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Opposition Blasts Government Over Moose Bill



Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says government is unwilling to commit to anything concrete to reduce the number of moose-vehicle accidents. A Liberal private member's bill passed in the House of Assembly, but only after Environment Minister Charlene Johnson made some amendments. Jones says government is not willing to act on the recommendations from a comprehensive study, despite pleas from a citizen's committee who gathered more than 26 thousand names on a petition. The Opposition parties did not support the amended bill. Johnson says the changes reflect the work that has already been done and calls for findings to be reported to the province. Transportation and Works Minister Tom Hedderson says

he's prepared to work with all sides to reach a solution to the more than 700 moose vehicle collisions a year. NDP Leader Lorraine Michael is calling on the provincial government to engage in more public consultation. She feels an all party committee could help wade through the information and come up with the best solutions.

Members of the Save Our People Action Committee were in the public gallery as members debated the resolution. Lucy Stoyles says the medical costs to government from these accidents are substantial, and the insurance industry has a stake as well. She says if everyone works together, interesting and innovative ideas could take root.

An entrepreneur on the Southern Shore wants to go into the moose business. Gerard told VOCM BackTalk with Bill Rowe he will be making a proposal to the provincial government on a secondary processing industry for moose products.