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## Jones taps into sprinkler system issue **LATEST NEWS**

The Telegram

Liberal Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says the province is talking out of both sides of its mouth when it comes to shutting down personal care homes that don't have sprinkler systems installed. Jones says there are several government owned and operated health-care facilities, including the Waterford Hospital in St. John's, the Paddon Home in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Curtis Hospital in St. Anthony and the Western Memorial Regional Hospital in Corner Brook, that don't have sprinkler systems in place. Government ordered 22 private personal-care homes shut down recently, after inspections showed that the owners hadn't carried out the retrofit recommended to them by the office of the fire commissioner. "I find it very hypocritical that government in a heavy-handed manner ordered the closure of 22 privately run personal-care homes, yet has done nothing to fix the same problem at their own facilities. This is absolutely ridiculous," Jones says. She says the province should be installing sprinklers in all public health buildings as well. "We cannot allow a double standard where private-care homes are required to comply with health and safety regulations, yet government-run facilities do not. A fire can happen in any health-care complex and people must be protected at all times."