



## MEMORANDUM

## NOTE DE SERVICE

850-5-X751

TO  
A M67c.c. Regional Director,  
N.W.T. Region.

M18 (for information)

FROM  
DE M14SUBJECT  
OBJETArsenic Program -  
Yellowknife

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SECURITE

OUR FILE - N/REFERENCE

(M14)

YOUR FILE - V/REFERENCE

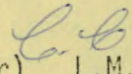
DATE

March 25, 1975

At the present time, a number of hair samples taken in the recent survey in Yellowknife are being analysed for arsenic levels and a smaller percentage being analysed also for mercury. I think it important at this time that we review future action based on the results obtained from these tests. In formulating such action, a number of questions require answers as follows:

1. What are the normal levels of arsenic which can be considered safe?
2. At what level of arsenic do we initiate further follow-up action?
3. What type of follow-up action are we proposing?
4. What type of advice specifically do we give to the patient and to the community?
5. If a considerable number of hair samples are found to be abnormal, should we go back and increase the scope of the original survey? If so, what percentage of abnormal should be considered before taking this action.
6. What type of public announcement should we make once all the results are available?
7. Why are only one in ten samples of hair being checked for mercury? If a considerable proportion of samples so tested are found to be abnormal, will it be possible to go back and test other samples or will the hair have been destroyed?

I understand that the results of the hair testing will be completed in another three to four weeks. It may well be that all the above questions are answered already but I would appreciate receiving your views on these topics within two weeks' time, if at all possible in order that follow-up action is cohesive and coordinated. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

(for)  L.M. Black.

(Dictated but not verified)