

# CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE D'HYGIÈNE PUBLIQUE

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January 27, 1977

Mr. Bruce S. Rawson,  
Deputy Minister,  
Dept. of National Health & Welfare,  
Jeanne Mance Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
K1A 0K9

Dear Mr. Rawson:

This letter is further to the agreement between the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Canadian Public Health Association to provide the Minister with the names of three independent, scientific experts to study possible arsenic poisoning in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Members of CPHA Council were advised on January 20th of Mr. Lalonde's request, The following criteria for selection of the Task Force members were established with CPHA Executive Committee. The combined expertise was to include:

1. Medical background - expertise in research in trace metals.
2. Epidemiological background - expertise in industrial health.
3. Engineering background - expertise in environmental health.

The following criteria were also considered:

4. Impartiality.
5. Availability.
6. Not a member of the Federal Public Service.

Consultation was carried out with a number of professionals knowledgeable about occupational health and, in particular, arsenic poisoning. Individuals were identified who might meet the criteria for selection to the Task Force. After preliminary screening, these individuals were contacted to determine whether or not they wished to be considered as members of the proposed Task Force. All individuals contacted by CPHA were fully informed of the terms of reference as outlined in the Minister's press release issued on January 18th.

The final selection of the three-member Task Force was made by the CPHA Executive Committee and the following individuals are recommended:

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28/1/77



Dr. C.J.G. Mackenzie

Head

Department of Health Care and Epidemiology  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, British Columbia.  
Tel. (604) 228-2772

Mr. C.E. Tupper, P. Eng.

Administrator

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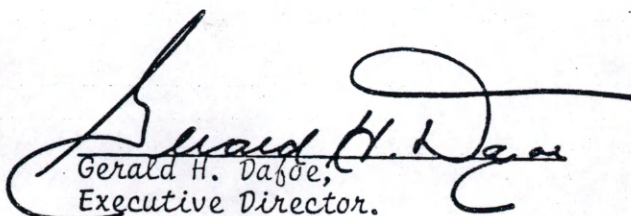
Tel. (705) 342-5878

Background information on qualifications and experience of the above individuals is attached.

The three individuals have agreed to be members of the Task Force and we anticipate that the first meeting of the Task Force will be held at CPHA offices in Ottawa about the middle of February. In the meantime, all interested individuals and groups will be invited to submit data relevant to possible arsenic poisoning in Yellowknife to the CPHA National Office.

Thank you for providing the Canadian Public Health Association with the opportunity of participating in this very important study.

Yours sincerely,



Gerald H. Daffoe,  
Executive Director.

GHD:op

CC Dr. K.I.G. Benson,  
President,  
Canadian Public Health Association.

Encls.



COURTLANDT J.G. MACKENZIE

Dr. Mackenzie is a physician and presently holds the position of Professor and Head, Department of Health Care and Epidemiology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. Prior to joining the Faculty of Medicine at U.B.C., Dr. Mackenzie practiced medicine in Victoria, British Columbia, and was formerly a Director of the West Kootenay Health Unit, Trail, B.C.

Dr. Mackenzie's professional service and experience have included consultancies with the Canadian University Services Overseas on immunization and public health, and the Department of National Health and Welfare, Medical Advisory Group on health of immigrants. More recently, Dr. Mackenzie held the position of Chairman, Royal Commission on Herbicides and Pesticides and is presently Chairman of the Pollution Control Board of British Columbia and Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Ministry of the Environment of British Columbia.



ROBERT B. SUTHERLAND

Dr. Sutherland is a physician and, since 1972, has been a private consultant in the area of industrial health. Prior to 1972, Dr. Sutherland spent 25 years working entirely in the area of industrial hygiene and environmental health. He has held positions with the Ontario Ministry of Health as Assistant Director, Industrial Hygiene Branch, Director, Environmental Health Branch and Chief, Environmental Health Studies Service.

From 1961 to 1973 Dr. Sutherland held the position of Associate Professor, School of Hygiene, University of Toronto (Departments of Physiological Hygiene[later Department of Environmental Health] and of Epidemiology and Biometrics). His main interest has been in occupational chest diseases and in occupational epidemiological studies. Dr. Sutherland's professional service and experience have included studies in lung cancer in nickel industry workers, sinter plant workers, silver refinery workers, and smelter workers (involving arsenic exposure). He has also assisted in federal studies of lung cancer (fluorospir miners).



C.E. TUPPER

Mr. Ed Tupper is a professional engineer and presently holds the position of Administrator, Health Engineering Services, Department of Public Health, Halifax, Nova Scotia. In this capacity, he has responsibility for the Division of Public Health Engineering and the Division of Occupational Health. This involves responsibilities for all Environmental Health and Occupational Health Programs.

In 1976, Mr. Tupper organized an Arsenic Task Force which conducted a detailed study into the problem of arsenic contamination of drinking water throughout Nova Scotia. This responsibility included the coordination of the activities of the Task Force, both publicly and interdepartmentally. Mr. Tupper has also coordinated recent federal and provincial efforts in conducting an epidemiological study into the health effects of ambient air pollution in Sydney, Nova Scotia. He is Chairman of the Heavy Water Plants (Nova Scotia) Safety Advisory Committee and a member of the Interdepartmental Air Quality Advisory Committee for Nova Scotia.