

MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE

PAGE: 540

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH
 RECORDING & TRANSMITTAL FORM
 MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT:	Withholding of report on arsenic pollution in Yellowknife	FILE NO: <u>850-5-X751</u>									
FROM:	Mr. Charles R. Wiese 12 - 11020 - 65 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. T6H 1V9	DATE: <u>Jan.</u>									
TO:	Mr. Trudeau	INITIATED IN BRANCH									
RECEIVED IN ADM'S OFFICE:	<u>Feb. 5</u> (Date)	PASSED: <u>Feb. 6</u> (Date)									
ACTION:	Please prepare a reply for Ann Jamieson's signature by Feb. 13 '75										
TO	DATE	REPLY	B.F.	DATE SENT TO MINISTER	SIGNED						
M17	Feb 6	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">INTERIM</td> <td style="width: 33%;">FINAL</td> <td style="width: 33%;">DATE</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Feb. 6</td> </tr> </table>	INTERIM	FINAL	DATE		✓	Feb. 6		Feb. 10	
INTERIM	FINAL	DATE									
	✓	Feb. 6									

REMARKS:

Referred by direction of the Prime Minister
Transmis à la demande du Premier ministre

To the Minister of National Health and Welfare,
Au ministre d'Attention: Ann Jamieson,
Executive Assistant.

For: ☐ information
Pour: ☐ à titre de renseignement ☒ further reply*
☐ consideration ☐ réponse ultérieure
attention ☐ necessary action*
☐ consideration and further reply at your discretion ☐ y donner suite
attention et réponse ultérieure si vous le jugez à propos

NOTE:

Jan. 28/75

P.L.
Patricia Lacroix,
Correspondence Assistant.

* May we please have a copy of your further correspondence.
Veuillez s.v.p. nous faire parvenir copie de votre lettre.



Office of The
Prime Minister

Cabinet du
Premier Ministre

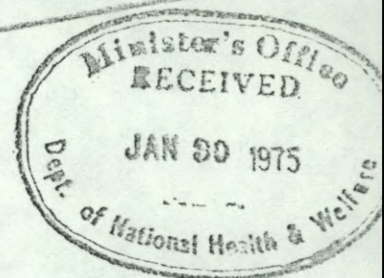
Copy

Copie

5016 154

50-8-5

January 28, 1975.



Mr. Charles R. Wiese,
12 - 11020 - 65 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta.
T6H 1V9

Dear Mr. Wiese:

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I wish to
acknowledge receipt of your recent letter.

I am taking the liberty of referring your
communication to the Office of the Minister of National
Health and Welfare for further reply.

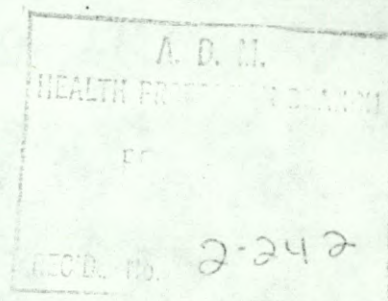
Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR
PAT LACROIX

Patricia Lacroix,
Correspondence Assistant.

c.c: National Health and Welfare,
Attention: Ann Jamieson,*
Executive Assistant.

* for further reply, please.



#18, 11020-65auc.,
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H1V9

5016 154

Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

I am concerned and astounded at hearing of the criminal action of your government in the withholding of information critical to the health and welfare of the citizens of Yellowknife, N.W.T. I ask you in all sincerity, "How would you feel if you and your lovely family were subjected to such an inexcusable health hazard?"

I can not believe that you had any knowledge of this grave inaction by your former Health Minister, ~~John Critch~~ and now Mr. La Londe. As a Liberal supporter of Mr. B.C. Tanna, I demand that a reasonable explanation be given for this most inexcusable action (and reason had better prevail.)

I fear that this country stands for very little in the eyes of those most respected

and trusted. Upon whom can we depend for protection? Do the citizens of this country of whom you are the Prime Minister have no protection of this nature?

