

**Students need protection from information leaks: critic**

**St. John's** — The Opposition Liberals want the Department of Education to explain how it plans to protect personal information at educational institutions in the province.

There have been two reported information leaks recently — one in the health-care sector and another at the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission. A recent theft of a Memorial University professor's laptop, with students' personal information on it, has also raised concerns about information leaks, says Education critic Roland Butler.

Butler has asked the Education Department to explain what provisions are being put in place at schools and school boards to protect private information from potential leaks.

"The incident at Memorial University really emphasizes the vulnerability of educational institutions to the release of private information," Butler says.

MUN has hired a privacy consultant to help create a privacy strategy, but Butler says the province hasn't commented on whether other institutions are following similar procedures.

"A comprehensive approach is needed to deal with this issue and I would encourage the minister to act quickly to ensure strict standards are in place."