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TO  
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M20

Original sent to  
D.M.'s Office

FROM  
DE

M14

SUBJECT  
OBJET

REPORT ON ARSENIC PROGRAM - YELLOWKNIFE

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE

(M14)

YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE

DATE

14 April 1975

Present situation on the arsenic program is as follows:

1. Educational campaign

Signs have been posted in both English and Dogrib along the water system warning against the dangers of drinking water. Notices have also been inserted in the paper regarding this health hazard with particular reference to the recent survey.

2. Survey of Arsenic Levels

This has been carried out and results of the survey are awaited. When results are available, they will be made known to individuals by letter and there will be follow-up visits to the individual's home by a nurse to explain the results. A total of 700 persons were tested. Of these 167 were miners, 55 were Indians, and 478 were other persons in the Yellowknife area. The low turnout of Indian people is disappointing but there was advertising in the local papers in the Dogrib language as well as visits to each home by an Indian girl who gave explanations both in English and Dogrib about the program.

3. Augmentation of Local Staff

- (a) A public health nurse was hired for the duration of the survey program. There is no need for her services in the meantime but, if necessary, additional services will be hired for the follow-up portion of the program once the survey results are available.
- (b) Environmental Health Officer - The Zone is generally short staffed with Environmental Health Officers and has not been successful in recruiting an additional one at this time.

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- (c) Public Health Engineer - Recruitment action is now underway.
- (d) Clerical Services - Additional services only required during the survey and not required at this time.
- (e) Consultant advice available from the Assistant Regional Director, Northwest Territories Region, and Dr. Patterson at Branch Headquarters.

4. Follow-up of Persons Previously Tested in 1967 and Found to Have Abnormal Arsenic Levels

Action is presently underway to ascertain the names of these persons. At this point in time no specific actions have been undertaken until names are available.

signed by  
L. M. BLACK  
as signed original

L. Black