

Jones calls for trauma team in St. Anthony

have in St. Anthony and St. John's, but to add a third air ambulance and basing it in Happy Valley Goose Bay. Again, while the minister stated he was open to proposed solutions, in the end, he was more interested in grandstanding than in reassuring our citizens. Playing politics doesn't cut it for me or for the people of Labrador. I call upon the minister to conduct a review as he promised."

The Minister of Health's recent statements in the House of Assembly make it clear that improving Labrador's air ambulance service is not on the government's radar in the near future, says Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones.

Ms. Jones, MHA for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair, questioned Minister Jerome Kennedy in the Legislature on his commitment to conduct a review of air ambulance services for the region after meeting with several families impacted by unreliable medevac service out of Labrador.

Following Question Period, Ms. Jones also presented a petition on behalf of 3,000 concerned citizens who are requesting a strengthened air ambulance program to deal more effectively with emergencies in Labrador.

"I raised a very serious life-safety issue on behalf of the people of Labrador and I brought forward the names of over 3,000 people on a petition expressing concern about this matter; yet the Minister's response shows he is more interested in playing politics than in empowering a solution," she said.

There have been too many incidents where Labradorians have had excessive wait times for air ambulance, one up to 24 hours, Ms. Jones said.

"Clearly, there are deficiencies and people's lives are at risk. While the minister is aware of the concerns and made a commitment to undertake a review, his response today gave no indication that he was serious about carrying out this formal review with the intent of finding solutions."

Ms. Jones pointed out that there is tremendous pressure on the air ambulance service in the province and recommended that one solution would be to add a trauma team in St. Anthony to boost the air ambulance response time.

"The more appropriate solution is not only to enhance the ones we already