
Job opening in Ottawa office

FitzGerald to get new position with executive council

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Liberal

Justice critic Kelvin Parsons says he hopes Premier Danny Williams never fills the job soon to be vacated by John FitzGerald in Ottawa.

Williams announced Wednesday that FitzGerald's contract as the province's representative in the Newfoundland and Labrador Office of Federal-Provincial Relations in Ottawa is about to expire.

But Williams also said FitzGerald will become a special adviser within the executive council of the provincial government, and be responsible for research and protocol.

"I want to personally thank Dr. FitzGerald for his outstanding work during the past four years as Newfoundland and Labrador's representative in Ottawa and I look forward to his continued contribution in his new role," Williams said in a news release.

Williams also said the Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat will take over the duties of the Ottawa office until the position is filled.

But Parsons told The Telegram he hopes that position stays vacant.

He said he's never seen a single report come out of the office and has questioned its value on the floor of the House of Assembly.

"I used to call it doctor feelgood's limousine service because basically all he did was provide transportation for visiting bureaucrats and ministers to meetings in Ottawa," Parsons said.

He said the Ottawa office has never proven to be effective.

When asked what he thought about FitzGerald getting a new job with the executive council, Parsons called that

another waste of money.

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael also weighed in on the announcement.

"I have had questions about do we really need an office in Ottawa for the setting up of meetings and that kind of thing," she said.

"I'm not convinced that it has been proven to us that you need somebody there to do the kinds of organizing that we've been told the person in that position does."

Michael said she is curious to see if the premier will replace FitzGerald in Ottawa.