

Jackson Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
December 27, 1954.

The Chairman,  
Defence Research Board,  
Department of National Defence,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Attention: Mr. G. K. Davies

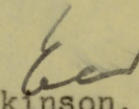
Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th of December, in which you request information concerning tests of arsenic concentrations in the snow in the Yellowknife area.

During the past three or four years, we have made determinations of snow levels of arsenic at Yellowknife and, on the basis of our knowledge of these levels, we should recommend against the drinking of water made from ice and snow in the area. The outer limit of contamination is not known and, in the absence of such information, a twenty-five mile radius would be a desirable limit to recommend.

I trust this brief reply will assist you in replying to your operational research group at Edmonton, but if we can be of further help, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

  
E. A. Watkinson, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Chief,  
Occupational Health Division.

EAW/OH