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They've dogged Premier Brian Tobin's election campaign daily. But last night a couple of nurses came to the rescue at a Liberal rally in Wesleyville.

A local musician had just finished playing when he got sick on stage. There was a small group of nurses, with protest signs, at the back of the hall. Two of them went up and took the man off the stage. He wasn't seriously ill and was able to come back into the audience later.

Tobin acknowledged the work of the nurses, and the effectiveness of their campaign during the election. He says he'll work on some of the problems they've been telling him about, such as not enough staff or time off. But he's making no commitment to give them raises of anything more than the 7 per cent offered other government employees.

It seems a fair number of voters took advantage of yesterday's advance polls for the election. The province's chief electoral officer reports a moderate turnout in most districts, but a high turnout in some areas.

The advance polls were held Saturday across the province. ---- The provincial Tories say a new poll shows the party gaining momentum in the campaign's final days. They say the latest tracking has the undecided vote leaning to the PCs.

A Toronto firm, **SES Canada Research Inc.**, conducted province-wide phone interviews with 500 people on Thursday and Friday. According to the poll, 35.6 per cent of those questioned support the PCs -- narrowing the gap to within 7.8 percentage points with the Liberals.

Party leader Ed Byrne says the results confirm that the campaign has become a "real" race to win the government. He says the poll also found that seven out of ten voters think an election was unnecessary. Almost half - 47.2 per cent - believe Premier Brian Tobin was motivated by federal leadership aspirations.

Health care topped the list of voters' concerns, followed by education and jobs. ---- The provincial NDP leader is demanding a one-year moratorium on reducing teacher allocations. Jack Harris says the policy is behind the "chaos" school boards are now facing because of teacher allotment and declining enrolment.

The Avalon East School Board unveiled a controversial plan last week to close several schools. Harris says the delay would give all school boards time to plan such changes. He says parents and students under the Avalon East board need more input into the restructuring. Harris says the problem isn't confined to St. John's. He thinks a moratorium on teacher allocation reductions would allow for more time to consider proposals from a number of school boards. ---- A Green Party candidate says the province needs a more efficient energy policy.

Jason Crummey is running in St. John's South. He says the province's existing hydro facilities should be used to include "soft energy" sources like wind and solar power. Crummey says using more diverse sources would help to lessen the use of water and fossil fuels in providing electricity.

He suggests the establishment of a minimum quota of "soft energy" electricity by current energy providers. ---- Newtel's congestion problems with its phone lines could return on election night. Due to a high number of people who traditionally make calls that night, Newtel has had to make special

provisions to ensure the results get out.

Special lines will be available for the media so they can get the results out to the voters. Newtel workers will monitor the system in the event of problems. Officials say to still expect some delays and are asking people to keep their calls short and spread out.

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