

NDP Caucus News

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Brown Questions Government on Pharmacare, Privatization, and Accountability

Today, NDP MHA Jordan Brown (Labrador West) questioned government on the continued encroachment of privatization in public healthcare, when the province will sign on to the federal pharmacare plan, and the need for stronger policy around sick notes.

NL Health Services (NLHS) has contracted out diagnostic imaging in the Labrador-Grenfell Zone. This follows another recent announcement that travel nurses will be brought in to staff long-term care beds in Western Zone. Brown says this government continues to allow privatization and asked the Premier, why his government keeps outsourcing public healthcare to for profit companies.

Brown also highlighted the Auditor General's report, which stated that government isn't doing enough to monitor recruitment and retention incentives. He asked the Premier, "will you act on the AG's recommendations and make accountability in recruitment and retention a priority?"

He followed by asking when this province will sign on to the federal pharmacare plan, noting that Manitoba became the first province to do so last week. Brown says this plan will help many in the province afford their medications. "Why does your government continue to delay signing on to the Pharmacare plan, denying people the medications they need?" he asked.

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