

Dr. G.C. Butler,
Regional Director, Northern Region,
Edmonton, Alberta.

850-5-X751 (M16)

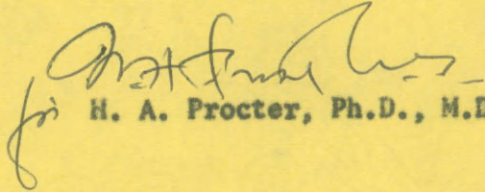
December 24, 1968

Director General, Medical Services.

ARSENIC POLLUTION - YELLOWKNIFE BAY

I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter received from the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in which he complains that the regular monitoring of water in Yellowknife Bay is not being carried out by our department as agreed.

Your comments would be appreciated.


for H. A. Procter, Ph.D., M.D.

M161

Att.



ACTION REQUEST FICHE DE SERVICE

FILE NO. — DOSSIER N°

TO — A

DATE

Dr. W. H. Frost,

Dec. 19/68

LOCATION — EN DROIT

Senior Medical Advisor, Indian Health &
Northern Health, R.774, Brooke Claxton Bldg.

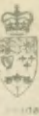
FROM — DE

Acting Assistant Chief, Planning, Evaluation &
Development, P.H.E.

☐ ACTION
DONNER SUITE☐ P. A. ON FILE
CLASSER☐ APPROVAL
APPROBATION☐ REPLY
RÉPONSE☐ COMMENTS
COMMENTAIRES☐ SEE ME
ME VOIR☐ DRAFT REPLY
PROJET DE RÉPONSE☐ SIGNATURE☐ MAKE
FAIRE.....COPIES☐ TRANSLATION
TRADUCTION☐ NOTE AND FILE
NOTER ET CLASSER☐ YOUR REQUEST
À VOTRE DEMANDE☐ NOTE & RETURN/OR FORWARD
NOTER ET RETOURNER/OU FAIRE SUIVRE☐

Attached is a copy of a letter dated Dec.4th
to Dr. J.N. Crawford from Deputy Minister,
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern
Development, as per our telephone conversation
of today. After you have discussed this with
your staff, perhaps we can draft a joint reply.

[Signature]
W. S. Tait, P. Eng.



Department of
Indian Affairs and
Northern Development

Deputy Minister

Ministère des
Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien

Sous-ministre

Dr. J.N. Crawford,
Deputy Minister of National
Health and Welfare,
Brooke Claxton Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Ottawa 4, December 4, 1968

our file/notre dossier R-1845-7
your file/votre dossier
date

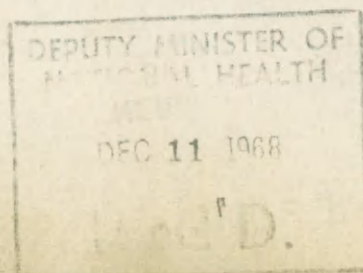
Dear Dr. Crawford,

As you are aware, there is a potentially dangerous arsenic pollution problem in Yellowknife Bay, N.W.T. You are also undoubtedly aware that in order to guarantee a safe supply of drinking water to the Town of Yellowknife, this Department, in co-operation with the two gold mining companies operating in the area, is proceeding with a pipeline extension to the Yellowknife water intake that will bypass the polluted waters in the Bay and will tap a pure supply of fresh water near the mouth of the Yellowknife River.

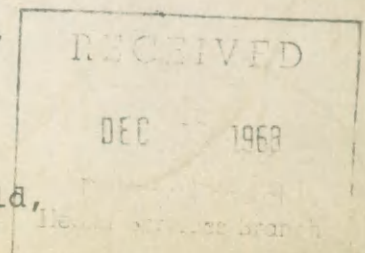
A basic prerequisite to obtaining and maintaining the full co-operation of the mining companies in this project is a regular program of water quality monitoring over an extensive sampling network in and adjacent to Yellowknife Bay. This sampling program was carried out in a competent manner by this Department's field staff, working in co-operation with your Public Health Engineering Division, prior to the spring of 1966. Since that time, the sampling at Yellowknife has been done by the local Sanitary Inspector of the Medical Services Branch of your Department and recent comments from a number of sources indicate that the work of this individual in this regard has been totally inadequate.

While it is our intention to proceed with the pipeline as quickly as possible, I feel that this project should in no way detract from our efforts to reduce and hold the arsenic concentration in Yellowknife Bay to levels considered safe for drinking and recreational purposes. Therefore, I would strongly urge that your Department take steps to restore the water quality monitoring program at Yellowknife to a standard of efficiency acceptable to all concerned with this problem.

Yours sincerely,



John A. MacDonald,
Deputy Minister



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MEDICAL SERVICES
SUB-REGISTRY



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