More action needed on student housing: Dean

*TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA—  
CORNER BROOK The Western Star*

### Delays

in addressing the growing need for student housing in this province are impacting student education, says the newest member of the provincial opposition.



*Marshall Dean*

Marshall Dean, Liberal member for Straits-White Bay North, said the problem is rampant in St. John's, Corner Brook, Labrador West and St. Anthony and government must live up to its commitment to construct new residences in the province.

The opposition critic said there were approximately 200 Memorial University students on a waitlist for on-campus housing in September. Adding to the problem is a vacancy rate for housing of

0.6 per cent in Corner Brook.

Dean said government committed to providing additional residence space at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook, but the project has been delayed.

"Government must let students know when this committed project will move forward for the benefit of those looking for reliable housing," he said in a prepared statement released Tuesday.

The vacancy rate for housing in St. John's is at an all-time low of 2.2 per cent, he said. In the 2007 budget, government committed to building two new residences at the MUN campus in the capital city.

"The project is at a stand still and the space originally intended for the new buildings is currently being used as a parking lot," he said.

"More action is needed to ensure the allocated funds are spent and students can access this much needed housing."

However, the lack of housing for students is not only a problem for the province's largest post-secondary institute nor only in the larger cities. Dean said it is a problem facing the College of the North Atlantic in Labrador West and St. Anthony.

"Both Labrador West and St. Anthony have College of the North Atlantic facilities that want to offer expanded programs, however, the challenges of housing and attracting students becomes a concern," he said. "If students have nowhere to live, they are certainly less likely to choose either of these campuses to do their programming."

The critic is encouraging government to make commitments to these regions to ensure the best infrastructure is in place and that lack of housing doesn't become a deterrent to educational needs. provincial court in Corner Brook Jan. 26 at 9:30 a.m.