

PROPOSED NEWS ITEM

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The results of the sampling of vegetables grown in the Yellowknife area this past summer have now been received.

Of the 22 samples of various vegetables tested for arsenic content, most were below the tolerance of 1 ppm permitted by the Food and Drug Regulations. Although some samples showed higher levels, the analyses were made on unwashed samples and it is probable that the content of the vegetables as consumed would be somewhat lower than the values given. Thus, the arsenic content of vegetables is considerably reduced as compared to the concentration found in 1965.

When one also takes into account that the vegetables grown in the Yellowknife area are consumed only over a period of three to four months each year, it is evident that there is no danger to the health of the public.

Further sampling of vegetables is planned for the summer of 1971.

Arsenic levels in fish samples taken from Great Slave Lake were low and there is no evidence to suggest that fish is not suitable for human consumption.

Chief Medical & Health Officer.