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Opposition Raises Issue of Asbestos Remediation at Government Buildings



The Opposition is raising the issue of asbestos remediation at a number of government-owned buildings - This after correspondence was obtained under Access to Information citing possible issues with St. Pat's Nursing Home in St. John's. Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says discussions surrounded a possible 'medical surveillance program' to monitor both staff and patients. Jones says the program was never implemented. Health and Community Services Minister Jerome Kennedy says while he is not aware of the report, he has seen the long list of long term care facilities seeking repairs and upgrades

in the coming fiscal year. Kennedy says he will look into the matter and report back to the House of Assembly.

Meanwhile, The Opposition is also sounding the alarm about the government run 'registry of deeds' in the basement of Confederation Building. The department deals with older documents, some dating back over a hundred years. Jones says employees in the division and legal title researchers employed by various law firms have been concerned about possible asbestos contamination for quite some time. She says 14 of the some 35 workers in the division have been diagnosed with cancer in the last few years. Government Services Minister Kevin O'Brien says they have looked into the issue and while no direct correlation has been found, the division is being moved to Elizabeth Avenue in the coming months.