

## LOCAL NEWS

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### Liberals call for immediate action in Labrador housing shortage **LATEST NEWS**

The Telegram



Yvonne Jones

The Liberal Opposition is calling a Labrador housing shortage unacceptable and is calling on government to take immediate action.

Liberal Leader Yvonne Jones says the shortage in Happy Valley-Goose Bay has left 20 families homeless in the town. One of the families living in tents in the woods is expecting a baby soon, she says.

"Government has recently announced \$10 million for interior renovations and retrofit of existing social housing residences throughout the province. This funding fails, however, to address the acute shortage of safe and affordable non-profit housing in the province," says Jones.

Jones attended a recent meeting with the representatives of the Mokami Women's Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, where she was briefed on the findings of the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Community Plan for Addressing Homelessness and Transitional Housing report.

The report highlights how rural homelessness has become most dramatic in areas that have experienced rapid economic growth and an accompanying rise in housing costs, Jones says.

"Happy Valley-Goose Bay has experienced a continuous influx of workers looking to relocate closer to the Voisey's Bay mine and low-income earners can no longer afford the prices asked by landlords. People with multiple and complex needs are being left out in the cold," she says.

Landlords are in a position to become picky about who they rent to, the report says and those who aren't ideal tenants are forced to look for other housing options, including returning to an abusive relationship.

"The proposed development of the Lower Churchill will only accelerate the alarming trends we are seeing in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Government needs to act immediately on this issue and they can begin by implementing the recommendations of the housing report."

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