

Jones wants more action for personal care homes

Personal care homes in Newfoundland and Labrador continue to struggle, especially in rural areas of the province.

Opposition Liberal leader Yvonne Jones claimed government is doing little to ensure the long-term stability of these homes. She raised the issue in the House of Assembly.

Ms. Jones said an independent review commissioned by the Personal Care Home Owners Association of Newfoundland and Labrador shows the subsidy provided by government to personal care homes is not keeping pace with other legislative requirements implemented by government.

As a result, she indicated many homes are being faced with the painful decision of being forced to close their doors.

“This is creating financial uncertainty

for some of the smaller homes, especially in rural regions of our province.”

Ms. Jones recalled in last year’s budget government provided a cap on home care rates in the province, but did not provide the same treatment for those who wanted or needed to go into a personal care home.

“In addition, larger personal care homes with over 50 beds can access financing from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to complete upgrades, but smaller homes do not qualify for this funding.”

Ms. Jones quoted the Personal Care Home Owners Association of Newfoundland and Labrador which claimed it receives the lowest subsidy of any province in Atlantic Canada, have the highest staff to resident ratio, pay the highest wages, yet are compensated the least.