I would remind you that, we the citizens of Canada, are not mere peasants with whom the government does as they please. You are our representatives and no better or worse than the rank and file in this country. We, and specifically I will not tolerate irresponsible decisions of this nature. Anyway one looks at it, to jeopardise the lives of citizens of this country without their consent or knowledge just to protect a mining company is criminal. Should it be proven that someone died or has died as a result of this, it is my sincere hope that those responsible be made to pay dearly for their poor judgement.

I will be looking forward to receiving a reply to this letter in the very near future. Should I not receive a reply, do not look forward to any further support from me in this wilderness of narrow minded Conservatism commonly called "Alberta".

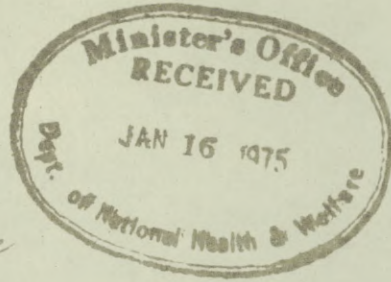
Respectfully,
Charles R. Wiese

W - 200

850-5-X751

50-8-5

1020-65 Ave,
Edmonton, Alberta
6H1V9



Mr. Marc La Lond,
Minister of Health and Welfare
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Mr. La Lond,

would be derelict in my duty as a responsible citizen of Canada if I did not register my condemnation of your department's irresponsibility to the people of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. It seems completely incomprehensible to me that you could set back for as long as you have and let the effects of lead poisoning take a further effect on that population, as well as the native population of that area. The proper way to look at this is to put you and your family in their positions at Yellowknife. Can you see one of your children suffering as a result of your department's inaptitude? We as Canadians and we will not tolerate any Watergate type of thinking in this country. If you insist on operating in this manner, please press the border into the United States of America, and take out American citizenship. It would seem unnecessary for me to remind you that, you are a responsible

member of the Canadian parliament holding a position not only responsible to those who elected you, but also responsible to those who had no opportunity to vote for you or against you. You have the "moral obligation" and the personal responsibility to see that the proper decisions are made. You also have highly paid department officials that are supposed to help you come to the correct decision.

I would remind you that there is such a thing as palatation control and with gold at \$173.00 per ounce it seems that the mining company should be able to afford the cost. If we can afford to give Cuba a \$10 million dollar interest free loan, I think we can afford to help those people up in Yellowknife also.

As a Liberal party supporter in the last election voting for Mr. B. C. Tanner, I demand a change in attitude and a more compassionate way of thinking toward all Canadians. I assure you that if I find that anything like this is happening in Quebec, that you shall hear from me in just as harsh and critical terms as I have written in this letter.

In view of the facts, I feel that both you and the Territorial Council

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should resign your positions immediately and short of that "An apology" to the people concerned.

I would like to close this letter with "respectfully yours", but respect can only be given where it is due.

11020-65 Ave,
Edmonton, Alberta

P.S. If you have any concern whether or not I note "Liberal" again, you had better answer this letter outlining your reasoning behind the withholding of this important information to these people.

C. B. Wuse

11020-65 Ave.

Edmonton, Alberta.

850-5-X751.

Feb. 4 '75

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CANADA

PA 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

Mr. A. Gavin Hudson,
23 Oriole Road,
Apt. 309,
Toronto, Ontario.
M4V 2E6

Dear Mr. Hudson:

The Minister has asked me to acknowledge receipt and thank you for your letter of January 9, 1975 commenting on the 1969 report on Arsenic Poisoning in Yellowknife.

This report, 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.

For your information, I am attaching a copy of my Minister's statement on the subject. During the days following the program "As it happens", Mr. Lalonde stated clearly that he was favouring the publication of reports and studies affecting the health of Canadians.

Yours truly,

Ann C. Jamieson,
Executive Assistant.

Attach.