

LOCAL NEWS

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Liberals say Petroleum Products Pricing Commission not looking out for consumers **LATEST NEWS**

The Telegram

The Liberal Opposition is calling for change to the way the Petroleum Products Pricing Commission (PPPC) decides when to freeze fuel prices on the south coast of Labrador.

Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says she's frustrated with the early date that the commission decided to put the freeze into effect.

Fuel is still being trucked into those communities, she says, and the final tankers for stockpiling aren't expected until next week.

She says the province's Public Utilities Board suggests that the price freeze shouldn't come into effect until the last shipments to the region are made.

"Every year in my district we experience the same problems in dealing with the PPPC," Jones said in a statement to media today. "Their decisions are usually made in a haphazard manner and appear to favour the fuel suppliers instead of consumers. There is no reason why the people on the south coast of Labrador should not be getting the recent fuel price reductions as suppliers are still trucking fuel by road to communities. The suppliers are purchasing their fuel at a lower cost, yet will be reselling it at a significantly higher price to consumers over the next several months."

Jones says there have been no consultations with consumers, despite the utilities board's policy that says stakeholders should be consulted about the freeze dates.

"This haphazard approach by the PPPC must change," Jones said. "If clear policies are not in place or are not being followed, I suggest government bring some much needed clarity to this system. With this current approach, consumers are not being protected as per the original mandate of the office."