

850-5-X751

MEMORANDUM

CLASSIFICATION



TO
A

Dr. W.H. Frost,
Senior Medical Adviser,
Health and Treatment.

YOUR FILE No. 850-5-X751 (M16)
Votre dossier

OUR FILE No.
Notre dossier

FROM
De

Director, Food Advisory Bureau.

DATE Dec. 23, 1970.

FOLD

SUBJECT
Sujet

Arsenic Contamination - Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dr. J.A. Campbell has asked me to reply to your memo of December 11, 1970, with reference to the proposed news item on the above subject.

Please find attached a newly proposed wording for this news item.

D.G. Chapman
D.G. Chapman.

Enc.

| TO | FOR INFO. | FOR ACTION | REMARKS | DISPOSAL AND DATE |
|----------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| HHS | | | <i>Noted</i> | <i>30-12-70</i> |
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MEDICAL SERVICES
SUB-REGISTRY

DEC 24 11 29 AM '70

PROPOSED NEWS ITEM

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 ~~only~~ ^{each year,} three to four months, it is evident that there is no danger to the health of the public. ~~(from the consumption of locally grown vegetables over a period of three to four months per year.)~~

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

Fish samples taken from Great Slave Lake showed levels well below the limit set by the Food and Drug Directorate, and are therefore suitable for human consumption.

Chief Medical & Health Officer

Substitute paragraph on fish in other draft.