

Liberals support Deer Lake's desire for new fire truck

DEER LAKE The Official Opposition has taken a stand against a recent decision by Minister of Municipal Affairs Dianne Whelan not to fund a new fire truck for Deer Lake.

The town applied for funding under the provincial government's cost-share program after the town's second pumper truck was taken out of service in the spring. The town now has one fire truck.

In a release Friday, MHA for Port de Grave and Municipal Affairs critic Roland Butler said the province's response to Deer Lake's application is a safety risk.

"Government's decision not to provide this necessary fire equipment to the people of Deer Lake and surrounding area is dangerous and has the potential to leave emergency situations unaddressed," said Butler.

Butler said the province's decision leaves the volunteer firefighters in

Deer Lake without the equipment they require to respond to emergencies.

"Deer Lake is a regional centre that continues to experience new growth and development and the town requires the appropriate level of emergency services to protect the people of the region," Butler said. "Government's decision to reject an application for new fire equipment is difficult to understand. The volunteer fire fighters are already doing their best to protect life and safety, yet government appears unwilling to do their part in ensuring these volunteers have the appropriate tools to do the job."

The response from the Liberal critic follows a call from Deer Lake firefighters for the resignation of both the minister and Fire Commissioner Fred Hollett.