

## **Apollo ferry service should be extended: opposition**

*telegram@thetelegram.com*  
*THE TELEGRAM*

---

Weather and ice conditions in the Strait of Belle Isle so far this year are not an impediment to ferry service, Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones said Wednesday. Thus, Jones said, the Apollo service between Labrador and Newfoundland should be extended indefinitely until the bad weather prevents the service from operating.

According to the Department of Transportation's website, the MV Apollo — that runs between Blanc Sablon and St. Barbe — is scheduled to end its service for the season Monday pending ice conditions. Jones, however, said Transportation Minister Tom Hedderson should extend the ferry service indefinitely until ice and weather challenges do become a problem.

She said the Apollo service is an important connection for passengers and freight in the region.

With the recent opening of Phase 3 of the Trans-Labrador Highway, she said, more people will be looking to use the ferry service.

"An announcement that the ferry service will be extended will provide stability and alleviate concerns that the service would be discontinued with little notice," she said.

" Under current conditions, there is no reason why the Apollo cannot continue running for an extended period of time."