



Environment Minister Charlene Johnson, shown in a file photo, was questioned Thursday in the House of Assembly on the pot of money held by the MMSB. — Telegram file photo

LEGISLATURE

Too secretive, Liberals say

*Opposition also asks about money
MMSB collected on new tires*

By DAVE BARTLETT
THE TELEGRAM

The Liberals had questions about the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) during question period Thursday in the House of Assembly.

Environment critic Roland Butler accused the MMSB of being too secretive.

"We have learned that environmental groups and the media have had difficulty obtaining information from the directors of MMSB," said Butler who asked the minister why the board was not releasing information on its programs.

"I spoke to MMSB this morning. I understand MMSB has offered a full briefing on the issues and the facts around the waste-management strategy and the trust fund," replied Environment Minister Charlene Johnson.

Butler said the board has collected

1.5 million tires since 2002 and has yet to put a plan in place to recycle them.

The province also collects a \$3 levy on every new tire sold here, he said.

"Where is the MMSB stockpiling the money collected from those tires?" asked Butler.

Butler then said, according to his figures, the province has \$11.6 million in a bank account and asked why that money was sitting in that account when there are problems with recycling programs for paper, tires and electronic waste.

Johnson said that money can be accessed by municipalities that want to introduce recycling programs before a provincial waste-management strategy comes into effect.

She also said that an announcement about a tire-recycling program for the province should be made in the near future.