

# NEWS

Last updated at 11:25 AM on 27/10/08

## Premier searching hard for alternate political enemy: Jones

Northern Pen

Yvonne Jones said the premier's political tirade at a PC Party convention had more to do with deflecting from other provincial issues and finding a new political target than providing any substance to an ongoing debate about caucus funding.

"It is very unfortunate that the premier decided to use me as his new personal political target to rally his supporters at the PC convention," she states.

"This isn't unexpected, however, this is the premier's pattern of attacking people personally when he is trying to deflect from other issues. I guess attacking Stephen Harper doesn't have the same level of enthusiasm in his party as it did a few short days ago."

Earlier this month, government members of the House of Assembly Management Commission (HOAMC) decided to reject additional caucus resources for the Official Opposition. The additional resources were recommended by an independent consultant who stated that the Opposition caucus was underfunded.

Government members rejected the extra money, even though they supported increases to the budgets of the government caucus and the third party caucus totalling more than \$300,000.

The final decision will be made next month when Speaker Roger Fitzgerald casts his vote on the issue.

"I won't lower myself to respond directly to the premier's personal attacks, I would rather discuss the merits of providing the Official Opposition with an appropriate level of staffing resources as stated by Justice Green and an independent consultant who recommended increased funding for our office," noted the Opposition Liberal leader.

"The fact remains, we are one of the lowest-funded Oppositions in the country and the premier seems quite happy to keep it that way," added the MHA for Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair. "I would suggest his unwillingness to provide the recommended funding is nothing more than an attempt to further silence criticism of his government."

27/10/08