



MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

150-5-3-n

N1

TO  
À

Regional Director,  
Northwest Territories Region.

ATTENTION: Dr. F. J. Covill

FROM  
DE

Zone Director,  
Mackenzie Zone.

SUBJECT  
OBJET

Water Delivery Policy, Yellowknife Area

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE 150-5-3 (MK1)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE February 10, 1975.

I enclose herewith a photocopy of a letter from Mr. R. A. Creery, Director, Department of Local Government, which is self-explanatory. He seems to be interested to know if any engagement was made by our Minister, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, concerning free water delivery to the native people in Latham Island, Yellowknife.

Any information on the matter you may wish to provide to Mr. Creery will be appreciated.

*A. O. Uygur*  
A. O. Uygur, M.D.,  
Zone Director.

AOU:ea  
Encl.





GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
CANADA

PLEASE QUOTE

FILE 22 124 310

Yellowknife, N.W.T.  
7 February 1975

Dr. A. O. Uygur,  
Zone Director,  
Mackenzie Zone,  
Department of National  
Health and Welfare,  
Box 520,  
YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

Dear Dr. Uygur:

Water Delivery Policy, Yellowknife Area

I am writing to ask if you could let us know of any engagements made by your Minister, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, concerning free water delivery in the Yellowknife area.

I include copies of a letter recently received from Mr. James Wah-shee and a transcript of notes taken at a meeting between the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the President of the Indian Brotherhood and the Chief and Councillors of the Yellowknife Indian Band. These contain several references to statements made by Mr. Lalonde.

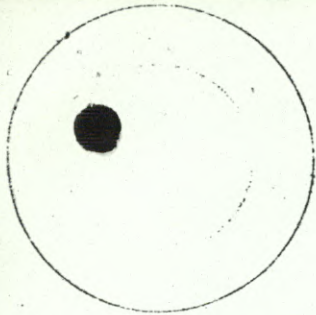
I am drawing up a policy to govern water delivery in the Yellowknife area and, of course, must be careful to respect any engagement made by the Minister.

Yours truly,

R. A. Creery,  
Director,  
Department of  
Local Government.

Encls.





Indian Affairs and Northern Development

P.O. Box 2336,  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 6, 1975

Commissioner S.M. Hodgson  
Commissioner of the N.W.T.  
Government of the N.W.T.  
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Hodgson:

I understand that there is some confusion as to the commitment made by Mr. Judd Buchanan, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs at his meeting with us on January 10, 1975 with respect to water delivery to the Yellowknife Band.

At that meeting, the Minister stated categorically that there would be free water delivery to the Yellowknife Band. A number of members of the Yellowknife Band, including the Chief and Band Councillors were with me when the Minister made that statement.

He said also that Mr. Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare had said this publicly. It is also my understanding that the Minister said essentially the same thing at his press conference in Yellowknife later that day.

As far as we are concerned then, there should be no confusion on this matter.

Sincerely

*James J. Mah-shoo*  
James J. Mah-shoo  
President.

cc: Mr. Ray Greery,  
Director, Local Government.



J Wah-shee:

Regarding the Arsenic situation, Mr. Minister, we are and I am sure you are aware of the statements made to the press by Minister Lalonde re distribution of water to our people in Yellowknife. The situation is directly affected by your controls. Before the mines people used water and set nets. Now they cannot do either and they have done nothing to pollute the water. We would also like tests done to know the extent of poisoning to our fish and to our health. The Chief here is demanding free quality water because of the two mines polluting etc, and they think Government should pay. They also want to tell you that they want the fish within Yellowknife Bay tested as soon as possible.

The people have no sewage and no running water in the Band because of arsenic people cannot use the water near them any longer. The Yellowknife Band wants free water delivery service and D. I.N.A., they want them to pay for the people.

(Discussion on Lalonde's statement that anyone drinking out of the lake would receive water delivery made on radio and on television program Some Honourable Members , C.B.C.)

J. Buchanan:

Yes uh-huh I understand and I will pursue this. I also want to know what statements were made by Mr. Lalonde.

J Wah-shee:

The Band also wants to know to what extent these findings will be made public

J. Buchanan:

Fair enough

J. Wah-shee:

And about the role of Dept. of Environment Canada...

J. Buchanan:

They will do these surveys

J. Wah-shee:

We will want native participation on these surveys

J. Buchanan:

I will see Mr. Lalonde about this.

J. Wah-shee:

We want protection, we do not want a spill. Last year we had a spill. The present Water Board is not acceptable to the Indian Brotherhood. A member of the Water Board is also from the mining industry. Others are civil servants and so in both cases there is a conflict of interest. The Water Board needs native people sitting on it.

(after a short exchange between J. Buchanan and his advisor as to jurisdictional responsibility for the Water Board)

J. Buchanan:

The Water Board functions in an Advisory capacity only. I will look into it, but I know they have no authority other than in an advisory capacity. They can simply recommend.

J. Wah-shee:

There are no natives on the Water Board and the majority of the Board should be native.