NDP Caucus News

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Dinn Calls on Special Advisor to Address Gaps in Seniors' Healthcare

Today in the House of Assembly, NL NDP Leader Jim Dinn (St. John's Centre) highlighted the disturbing report from the Seniors' Advocate regarding seniors' well-being in the province and called on the Premier to assign his special advisor for healthcare to specifically address seniors in care.

The report by the Seniors' Advocate outlines that Newfoundland and Labrador is at more than double the national average in use of restraints on seniors in long-term care. This statistic is not something this province should be proud of. Dinn says that these results also reflect the concerning findings of the Auditor General report on long-term care facilities in the province. Dinn says that if the Premier's special advisor's responsibility is strengthening healthcare, then he should focus right now on seniors' health and well-being.

"Yesterday, the Seniors' Advocate released a heartbreaking report confirming what we already know, our seniors are not receiving the care and dignity they deserve. We don't need to dig through the statistics to understand what's driving this. We have a rapidly aging population, something that was already highlighted in the Auditor General's report on personal care homes," said Dinn. "I ask the Premier, will he assign his special advisor for Health to specifically address the growing crisis in seniors' care?"

"The system is overwhelmed, workers are overwhelmed, and our seniors are paying the price, continuing to fall through the cracks. Fixing this must be a priority. I received testimony from concerned friends of a patient of a chemically sedated senior in a room with other chemically sedated seniors who are in acute care beds while waiting to get into long-term care," Dinn said. "I ask the Premier, is this something that the Premier's special advisor could address and report to the House of Assembly on?"

The public has still not been told what work the special advisor is taking on while being paid $275,000 annually from MCP funds.

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