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Incinerators Still on Hit List April 25, 2008

The Minister of Environment says it's her goal to have all teepee incinerators shut down by the end of the year. Charlene Johnson says despite some apparent miscommunication, none of the 25 remaining incinerators have been granted an exemption. Opposition House Leader Kelvin Parsons produced an e-mail in the House of Assembly yesterday, indicating an official from an MHA's office informed the town of Francois following a meeting with Municipal Affairs Minister Dave Denine they would be permitted to keep their incinerator, given "location specific realities". Denine says his department does not have the authority to make that decision. Johnson says they are putting a technical team in place to help the community's transition, and they're not expecting any exemptions.

However, the Mayor of Francois says his town cannot afford to transport their garbage out of the community. Austin Fudge says he got a fax from government earlier this month, telling them they would be permitted to keep the incinerator. He says the Francois Town Council determined that it would cost around \$16,000 to ship the garbage to Burgeo, which is their closest community. Fudge also commented that their incinerator was found to be in excellent working condition after inspection last year.

