

BRIEFS

Municipal affairs critic wants province to ensure safer water

St. John's — The municipal affairs critic for the provincial Opposition says the government must invest in better drinking water.

Roland Butler, Liberal MHA for Port De Grave, said in a release there needs to be money allocated from the provincial surplus in the next budget to better monitor water quality and to improve drinking water infrastructure.

He said it is estimated more than 200 communities in the province still require boil orders for their drinking water. He also pointed to issues such as contaminated chlorine and poor testing procedures as proof of the need.

"It appears we have a growing crisis in the provision of clean water to our



Roland Butler

residents and this requires immediate action by government," Butler said in the release. He used the example of Badger, where Butler said the mayor feels his town's water supply is near collapse, in need of \$700,000 to repair and upgrade the water system. He said that was indicative of the problems in communities across the province.