



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CANADA



OTTAWA

13 January, 1950.

Dr. G.D.W. Cameron,
Deputy Minister of National Health,
Department of National Health and Welfare,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Cameron,

Thanks for your letter of the 10th instant. The question of arsenic pollution at Yellowknife was considered at the last meeting of the Northwest Territories Council. Letters were written to those in charge of mining operations at the Giant Mines and at the Con Minethere, also to Dr. O.L. Stanton, Medical Officer of Health at Yellowknife, who has been watching this situation very carefully.

The information which you have supplied in your letter of the 14th ultimo and also the advice which you have given in the letter which I am now acknowledging has been noted and appropriate warnings will be issued. However, we have not thought it advisable to order the mining companies to stop roasting operations forthwith for two reasons:

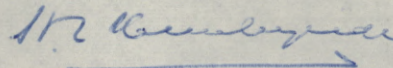
- (1) The Con Mine has been making a determined effort to solve the problem and seems to have reached the point where 98% of the arsenic is being removed from the fumes. We have a letter from Mr. Jewitt, Manager of Mines for the Consolidated Company, saying that a statement of the measures to meet this situation which are being taken by his Company is being prepared and will be sent here shortly.
- (2) The General Manager of the Giant Mines is coming to Ottawa on Wednesday, the 18th instant, to discuss his problem with those scientists who have been advising on this matter. It is evident from what he has told us that the Giant Company is prepared to take immediately whatever steps may be considered necessary to eliminate the hazard as far as possible.

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The result of this conference will be discussed at the meeting of the Northwest Territories Council to be held on Thursday, the 19th instant, and you will be further advised.

The co-operation which you and your officers have extended in this difficult problem is appreciated very much indeed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. L. Keenleyside", with a horizontal line underneath it.

H. L. KEENLEYSIDE,
Commissioner.