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Government applying double standard to seniors homes: Jones

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The provincial Liberals are accusing the Newfoundland and Labrador government of hypocrisy, saying it's going after personal care homes that don't install sprinkler systems while exempting a government-run home.

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones said Monday the situation at the government-run Harry L. Paddon Memorial Home in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a tragedy waiting to happen since it has more than 40 residents — many of whom are unable to walk on their own — and no sprinkler system.

In the meantime, a nearby personal care home — Pine Lodge Personal Care Home — was recently told to install a \$100,000 sprinkler system or close down.

"Government has a responsibility to ensure the safety and protection of residents while they're in government-owned facilities," said Jones, who represents the Labrador district of Cartwright-L'Anse Au Clair.

"They're failing to do that yet they're trying to invoke the regulations on other operators throughout the province and it's a very hypocritical attitude if you ask me."

Officials from Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority wouldn't comment on what Jones said.

Officials with the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs, which is responsible for sprinkler regulations, wouldn't comment, either. A department spokesperson said officials are gathering information about sprinklers in government-run health facilities.