

Opposition calls for permanent travel subsidy for Williams Harbour, Black Tickle

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Opposition

Leader Yvonne Jones says the current air subsidy for the communities of Williams Harbour and Black Tickle in Labrador be extended year-round based on their isolation and transportation challenges.

In a news release, Jones said in December, the provincial government announced an air travel subsidy of 50 per cent for residents of the two communities due to their inability to travel by boat or snowmobile.

The high cost of air travel — several hundred dollars for a short trip to the nearest community of Cartwright — is too expensive for most residents, she said. Those people without access to a boat or snowmobile are often stranded for most of the year.

“ I certainly want to thank (Transportation Minister Tom Hedderson) for recognizing the current situation facing the residents of Williams Harbour and Black Tickle and providing a subsidy that will ensure they have access to more affordable air travel while ice conditions have isolated their communities,” Jones said.

“ While government has reacted to this immediate need, I certainly feel this program should be extended year-round to recognize the many geographic and transportation issues facing residents.”