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## Buy their houses, Liberals say

### Opposition wants more help for relocated air ambulance staff

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Jerome Kennedy



Marshall Dean

ferred to Happy Valley-Goose Bay from St. Anthony.

In the House of Assembly Wednesday, Dean acknowledged the air ambulance staff have been provided with temporary housing for three months.

"This is hardly a sufficient timeframe to undergo a major relocation such as they are involved in," he said.

But Health Minister Jerome Kennedy said staff members can also opt to fly between the two towns for their shifts instead of the three months rent-free.

The relocated people will also get per diems and a moving allowance as set out in Treasury Board policies.

But Dean suggested that wasn't good enough considering the people were forced to move.

"Giving the employees ... a couple months to sell their houses and uproot their families and move their belongings to another region of the province is somewhat unreasonable," he said. "Spouses are being forced to resign from their jobs, look for new employment in Goose Bay, and the logistics of such a major move is far more difficult than the short period of time that has been allowed."

Dean asked government to "provide temporary transitional funding" to the employees for up to a year.

He also asked if the province would buy the employees homes in St. Anthony from them at the appraised value.

But Kennedy said the province's moving policy for provincial employees has to apply equally across the board.

He also said if Dean or the mayor of St. Anthony wanted more help for the workers, they should have had a "sensible" conversation with him before the move instead of protesting.

Liberal MHA Marshall Dean is asking the province for more financial help for the air ambulance staff recently trans-