

Minister's casual approach further damaging system: Jones

Opposition leader Yvonne Jones says the resignation of the province's three gynecologic oncologists further demonstrates the crisis situation that exists in the health care system.

She notes the latest resignations are in addition to the exodus of medical specialists, surgeons and doctors due to workload, working conditions and stress.

"Minister (Ross) Wiseman refuses to admit that there is a crisis in the province's health care system despite everything that is happening," states Ms. Jones. "I suggest the minister speak to patients and doctors to learn of the many problems that exist. They will certainly tell him that there is a very serious crisis taking place all over Newfoundland and Labrador that must be addressed immediately."

Ms. Jones notes that in addition to the resignations of key medical professionals, the crisis extends to other services in the health care system. Patients are experiencing delays in surgery; dialysis services in areas such as St. Anthony and Carbonear are being diminished; nursing and family doctor shortages are leaving many without an

appropriate level of health care service; home care remains underfunded; and the air ambulance service is not functioning to its full capacity.

"The minister's casual approach to the situation is an insult to the patients and those involved in the medical profession who continuously highlight the problems that exist. It is obvious government is not taking this matter seriously enough and further steps must be taken to address these issues."

The Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair MHA is encouraging the premier and minister of health



YVONNE JONES

to sit down with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, listen to their concerns and seek out solutions.

"Without a proactive approach, the obvious crisis that exists will only get worse."