

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Dr. K.C. Charron,  
Chief, Industrial Health Division,  
Room 714, Jackson Building.

OUR FILE NO. 455-10-13  
(CONFIDENTIAL)  
REF. YOUR FILE NO.  
DATED

FROM: Chief, Industrial Health Laboratory

DATE: May 25th, 1951.

SUBJECT:

THE YELLOWKNIFE SITUATION

*Put on file's  
return to me  
K.C.C.*

The first report on the death at Yellowknife was received from Mr. Christie, Thursday, May 17th at which time he indicated that a report would be coming to the Department from Mr. Wright of the Northern Administration Division in Resources and Development Department. On Wednesday last Mr. Christie indicated that there was some division of responsibility which relates the matter to Lands Division and it had been finally decided that the Department would be notified officially by the Director of Northern Administration and Lands Branch, Mr. G.E.B. Sinclair. It is understood that a letter will be addressed to you to-day.

Mr. Christie read me a wire and letter from Mr. Homulus, the resident mining inspector for the area, which in short indicated that there had been a few cases of arsenic poisoning treated by Dr. Bickford and that the two year old Indian child had not responded to treatment. It appears that this child consumed water drawn from a hole in the ice in Yellowknife Bay near the shore of Latham Island. No doubt the whole story will be supplied by Mr. Sinclair.

As stated in my memorandum of October 5th last, it obviously continues to be a matter of great public health importance that the Cottrell for Giant Yellowknife be speeded into operation.

*K.C.C.*  
Kingsley Kay.