



Marty Stuart
6 The Fabulous Superlatives



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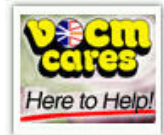
Opposition Reacts to Oncologists' Deal
September 23, 2008

Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones is happy to see a settlement with the gynecological oncologists but she says it shows that government doesn't respond unless people speak out. She says government has been lax in its management of the health care system. Government yesterday reached an agreement with the three cancer surgeons who were threatening to quit the system in December. They will receive compensation similar to other specialists who got a special deal earlier this year.

The [Canadian Cancer Society](#) is applauding the agreement. Executive Director Peter Dawe told VOCM Night Line with Linda Swain, he's pleased that yesterday's agreement extends to more than just those three doctors. Dawe says from a cancer perspective all of the province's cancer doctors are now being paid the same or above the national average for their work.

Meantime, the association which represents doctors has some concerns about how the provincial government is doing separate deals with groups of specialists. It began a few months ago with pathologists and radiologists, and extended yesterday to three gynecological oncologists who had been threatening to quit. [Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association](#) president Dr. Elizabeth Callahan says government has set the bar with its 35 per cent salary increase, and that all doctors will expect much the same. Callahan is concerned that some specialists may be inclined to leave instead of waiting until a new contract is signed. The current agreement doesn't expire for another year.

Government announced yesterday it would include not only the gynecological oncologists, but hematologists and pediatric oncologists in the package. Premier Danny Williams indicates it's a difficult balancing act. From a patient perspective, Williams says it would have been easier. However he says it is a significant balancing act with all doctors and other unions. Williams says they are trying to act as responsibly as they can for the people.



RECALLED MEATS



BJ Thomas

