

Liberals propose heckling ban

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Opposition critic Kelvin Parsons said heckling must be controlled in the provincial house of assembly. (CBC)

Newfoundland and Labrador's Liberals want changes to reign in misbehaving politicians at the provincial legislature.

Opposition house leader Kelvin Parsons has introduced a private member's motion to ban heckling during question period at the house of assembly.

Parsons said recent the disputes in the house are unacceptable, and that he wants a house committee to meet to address the issue.

"I think it's about time that the committee did get together, particularly in view of what's happened over the last couple of months, what's been said, inside and outside the house," said Parsons.

"I think it's time we looked at how we operate."

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones was forced to apologize on June 11 for "offensive" comments she had made about her beliefs that she has been singled out for maltreatment by the governing Tories. Jones has often said her comments are drowned out by politicians on the government side.

Jones eventually submitted an apology to the house of assembly but not without questioning Speaker Roger Fitzgerald and complaining again that she is often drowned out by heckling Progressive Conservatives.

"I understand the political process. I have no problem with heckling of members in the house of assembly. That is all part of the procedure," Jones told the legislature at the time.