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Liberal Leader Calls for Salary Hike for Government Pharmacists



Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones is calling for a salary boost for government pharmacists to address staffing shortages. Jones says the shortage is compromising the special authorization process under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program. Jones says special authorization for certain drugs is normally reviewed by the program within a 10-day period by 5 to 6 pharmacists. Jones says in recent months, the wait time for the review process is taking close to 5 weeks due to a shortage of government pharmacists. Jones says government pharmacists make 20 to 30 thousand dollars less than those working in the private sector. She says despite job advertisements issued over a year ago to fill vacancies, there have been no full or part-time applicants.