

(RETURN TO MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH)

TO	FOR INFO	FOR ACTION	REMARKS	DISPOSAL AND DATE
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850-5-X751(M16)

November 26, 1970.

**MEMORANDUM TO MR. IAN HOWARD**  
**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER**

Some time ago you requested, for the Minister's House Book, a resumé, giving the important aspects, of arsenic pollution of the environment around Yellowknife, N.W.T.

On October 23, 1970 the Directors General of Health Services, Food and Drug and Medical Services Branches met to discuss the co-ordination of the investigation of levels of certain pollutants (arsenic, mercury, etc.) within the Northwest and Yukon Territories, and recommendations arising therefrom.

It was agreed:

- (1) That a co-ordinating body consisting of one officer from each Branch be appointed. They are:

Dr. A.J. deVilliers,  
 Consultant in Charge,  
 Bio-Medical Unit, Occupational Health Division,  
 Health Services Branch.

Dr. A.B. Morrison,  
 Deputy Director General,  
 Food and Drug Branch.

Dr. W.H. Frost,  
 Senior Medical Adviser, Health & Treatment,  
 Medical Services Branch.

- (2) That this body would constitute itself as a continuing monitoring committee which would receive requests for investigation, co-ordinate the investigations and consequent recommendations, and present these to their respective Branch Heads.

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- (3) That the Committee would keep a watching brief on the matter of pollution in the Territories and initiate investigations de novo if necessary.
- (4) That other Government agencies would be involved, as required.
- (5) That all recommendations would be transmitted to the public through the Director General, Medical Services Branch, thence to the Regional Director, Northern Region, Edmonton, who would, in his capacity as Chief Medical Officer of the Northwest Territories, and as a superior of the Chief Medical Officer of the Yukon Territory, convey them to the respective Commissioners.
- (6) That a Chairman would be selected from within itself by the committee of three.
- (7) That the Committee would meet urgently early in the week of 26th of October to assess the current status of outstanding investigations and to make and co-ordinate recommendations based upon available information.

A meeting was held on October 27, 1970 at which Dr. J.A. Campbell, Assistant Director General (Foods), replaced Dr. A.B. Morrison, Deputy Director General, Food and Drug Branch. Dr. W.H. Frost was chosen to act as Chairman, and it was agreed that Mr. R.E. Tait, Chief, Public Health Engineering, should also join the Committee.

Attached for inclusion in the Minister's House Book is a brochure on the subject of arsenic pollution at Yellowknife prepared by Dr. Frost and vetted by members of the Committee.

Original signed by  
**J. M. LeClair, M.D.**  
Deputy Minister of Medical Services

Maurice LeClair, M.D.

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