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THE CALGARY HERALD

Arsenic levels 'safe'

OTTAWA (CP) — There is no evidence that the public of Yellowknife, N.W.T., is being exposed to excessive or dangerous levels of arsenic from the city's two gold mines, the federal department of health said Friday.

It also said that while some Yellowknife miners were found to have slightly elevated levels of body arsenic, these levels "were nevertheless well below a toxic level."

"A widely held scientific opinion is that urine levels ranging from 0.7 to 1.0 milligrams do not represent an undue hazard. For workers in an arsenic environment," said the department.

"The Yellowknife miners were all well below these levels."

The department began testing Yellowknife residents after a CBC radio program broadcast allegations that the health of city residents was being threatened by excessive exposure to arsenic.

An independent study by the National Indian Brotherhood also indicated excessive exposure to arsenic.

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