

**From:** Tansy Mundon [TansyMundon@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2007 5:38 PM  
**To:** Susan Bonnell; John Abbott; Ross Wiseman; Sharon Vokey;  
MHennessey@mobility.blackberry.net  
**Subject:** Fw: Fwd: MHA Foote calls for healthier investment in nursingstaff to open stalled dialysis service

**Attachments:** Fwd: MHA Foote calls for healthier investment in nursingstaff to open stalled dialysis service



Fwd: MHA Foote  
calls for heal...

Sent via Blackberry  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

**From:** Josephine Cheeseman [JosephineCheeseman@gov.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 17, 2007 5:18 PM  
**To:** Andrea Nolan; Carmel Turpin; Donna Ivey; Elizabeth Matthews; Tansy Mundon; Tara Furlong  
**Subject:** Fwd: MHA Foote calls for healthier investment in nursing staff to open stalled dialysis service

>>> Liberal Opposition 5/17/2007 5:16 PM >>>

MHA Foote calls for healthier investment in nursing staff to open stalled dialysis service

Judy Foote, MHA for the District of Grand Bank, says government must be held accountable for failing to provide the necessary investment to ensure there is sufficient nursing staff to operate the Burin Peninsula's new kidney dialysis machine.

The Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre (BPHC) notified area residents earlier this month that the opening of the dialysis clinic has been rescheduled until November 2007 because of staffing shortages and to a lesser extent delays in the arrival of mechanical equipment. According to Eastern Health, even the November date is tentative. In a media interview this week the president of the nurses union, Debbie Forward, stated that the reason for the recruitment challenge is that the provincial government is not paying nurses a competitive wage. According to Forward, nurses in this province are the second lowest paid in the country.

"Our government is failing to recognize the huge problem that exists here with the inability to attract new nurses to the Burin Peninsula and as a result our health care system, including the much anticipated dialysis service, is being compromised," says Foote. "Vacancies in nursing positions have been ongoing for some time in this region and unless government allocates more funding to keep nurses here or to attract them, this problem will only get worse with patients and staff bearing the brunt of government's failure to recognize the problem.

"The simple fact is that we need nurses. The longer we leave this wage competitive issue unaddressed, we will lose more and more of our well trained nurses to the mainland or to the United States." Foote points to the recent nurse recruitment drive from one of the highest paying provinces as one compelling reason for government to act quickly on this matter.

The Liberal MHA says that the dialysis machine was acquired after people on the Burin Peninsula worked very hard to raise money, exceeding its own commitment of \$102,000. "It is a crime to see these people put in so much time and effort to come up with their portion of the money required to now have a delay in the operation of this equipment at the regional health facility in Burin because of staffing issues.

"The issue certainly speaks to the poor planning and the lack of foresight by the Department of Health and this government and to its commitment to this region. It is time for government to place a priority on recruitment and training issues by committing to some bold initiatives and a healthier infusion of money to stabilize and strengthen our nursing workforce so people aren't left in this situation where equipment exists, but no one to operate it."

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