



# ACTION REQUEST - FICHE DE SERVICE

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA

FILE NO.—DOSSIER N°

DATE

Oct 7 1971

TO—À

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Medical Services Branch

FROM—DE

A/Regional Director, Northern Region

☐

PLEASE CALL  
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EXTENSION—POSTE

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TIME—HEURE

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☐

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PROJET DE RÉPONSE

☐

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FAIRE .....COPIES

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NOTER ET CLASSER

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NOTER ET RETOURNER

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NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE



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MINISTÈRE DE LA  
SANTÉ NATIONALE ET DU  
BIEN-ÊTRE SOCIAL

FOOD AND DRUG DIRECTORATE • DIRECTION DES ALIMENTS ET DROGUES

257 Federal Public Building  
Edmonton 2, Alberta

OUR FILE NO. 920-2-2

N° DE DOSSIER

September 24, 1971

Regional Director,  
Northern Region,  
Medical Services Directorate,  
500 Chancery Hall,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

REMARKS	DISPOSAL AND DATE
<i>Wtd</i>	<i>12-10-71</i>

Re: Specimens for Arsenic Analysis - Yellowknife, N.W.T.

We attach herewith a copy of the result reported by Dr. E. Sandi. Where possible the specimens were analysed as received, and washed and dried or kitchen prepared as applicable. Dr. Sandi's comments are reported herewith:

- (a) Almost all samples are heavily contaminated with arsenic. The arsenic content of vegetable samples in Canada, grown in uncontaminated areas, rarely exceeds 0.1 ppm.
- (b) After washing, very few samples exceed the acceptable limit for arsenic, which is 1 ppm for vegetables, and 2 ppm for fruits.
- (c) The arsenic content of the vegetable samples is reduced by customary kitchen cleaning to very low levels, not very different from the levels usually found in contaminated areas.

Dr. Sandi suggests that no immediate health hazard exists from arsenic contamination. However, it is further suggested that the populace should be cautioned to wash and/or clean locally grown fruit and vegetables before consumption.

It is also suggested that a further sampling should be repeated next year.

Yours truly,

*W.D. Charles*  
W.D. Charles,

WDC/b

Officer in Charge - Northern Alberta District.

c.c. Vancouver  
J.W. Grainge - P.H.E.  
F. Gillis  
G.R. Woodget

Encl.



ARSENIC CONTENT IN YELLOWKNIFE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COLLECTED AUGUST, 1971.

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Arsenic p.p.m.</u>		
		<u>As Received</u>	<u>Washed &amp; Dried</u>	<u>Cleaned As In Kitchen</u>
1. High Bush Cranberry	Con Mine	0.15	-	
2. Gooseberry	" "	0.48	0.19	
3. Black Currant	" "	0.63	0.18	
4. Low Bush Cranberry	Airport	0.32	-	
5. High Bush Cranberry	"	0.43		
6. Vegetables, leaves	Mrs. Bugg - 204 B. Giant Mine	6.80	2.7	
7. Vegetables, leaves	Mrs. Richardson - Con Mine	1.70	0.53	
8. Vegetables, leaves	Mr. A.P. Morris	1.40	0.54	
9. Vegetables, leaves	Correctional Camp	0.32	0.12	
10. Vegetables, leaves	Mr. Christensen - Old Town	1.10	0.41	
11. Vegetables, leaves	5018 - 54 Street - Yellowknife	0.30	0.10	
6. Carrots	Mrs. Bugg	0.61		0.39
Beets	" "	1.60		0.51
Rhubarb	" "	-		0.12
Potatoes	" "	0.96		0.07
7. Carrots	Mrs. Richardson	0.25		0.07
Beets	" "	0.49		0.27
Peas + Pods	" "	0.16		0.08
Potatoes	" "	0.45		0.02
8. Carrots	Mr. A.P. Morris	0.61		0.11
Peas + Pods	" "	0.15		0.11
Rhubarb	" "	-		0.04
Potatoes	" "	0.54		0.08
Tomatoes	" "	0.23		0.13
9. Beets	Correctional Camp	-		0.02
Potatoes	" "	0.32		0.01
Radishes	" "	-		0.09
Onions	" "	-		0.01
Peas + Pods	" "	0.25		0.03
10. Carrots	Mr. Christensen	0.49		0.07
Potatoes	" "	0.34		0.06
Onions	" "	-		0.49
Peas + Pods	" "	0.11		0.06
11. Onions	5018 - 54 Street	0.73		0.77
Beans, green	" "	0.07		0.25

Sept. 20, 1971.



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MEDICAL SERVICES  
SUB-REGISTRY

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