



*P.A. registry recorded*

OFFICE OF  
THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

CABINET DU MINISTRE DE LA  
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL

Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0K9

File: 850-5-X751 (M 69)

Mr. Larry R. Bird,  
Mount Hope, Ontario,  
LOR 1W0.

Dear Mr. Bird:

The Minister has asked me to write to you concerning arsenic pollution at Yellowknife. A copy of your letter of January 8, 1975 to the Prime Minister, was referred to him for consideration of your comments of this problem.

First of all, the 1969 report on arsenic poisoning in Yellowknife, contrary to what the news media reported, received some distribution in 1971. Copies, for example, were sent to the Yellowknife City Council and to the Territorial Government authorities.

Results of that study did not reveal significant health problems related to arsenic pollution and it was believed at that time that pollution control measures and other activities that had been or were being taken by the mines and community were adequate to prevent injury to health from arsenic. Obviously, however, any significant level of arsenic in the environment presents a potential health hazard, and it should therefore be closely controlled and measured. For this reason, additional steps are being taken to monitor and protect the health of residents of Yellowknife. These are outlined in the attached statement of the Minister.

Yours truly,

Ann C. Jamieson,  
Executive Assistant.

Attch.

M 142

Typed 17.02.75

cc: Prime Minister's office