



MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO: File

FROM: M 14  
DE

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N. RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE - V. RÉFÉRENCE
DATE May 12, 1975

SUBJECT  
OBJET

Press Release on  
Arsenic in Yellowknife

At the time of the press release, a number of questions are expected. Possible questions along with answers and areas requiring further information are detailed below.

1. Whereabouts in the mill is there a high arsenic level?  
Specify exact location.
2. What specific examinations will be done on people with high levels of arsenic in the hair? What will be looked for? Answer to include the arsenic level in the body; signs of illness which may be related to arsenic; E.G., lung and skin cancer. General health of the individual.
3. How will these examinations be carried out? Team will be headed by Dr. Schaefer of the Northern Medical Research Unit assisted by other physicians. It is hoped that local physicians will participate.
4. Who will pay for these examinations? Answer: Health and Welfare Canada.
5. Will the results be made known to the individuals? Yes, as soon as available.
6. Will there be a press release on the results? Yes, there will be a press release of phase two findings.
7. What about other Yellowknife residents with levels higher than 5 ppm and who have not worked in the mill? They will be checked physically and also asked about previous exposure to arsenic such as use of shampoos, etc.

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8. Which shampoos can result in this problem? Query.
9. Any relationship between arsenic levels in drinking water? How was this done? Previous testing of water by D.O.E. and statistical analysis of the present survey results. More details needed on this.
10. Mercury levels in hair - what were the actual levels? Figures available.
11. Why were so few Indian people tested? Detailed methods used to gain their participation.
12. Specify the details of studies re high hair levels and low body levels of arsenic. Answer: ?
13. What is the normal level of arsenic in urine?
14. What damage is caused by arsenic in the body? Arsenic to be divided as follows: (a) acute damage (b) chronic known damage (c) chronic speculated damage eg. cancer.
15. What was the highest level of arsenic found in hair?
16. What will be done about the problem in the mill? Who is responsible for taking corrective action?

Original signed by  
L. M. BLACK  
a signé l'original

L.M. Black