



CANADA

NORTHERN ADMINISTRATION
AND LANDS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT
OF
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ottawa, 19 June, 1951.

O. L. Stanton, Esq., M.D.,
Medical Health Officer,
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Dr. Stanton:

I am sending you herewith a copy of a report on a meeting held in my office on June 1, 1951, at which further consideration was given to the arsenic problem at Yellowknife in the light of the death of the Indian boy, Frank Abel, from arsenic poisoning.

Your attention is drawn particularly to the views expressed by the representatives of the Department of National Health and Welfare as to the necessity of stepping up the continuing survey which has been instituted by:

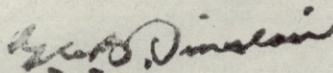
- (1) The carrying out of more clinical examinations to ascertain the effect of the ingestion of small quantities of arsenic by Yellowknife residents;
- (2) A regular check of any persons settling near Kam Lake or any other badly contaminated area;
- (3) The taking of a greater number of water, vegetation, and soil samples to determine the areas in which the arsenic concentrations are heavy;
- (4) The posting of appropriate warning signs in areas where the concentration is found by analysis to be above the tolerance, that is above 0.05 mgs., arsenic per litre; and at any other points where it is known that contamination exists; and
- (5) The operator of the water supply system taking periodical water samples at various points off

shore from the water intake of the Yellowknife water supply.

Officers of the Department of National Health and Welfare are of the opinion that in addition to the signs referred to in item (4), warning signs should be posted at prominent places in the settlement. They also consider that the dangerous situation existing should be drawn to the attention of the public at intervals through the local press. In view of the unfortunate fatality, it is essential that the Indian Agent impress upon the Indians on Latham Island by word of mouth the necessity of their observing proper precautions.

I am sure that as Medical Health Officer these measures will meet with your approval and that you will see that they are carried out. In the matter of posting of signs, you may rely on the co-operation of the local representatives of this Department. Copies of this letter and minutes of the meeting held on June the 1st are being forwarded to all concerned.

Yours sincerely,



G.E.B. Sinclair,
Director.