

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

National Archives of Canada RG29 2342 455-10-13 Vol 1

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. G.D.W. Cameron,  
Deputy Minister of National Health.

File No. C 455-10-13

From: Chief, Industrial Health Division

Date: Jan. 24th, 1950.

Subject:

Arsenic in the Yellowknife Area.

*See letters from GDWC to RAG, Dec 14/49.  
RAG to O.L. Stanton 23 Jan 50.  
" " RAG to J. Smith 23 Jan 50*

*from RAG to McInnis 23 Jan 50.  
RAG to A.H. Gibson  
RAG to Hqr. P. & S. Co. " "  
attached to letter dated 24 Jan.*

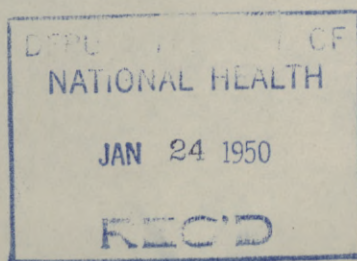
Attached are copies of the correspondence which you requested for the Minister. *from RAG to A.H. Gibson*

*& Transmitted by K.S. Christie*

Since Dr. Keenleyside's letter to you, dated January 13th, the Northwest Territories Council has indicated that they are assuming the responsibility for disregarding the recommendation of the Deputy Minister of Health that the ore-roasting operation be closed down. This step was taken because of the economic implications involved, as the Giant Yellowknife Mine indicated that they would have to close down and, according to Mr. Gibson, this would mean economic disaster for Yellowknife. The Departmental statement of policy in connection with this decision was as follows:-

"There is sufficient evidence to indicate that there is a serious hazard in the Yellowknife area caused by pollution by arsenic. Both clinical and environmental analyses have established this fact. The definite recommendation of the Deputy of National Health recommending that the roasting process be stopped forthwith would have to stand. However, if, despite this recommendation, Council are prepared to take the calculated risk, then we would be prepared, on request, to assist in reducing this risk to a minimum. It seems that we might help in developing a set of regulations and providing a continuing survey for the area in order to provide protection for the community."

In addition you may wish to acquaint the Minister with the Espanola decision.



KCC/GS

Enc.

*K.C. Charron*  
K.C. Charron, M.D.,  
Chief, Industrial Health Division.