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## Being 'Have' Province Not Cure-all: Opposition November 5, 2008

The Opposition Finance Critic says the fact we are now a 'have' province and will not be requiring equalization payments in the near future is an accomplishment, but not the cure-all for the many outstanding issues affecting everyday life. Kelvin Parsons says have-not areas still exist within the province and many regions will not benefit directly from the improved status. Parsons says people should watch closely to see how the Premier addresses the reality and the challenges that lie ahead.

NDP Leader Lorraine Michael says she's pleased with the situation, but she wants all residents to reap the rewards. Michael wants to know if government will follow through to make sure the new wealth spreads throughout the province. Michael says we lag behind other provinces when it comes to issues like child care, home care, education and health care, and government needs to invest in a better economic future for communities outside St. John's.

Former premier, Brian Peckford, says when he predicted Newfoundland and Labrador would one day be a "have" province, he didn't think it would come so soon. But it's happened a year earlier than expected. Peckford believes Hibernia has been one of the biggest contributors to the new prosperity.



Kelvin Parsons



St John's Newfoundland

