
News Release

For immediate release

John Manley should mind his own business: Liberal MP Gerry Byrne

Corner Brook, NL (April 9, 2009) -- “A politician whose best days in that profession are behind him should just content himself to mind his own business rather than the business of others”, Liberal MP Gerry Byrne said today.

Byrne was reflecting on recent comments made by former Ontario Liberal MP John Manley who criticized the Progressive Conservative government of this province and its handling of federal-provincial relations and, in particular, that of the Atlantic Accord.

“This is a person who offered nothing in terms of solutions during this whole affair and now feels that his criticisms of the process are important enough to be published in a national newspaper”, Byrne said.

“If Mr. Manley feels so righteously aware of what constitutes proper federal-provincial relations, why did he accept a major appointment from the Harper government at a time when that administration was publically humiliating and berating the entire province of Ontario and its political leadership calling it an economic and political basket case. Federal Conservative finance minister Jim Flaherty said that Ontario was not a province worthy of investing in. Where was John Manley then? There is a hypocritical edge to Mr. Manley’s logic. I am very proud that it was a Liberal government in Ottawa that extended proper benefits to this province under the Atlantic Accord. We fixed a broken instrument. Perhaps Mr. Manley should be decrying the fact that a federal Conservative government of Canada stripped this province of a negotiated right it had legally and morally achieved through federal provincial negotiations. That is the real issue that any man of principle should be concerning himself with.”

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