

# NEWS

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## Vying for flying option 🚂

Opposition leader wants IOC to consider fly in-fly out option for Labradorians

BY MICHELLE STEWART

The Aurora

Yvonne Jones was thrilled to hear of IOC's \$500 million expansion and is looking forward to having a chat with the management of the iron ore company.

The Liberal opposition leader is hoping to impress upon the company the upside of setting up a fly in-fly out situation for potential workers throughout the Labrador region.

"It is great to hear that this will create another 200 permanent positions at IOC," Jones said in a telephone interview with the Aurora last Wednesday. "I know there is a serious housing shortage there and I know people in my district who have gone to Labrador West but had to return because they couldn't find housing."

Jones says a fly in-fly out operation would work well for the people of not only her district of Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair but all over Labrador.

"If people keep leaving to find work out West for example, we will see our coastal communities dying," she explained. "If IOC can successfully recruit people in Labrador, then I believe this would certainly be a great option. It would fill the company's need for workers, and people who are qualified in parts of Labrador wouldn't have to leave their homes and communities."

Jones says she is not suggesting the company extend that option to the rest of the country or even the island portion of the province.

"The reason I want this because the coastal communities (in Labrador) are so vulnerable right now, with the downturn in the renewable sector industries like fisheries and forestry, they don't have any big mines being found in their communities, so they are being forced to go elsewhere to find work," she stressed. "If there are Labradorians who have the skills then we want IOC to recruit them and work out an arrangement where these people can fly back and forth. Whether it's a month on and a week off, it still allows them to maintain their family homestead."

Jones says she was pleased the idea was supported unanimously at the Combined Councils of Labrador's meeting a couple of weeks ago and says she will be pursuing a meeting with IOC on the matter.



File photo/Yvonne Jones is hoping IOC's expansion plans will mean more options for people in her district and throughout Labrador.