



Deputy Minister of Health  
Health and Welfare Canada

Sous-ministre de la Santé  
Santé et Bien-être social Canada

May 29, 1975

PA-29/5/75

850-5-X751

Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

~~850-5-X750(M20)~~

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

Arsenic in Yellowknife;  
results of press release of May 27, 1975.

The following information may be useful to you if there are follow-up questions about the announcement of the results of the arsenic survey:

- (1) The managers of both Giant and Con Mines have told our Northwest Territories Regional officers that they will give us full cooperation in inspecting the mills and mines to track down sources of arsenic pollution, and will do what is necessary to correct the problems.  
  
A Medical Services team will be sent from Ottawa to carry out these inspections within about two weeks. IAND mine inspection officials in Yellowknife and the Department of the Environment in Yellowknife (who are measuring stack emissions and dust-fall on plants and soil) will also cooperate in this work.
- (2) All persons tested received letters informing them of their individual results on May 27, the same day as the press release.
- (3) Beginning May 28, a public health nurse is visiting all persons who were told their hair had more than 10 p.p.m. of arsenic, to explain the significance of the finding and the follow-up health examinations we wish them to have.

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- (4) It has been announced that the health examinations (including 24 hour urine samples and occupational histories), for all persons with readings over 10 p.p.m., will start June 9. They will be done at Yellowknife Hospital, and local physicians are invited to participate. It was also announced that if any findings indicating health problems turned up in these examinations, we intended to follow all leads by extending the examinations to other persons with similar backgrounds of occupation, place of residence, etc.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR  
Jean Lupien

Jean Lupien.