

# LOCAL NEWS

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## Liberals call for 24-hour snow clearing on southwest coast

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Liberal Opposition officials are accusing the province of ignoring the southwest coast in the announcement of a 24-hour snow-clearing pilot project.

Tuesday Transportation and Works Minister Dianne Whalen announced the project that would see certain highways in the province cleared of snow on a 24-hour basis.

The project would see snow clearing between Deer Lake and Cold Brook, but not between Stephenville and Port aux Basques, says Burgeo-Lapointe MHA Kelvin Parsons.

"The decision to exclude such a heavy traffic section of highway from this pilot project is ludicrous and reminds me of another ill-prepared announcement by Minister Dianne Whalen a few years ago when she closed the weigh scales in Port aux Basques," Parsons says. "She is again treating the people of the southwest coast with disdain and as second-class citizens." That area sees high traffic from tractor trailers and commuters heading to and from airports at all hours of the night, Parsons says. "How the minister can justify the decision to exclude these people from having safe roads to drive on is certainly incomprehensible."

