

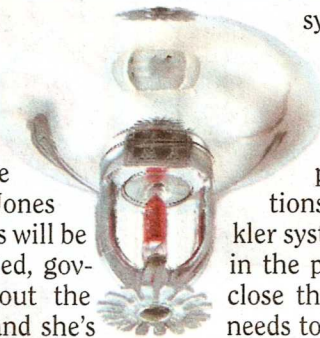
NEWS IN BRIEF

FROM AROUND OUR PROVINCE

SPRINKLER DILEMMA



The province's opposition leader, **YVONNE JONES** says government should lead by example. The Liberal leader says the provincial government is being hypocritical when dealing with the issue of installing sprinkler systems in personal care homes in the province. In a press release, Jones noted that while 22 private personal care homes will be shut down if sprinkler systems are not installed, government run health care facilities throughout the province are in violation of the same policy, and she's calling on the Minister of Health Ross Wiseman, and Finance Minister Tom Marshall to take action. "The Waterford Hospital in St. Johns, the Paddon Home in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Curtis Hospital in St. Anthony, Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook, along with numerous health care clinics on the coast of Labrador are examples of government run facilities that do not have sprinkler



systems as required by fire regulations," said Ms. Jones. "I find it very hypocritical that government in a heavy-handed manner ordered the closure of 22 privately run personal care homes, yet has done nothing to fix the same problem at their own facilities." Jones questions whether government will be installing sprinkler systems at all publicly funded health care facilities in the province, and if not, are there future plans to close those facilities as well? Jones says government needs to answer these questions.

"We cannot allow a double-standard where private care homes are required to comply with health and safety regulations, yet government run facilities do not," Jones added. "A fire can happen in any health care complex and people must be protected at all times. Minister Wiseman had no problem shutting down private facilities that don't comply with sprinkler legislation; but the question remains, when will he use competence and comply with the regulations that are his responsibility?"

"We cannot allow a double-standard where private care homes are required to comply with health and safety regulations, yet government run facilities do not." – Opposition Leader, Yvonne Jones

The Newfoundland Herald
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