

RECORDING & TRANSMITTAL FORM

MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT: Arsenic Pollution in Yellowknife - Carolyn and Brian Holstein					FILE NO: 850-5-X751		
FROM: Dr. Frank A. Philbrook, M.P. House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0X2					DATE: Feb. 10 '75		
TO: Minister					INITIATED IN BRANCH		
RECEIVED IN ADM'S OFFICE: Feb. 21 '75 (Date)					PASSED: Feb. 21 '75 (Date)		
ACTION: Please prepare a reply for Minister's signature by March 6 '75							
TO	DATE	REPLY			B.F.	DATE SENT TO MINISTER	SIGNED
		INTERIM	FINAL	DATE			
M69	Feb 21						
M67	Feb 28		Final Draft			March 4	

REMARKS:



FEBRUARY 18 1975

Dr. Frank A. Philbrook, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0X2

Dear Dr. Philbrook:

On behalf of the Minister, the Honourable Marc Lalonde, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 10, 1975 with which you attached a copy of correspondence received from Carolyn and Brian Holstein of R.R. #1, Erin, Ontario concerning arsenic poisoning in the Yellowknife.

I have asked officials of this Department for information on this matter, and as soon as this is received, Mr. Lalonde will be in touch with you.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By  
ANN. C. JAMIESON

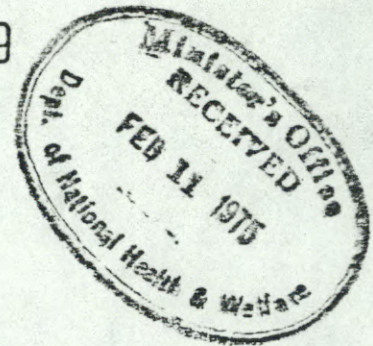
Ann C. Jamieson  
Executive Assistant





HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

000579



OTTAWA KIA 0X2,  
February 10, 1975.

The Honourable Marc Lalonde,  
Minister of National Health & Welfare,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.

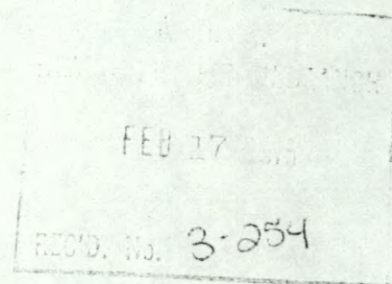
Dear Mr. Minister,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I have received from one of my constituents concerning your January 9th statement on arsenic pollution in Yellowknife.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Frank A. Philbrook,  
Member of Parliament,  
Halton.





R.R. #1

Erin, Ont.

Jan 8/75

Dr. Frank Philbrook, MP (Halton.)

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ontario,

Dear Sir,

- We were very disturbed to hear, this evening, on a CBC radio programme that the federal government has waited until now to release information on a report completed in 1969, concerning arsenic poisoning in the Yellowknife area. Why would the Ministry of Health withhold this information? Are these people being used as an experiment to study the progressions of diseases related to arsenic?

Arsenic attacks the heart muscle and influences greatly the incidence of leukemia.

This pioneer settlement which normally would hold healthier than average people has instead a population that is sick. Sick from the poisoning of the water (and soil - as learned from another study) by arsenic.

Environment Canada is prepared to take action on behalf of the fish - but the human population surrounding Yellowknife Bay has been ignored. Only in recent months were signs erected, saying that the water could be hazardous to health.



Why have these mining companies been allowed to continue  
unhindered, to pollute this area?

I hope to hear from you with your views  
and see some fast action on the part of Mr. Marc Lalonde.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Holstein  
+  
Brian Holstein