

850-5-X751

ACTION	PA AC	DATE
BLACK L		21/4/76
INFORMATION		



Government
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ACTION
REQUEST

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SERVICE

TO - À

Dr. L. M. Black
Director General
Program Management, M.S.

FILE NO. - DOSSIER N°

DATE

Apr 13 1976

FROM - DE

Regional Director, NWT Region

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CGSB STANDARD FORM 12d

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FORMULE NORMALISÉE 12d DE L'ONCG

everything ever written about
arsenic in Yellowknife, which has
been assembled by the Standing
Committee on Arsenic Pollution.

The committee was formed
early last year after territorial
councillors asked about arsenic
pollution, based on programs put
together by CBC's radio's As It
Happens show.

The committee carried out a
total survey of people, water and
air to determine if arsenic
pollution was a problem. Final
results of tests on fish, such
animals as rabbits and par-

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Elsewhere 30 cents.

to inform people of the survey's
results and to answer questions.
The 10 member committee will
then be disbanded.

But before Mr. Grainge begins
his work, says Mr. Billing, the
committee would like to hear

(from Page 1)

from anyone who knows of in-
cidents which might involve
arsenic pollution—for example,
animals dying mysteriously—or
who has questions about the
subject.

Mr. Billing says the report
probably will show that people
shouldn't drink melt water or
water from Back Bay. But he
pointed out that while
Yellowknife did at one time
have a serious arsenic pollution

problem, the mines which caused
the problem now are within
reasonable limits.

The tap water in Yellowknife
comes from the Yellowknife
River by a lake-bed piping
system and is not affected by any
pollution which might exist in
Back Bay, he said.

The material included in the
three huge red binders put
together by the committee goes
back to 1946, when the first
survey of arsenic was made.
When that survey showed an
arsenic pollution problem, the
mines were forced to install
filtering equipment.

The committee ordered
everything that could be
dangerous to humans to be
measured and tested and is
satisfied the survey has been
comprehensive, Mr. Billing said.

The committee included
representatives from En-
vironment Canada; the
department of Indian and nor-
thern affairs, Northern Medical
Services, the Chamber of Mines,
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proceedings on the charges so as not to interfere with extradition proceedings.

The Italian charges against Dr. Stefano include misrepresenting his qualifications, forging identification and a medical school diploma, abuse of the profession of medical surgeon, misappropriation of public funds and having fraudulently obtained the position of Assistant Surgeon at a hospital in Ceprano-Frosinone, Italy.

di Stefano appeared in court in Inuvik March 1 to face two Canadian charges of making false statements on an Immigration application.

The crown entered a stay of

migan, vegetable and soils and snow and ice cover, are almost all complete, says Dan Billing, committee chairman and chief environmental protection officer for the territorial government.

After the report is compiled, Mr. Billing said Monday (March 1), a public meeting will be held

to inform people of the survey's results and to answer questions. The 10 member committee will then be disbanded.

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The committee included representatives from Environment Canada; the department of Indian and northern affairs, Northern Medical Services, the Chamber of Mines, city of Yellowknife and territorial government.

A complete report on arsenic pollution in Yellowknife probably will be available by the end of March after data collected during the past year is put together and interpreted by an Edmonton environmental health engineer.

Jack Grainge, who specializes in heavy metal contamination studies and has been involved in the study of Yellowknife's arsenic problem since it was first recognized, will be coming to Yellowknife within the next few weeks to begin working on the report.

It is expected to take Mr. Grainge two or three weeks to put together his report on the data, a comprehensive collection of everything ever written about arsenic in Yellowknife, which has been assembled by the Standing Committee on Arsenic Pollution.

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Another report on arsenic to be released this month

By Rosemary Cairns

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