NDP Caucus News

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Fall House of Assembly Session Left More Questions and Concerns than Answers and Trust

As the Fall session of the House of Assembly ends, NL NDP Leader Jim Dinn (St. John's Centre) says government focused more on playing politics and pushing political slogans than listening to the people of the province and the issues raised around the many crises our province is facing.

From staffing shortages in our schools, to the lack of a plan to build affordable, public housing, to the gaps people continue to face in our healthcare system, Dinn, alongside MHA Sheilagh O'Leary, raised real issues affecting people across our province and called for action. Unfortunately, getting government to listen, let alone take meaningful action, proved to be a disappointment.

"This session was consumed by political rhetoric, refusal of government to answer important questions about the crises in our province, and defensive back and forth instead of what it should have been focused on – making life easier for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians," said Dinn.

"The biggest disappointment for me was government voting against the NDP motion to form an All-Party Committee to study the cost of grocery prices. They say they have it under control, but I am not sure I trust that," said Dinn. "We have the highest food insecurity in Canada, especially in our most rural areas. People are feeling so much anxiety, wondering if they will have enough money to afford to feed themselves and their families. We continue to see skyrocketing food bank usage, yet government won't even reach across the floor and work with all members to solve this problem for their constituents. I can't wrap my head around it."

"I also found the lack of meaningful discussion on supportive and public housing disparaging. If I was hopeful before that government would do what's needed in housing and invest in real supportive, transitional, and public options, all that hope has been lost," said Dinn. "The closure of Horizons at 106 and no plan forward to replace it with real supportive housing and the shelter system bursting at the seems, I am concerned. Winter is coming, and people are still fighting for government to listen and act."

"Government spent a lot of this session not listening on a myriad of issues. We can see that very clearly by the reaction from local businesses around the vaping legislation that was presented with no discussion with the community beforehand. We see this with the Churchill Falls DCIA and the Conservatives refusing to actually answer people's questions. We even had government members say that questions the opposition were asking were a waste of time. This is not a sign of a government people can trust."

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New Democrats will continue to focus on getting answers and advocating for solutions from this government on affordability, housing, transparency, and healthcare.

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