

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
À Dr. A.B. Morrison,
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Health Protection Branch.

FROM
DE Assistant Deputy Minister,
Medical Services Branch.

SUBJECT
OBJET

Arsenic in Yellowknife

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ

OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE

850-5-X751 (M 14)
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE

DATE

January 27, 1975

Since our recent discussion on January 9, 1975 regarding arsenic in the environment in Yellowknife, I have made arrangements for a program to be implemented by Medical Services staff in Yellowknife. The components of the program are as follows:

- a. a survey of arsenic levels in the Yellowknife population with particular reference to the susceptible groups. This survey will be carried out by Medical Services staff and it is anticipated that the laboratory work will be done in Edmonton.
- b. clinical assessment of any persons found to have high arsenic levels. This also will be arranged by Medical Services staff.
- c. an epidemiological review of any abnormal findings. I may wish to call upon you for help in this regard and will appreciate any assistance that can be given.
- d. recruitment of a Public Health engineer to assess human health hazards in the mines; to review the existing water supply and to co-ordinate the collection of information available from the Department of the Environment and other sources regarding data on arsenic levels in Yellowknife.

I have arranged to augment Medical Services staff in Yellowknife for this purpose and the Public Health engineer that will of course, be utilized in other parts of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory.

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I think it is most important that this program along with any other new health programs, be carried out by the health authority for the Territories ie. the Medical Services staff and that consultants belonging to your Branch be called in as advisors when requested. It would be most unfortunate if any duplication occurred which could give rise to ambiguity or misinterpretation. It may be necessary at a later date, depending upon the results of the survey being carried out, to set up a formal liaison between our two Branches similar to that which exists for mercury. In the meantime, I appreciate your concurrence with the proposed arrangement to have this program carried out by Medical Services staff and also appreciate any help which your Branch can give with regard to the anticipated epidemiological survey.

Original signed by
D. B. DEWAR

D.B. Dewar

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