

N.L. Liberals feel short-changed by provincial Tories

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[CBC News](#)

Newfoundland and Labrador's Liberal opposition is accusing the government of choking off cash-flow after the province rejected a consultant's recommendation to increase the opposition budget.

In fact, the Liberals have released numbers showing that they are getting less money than the now-governing Progressive Conservatives did when they were in opposition in 2003.

Liberal house leader Kelvin Parsons says the Liberal members are being short-changed.

"Without a doubt, the official opposition back in 2003 had more money than we the official opposition have today," Parsons said.

Government house leader Joan Burke told CBC News the Liberal budget is tight because their opposition is so small.

"If we were in a situation where the caucus was fairly evenly split, based on the formula that we have now, the opposition would have significantly more money. But the numbers right now are very skewed," Burke said.

Liberals currently hold three of 48 seats in Newfoundland and Labrador's House of Assembly, while the New Democrat Party has one. The Progressive Conservatives fill the remaining 44 seats.

Liberals currently get \$445,000, while the independent consultant recommended they receive \$606,000.

Liberal party leader Yvonne Jones said in a news release that the Official Opposition office received more than \$100,000 more in funding for staff when the Progressive Conservatives were in opposition.

Parsons said the government's rejection of the consultant's recommendation means there will be layoffs in the opposition office, which will make it harder for his party to hold the government accountable.