

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Dr. K. Kay.

YOUR FILE:

DATED:

OUR FILE: C455-10-13

FROM: J. P. Windish.

DATE: April 12th, 1956.

SUBJECT:

Results of January Samples in Yellowknife

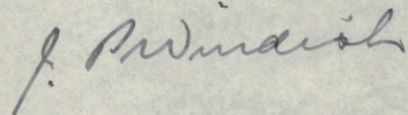
The comparison of results of samples which I collected last January in Yellowknife with results from similar samples collected in previous winters brings out the following points:

- (1) Arsenic in tap water is at its lowest concentration since December 1952. *No higher than last year and extremely low.*
- (2) Arsenic in general water bodies has risen sharply and the general average is now at the highest point recorded since 1952.
- (3) Arsenic found on grass is lower than it has ever been at this time of year in spite of the fact that samples were collected 6 weeks later than usual.
- (4) A study of the fall pan data sent to us by Giant shows that at November 1st the average settled arsenic collected at 15 sampling stations was considerably lower than the amount collected in February and March of 1955. Fall pan data for periods after November 1st have not been received.
- (5) Fall pan data sent to us from Con indicates that the average settled arsenic collected at 6 sampling stations has risen considerably and is higher than it has been since October 1950.

*Con had 1
one
another*

The data show ^{GIANT}no definite trend, the levels of arsenic on grass and in the ^{are}fall pan samples being lower, while the levels of arsenic in general water bodies ^{and}as found by Con's fall pan samples being higher than at this time last year. I have sent a telegram to Mr. Homulos asking for results of Giant's fall pan samples taken after November 1st and hope that these will be here today or tomorrow. If these data show that air borne arsenic has increased over that found at November 1st, I think we should advise

the Medical Officer of Health in Yellowknife to issue a strong warning to the Community. The same will apply if the data is not received. If the data indicates that arsenic levels have fallen since November 1st or at least have not risen then I think no action on our part will be necessary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. P. Windish". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. P. Windish.

JPW/ds