

TO	FOR INFO.	FOR ACTION	REMARKS	DISPOSAL AND DATE
<i>JA</i>				

*PA
Smith*

The Honourable John Munro, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of National Health and Welfare,
Ottawa, Ontario.

My dear Colleague:

I enclose a copy of Commissioner Hodgson's letter dated September 25 in which he expresses concern about the implications of a public statement on arsenic pollution in Yellowknife as reported by Dr. Butler, Regional Director, Department of National Health and Welfare, Edmonton. I understand that no statement has yet been made as suggested in Dr. Butler's memorandum but this information has now probably passed through many hands and may become public knowledge through some inadvertent conversation.

My purpose in bringing this to your attention is to request that first, you would take Commissioner Hodgson's letter into consideration before authorizing any public statement on this subject and second, that because of the medical nature of any judgement or statement concerning this matter, you would be prepared to respond to relevant questions if they arise in the House. I will, of course, be prepared to deal with any queries relating to the mines which are the source of this pollution but because your Department has carried out the laboratory analysis, it would be more appropriate if you respond to questions in this area.

I would be pleased to have early advice on your assessment of the seriousness of the problem and what follow-up action you propose should be taken before I attempt to reply to Commissioner Hodgson.

Yours sincerely,

J. Chrétien

Jean Chrétien.

D.A. Davidson/de/D
October 1, 1970

cc Dr. Lure

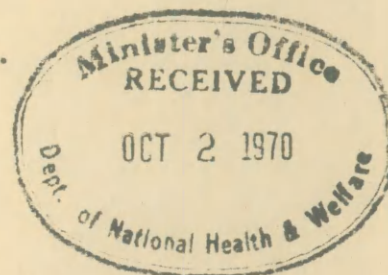
MINISTER OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT



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MINISTRE DES
AFFAIRES INDIENNES
ET DU NORD CANADIEN

October 2, 1970.

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Minister of National Health and Welfare,
Ottawa, Ontario.



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