

Liberals call on government to provide help with steep food prices

St. John's—The official Opposition says the government should consider subsidies for healthy foods in order to help offset the burden on low-income families caused by rising food prices.

Roland Butler, Liberal MHA for Port de Grave, said a recent rise in milk prices, the second approved by the

provincial government this year, may be an indicator of more problems in the future for low-income families.

Butler believes the government should examine subsidies, as well as further tax reductions for low- and middle-income families, increases in food allowances for people on income support, and subsidies to encourage the development of local agricultural production.

"Rather than just looking at the economic case for price increases, government has to be more creative and responsive to the problems which are created when the cost of essential food items are increased," Butler said.