

P.A. registry recorded

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OTTAWA, CANADA, K1A 9K9

Ms. Josie Toews,
3 - 650 Westminister,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Ms. Toews:

The Minister has asked me to acknowledge your letter of January 27, 1975, expressing concern about arsenic poisoning in Yellowknife.

First of all, he would like to assure you that this problem has been under surveillance by the Department for many years and that appropriate corrective actions have been instituted as needed.

The medical study referred to in recent news reports did not reveal significant health problems related to arsenic pollution and it was believed at that time that pollution control measures employed by the mines and community were adequate to prevent injury to health from arsenic. Recently, however, studies in other countries have suggested that health effects of arsenic may be more serious than previously realized. For this reason, additional steps are being taken to protect the health of residents of Yellowknife. These are outlined in the attached statement of the Minister.

Yours truly,

Ann C. Jamieson,
Executive Assistant.

Attach.
M69/691

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