

Liberals call for MMSB review

The Liberal Opposition says a number of recycling programs are in a "crisis situation" that warrants sweeping government review.

"Several recycling programs in this province are in a crisis situation and other areas requiring attention are not being addressed because it appears the MMSB (Multi Materials Stewardship Board) is drifting and unsure of (its) mandate," Opposition environment critic Roland Butler said in a news release Wednesday.



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Roland Butler, Liberal environment critic

"The MMSB is obviously not doing its job in dealing with basic recycling programs and it is time for government to stop delaying and make this agency more effective on behalf of the people of the province."

The MMSB manages waste diversion projects in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Paper, cardboard recycling stopped

Butler's call for a review comes on the heels of an announcement that paper and cardboard recycling services will no longer be offered to residents of St. John's. There are also continuing problems with the tire recycling program that

have dragged on for years without resolution.

As The Telegram reported last month, the provincial government directed officials to put the brakes on a long-awaited tire-recycling decision last year because of "certain sensitivities" in timing.

The directive means tires will now continue to be stockpiled for an additional year, until

2009, at a minimum additional cost to taxpayers of \$500,000, according to provincial briefing notes obtained by The Telegram.

The on-again, off-again tire recycling project was first announced in

2002.

The government continues to work on a solution.

As of July 2007, there were an estimated 1.1 million tires stockpiled at Placentia and another 110,000 tires at Bull Arm.

Butler said that's not good enough.

"With the Department of Environment and Conservation and the MMSB in disarray and not able to provide the most basic of recycling services, it is obvious that there is a need for a total review in order to respond to the expectations held by the general public," he said.