

MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH

RECORDING & TRANSMITTAL FORM

MINISTER'S CORRESPONDENCE

SUBJECT:		Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd.			FILE NO: 850-5-X751 (#16325)		
FROM:		Dr. Paul Yewchuk, M.P., House of Commons, OTTAWA, Ontario. K1A 0A6			DATE: July 26 '76		
TO:		MINISTER			INITIATED IN BRANCH		
RECEIVED IN ADM'S OFFICE:		August 5 '76 (Date)			PASSED: August 5 '76 (Date)		
ACTION:		Please prepare a reply for Minister's signature by August 16 '76					
TO	DATE	REPLY			B.F.	DATE SENT TO MINISTER	SIGNED
		INTERIM	FINAL	DATE			
Mr. Hicks	5/8						
Mr. Hicks	9/8		X	10/8		August 11	

REMARKS:

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10/5/8/76



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0X2
July 26th, 1976.

The Hon. Marc Lalonde,
Minister of National
Health and Welfare,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

60-1-4

Dept. of National Health & Welfare
Minister's Office
RECEIVED

AUG 3 1976
Ministère de la Santé Nationale et
du Bien-être social, Cabinet du Ministre
REQU

Dear Mr. Lalonde:

Re: Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd.
Yellowknife, N.W.T.

By now you will have received a letter from
the above-noted company dated July 7th, 1976.

I would be interested in having your department's
account of the events described therein.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Yewchuk

Paul Yewchuk, M.P.,
Athabasca.

(S)



*P.A. sent
To DM 18/8/76*

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

850-5-X751 (FHH)

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

Re: Giant Yellowknife Mines Complaint

You will recall the investigation which we carried out in cooperation with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development concerning the problem of arsenic contamination in Yellowknife during the summer of 1975. We exercised great care to insure that all information was made available to the press and the public.

The formal report of the investigation was written by officers of the Occupational Health Technical Support Unit, Medical Services Branch. Fifteen copies of this report were forwarded on September 24 from Medical Services Headquarters to the Director, Medical Services, Northwest Territories Region, with instructions to distribute the report to all interested parties. Specifically, the Director was instructed to make arrangements with the Regional Mining Engineer, Northern Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Yellowknife, to provide Giant Yellowknife Mines, Limited, with two copies. Responsibility for mine inspection in the Territories rests with Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and it was therefore appropriate for their engineer to contact the company. The copies were handed on to him but were not distributed to Giant Yellowknife Mines.

An explanation written to the manager of the company from Dr. R.D.P. Eaton who was acting on behalf of our Regional Director, is attached.

Jean Lupien

Attach.

TYPED ON: AUGUST 17, 1976.

Dr. F.H. HICKS/am

MS FILE COPY

P.A.

registry recorded

CANADA

MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
AND
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MINISTRE DE LA
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL
ET
MINISTRE CHARGÉ DE LA SITUATION DE LA FEMME

OTTAWA, K1A 0K9

Dr. Paul Yewchuk, M.P.,
House of Commons,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1A 0A6

Dear Dr. Yewchuk:

The copy of a letter written by Mr. W.A. Moore, Manager, Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited to Dr. R.D.P. Eaton of my Department, dated July 7, 1976, was the first intimation I had that the report on arsenic exposure in workplace areas of Yellowknife gold mines and mills had not been delivered to the company.

On September 24, 1975, 15 copies of the report were sent from the headquarters office of the Medical Services Branch to the Regional Director, Northwest Territories Region, Medical Services. An accompanying memorandum specified that the Regional Director arrange distribution to a number of interested parties including Mr. Emery, Manager, Giant Yellowknife Mines, Limited. The investigation was undertaken cooperatively by my Department and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and because the latter Department has the authority for mine inspections in the Territories, my officials requested the Regional Mining Engineer of Indian and Northern Affairs to deliver the copy to the company. Thus the breakdown occurred at the local level.

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Dr. Paul Yewchuk, M.P.

My officers have apologized to Giant Yellowknife officials both by telephone and by letter. I am personally embarrassed and distressed, especially since my officers have made it clear that they have had outstanding courtesy and cooperation from the personnel at Giant Yellowknife Mines at all times.

Yours truly,

Marc Lalonde.

c.c.: Dr. F.J. Covill, N.W.T.

TYPED ON: AUGUST 10, 1976.

FILE NO.: 850-5-X751 (FHH)

Dr. F.H. Hicks/am