

# Bad news for diabetes patients

By DAVE BARTLETT

THE TELEGRAM

The Opposition delivered bad news for people with diabetes in this province during question period Thursday.

"We understand that the lead physician for adult diabetes care in this province has tendered their resignation and is leaving this summer," said Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones.



Yvonne Jones

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Jones asked Health Minister Ross Wiseman what impact the resignation would have on patients.

Wiseman said he was disappointed to get the doctor's notice, but said she had made a decision about her future career and he wished her well. He then said other doctors who worked with her would help fill the void.

According to the Liberals, the province has the highest rate of diabetes in the country — a fact confirmed by the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Jones also said that one of two nurses who run clinics for insulin pump

therapy is retiring in June.

"Patients have already been given notification that no new adults will be able to receive insulin pumps in this province over the course of the summer months and it will be reviewed again in September," said Jones. "This is a tremendous gap in service for these patients."

She then asked Wiseman if there was a plan to deal with this?

Wiseman said he wasn't aware of the situation but would look into it.

Diabetes came up again when NDP Leader Lorraine Michael rose to speak.

Michael said children under 18 can get insulin pumps paid for by the province. But she said those 18 and over have to pay for them unless the family has a private health plan.



Lorraine Michael

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She asked Wiseman to keep paying for the pumps for people who turn 18 and already have them but can't afford them. Wiseman said programs are always under continuous review.