

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT, APRIL 26-27, 2017

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE (NSMA)

ISSUE	CLARIFICATIONS AND/OR ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE RESEARCH TEAM
Government obtaining personal information from the study results	<p>The following measures in the study plan were presented:</p> <p>Samples of toenails, urine and saliva will be sent to the university of Ottawa for analysis.</p> <p>Each participant will receive a letter with their personal results, and what those results mean.</p> <p>No personal result will be released to any of the stakeholders.</p> <p>The Health Effects Monitoring Program final reports will be independent and reviewed by all stakeholders including representatives from the NSMA before publications.</p>
Interpretation and reporting of results	<p>The following measures in the study plan were presented:</p> <p>A local nurse, hired specifically for the program, will be available to respond to people's questions and concerns about their personal results. If necessary, further testing will be done to confirm exposure to arsenic or other contaminants of concern. The nurse will also provide advice to lower or eliminate exposure to contaminants.</p>
Reporting of final results	<p>The following measures in the study plan were presented:</p> <p>First, Dr. Laurie Chan will return and present results at the population level to the NSMA members, YKDFN and the general Yellowknife population.</p> <p>Then, a general report, with all the results combined, will be disseminated to the Health Effects Monitoring Program Advisory Committee for further input before they are shared with others in reports and articles. The Advisory Committee is made up of the: University of Ottawa, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Government of Northwest</p>

	<p>Territories, City of Yellowknife, Health Canada, and the Giant Mine Oversight Board.</p> <p>Finally, the Chief Medical Officer for the Northwest Territories will be responsible for how the population level results will be presented to the general public.</p>
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YELLOWKNIVES DENE FIRST NATION (YKDFN)

ISSUE	CLARIFICATIONS AND/OR ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE RESEARCH TEAM
Concerns on looking at current exposure only.	<p>The study can only measure current levels of Arsenic.</p> <p>Two main reasons why:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arsenic does not accumulate or stay in our body for very long. We can only find out about your exposure to arsenic for the past two months. 2. Currently there is no technology that will allow us to measure past exposure.
High interest in reviewing past test results expressed by YKDFN members and YK residents (i.e. from 1970 to 1990s).	<p>The research team is currently accessing local archives as well as looking for other sources to find results from past studies done on arsenic in Yellowknife.</p> <p>If individual results from past arsenic studies are located, a consent is needed to access them with personal identification. It may then be possible to compare the results of the individual in the past to the results of the current study.</p>
For many residents, the remediation of Giant Mine is inextricably linked to its history and the many unresolved issues associated with the mine site.	<p>Looking at historical exposure is beyond the scope of the Health Effects Monitoring Program, however discussions will be held with the Advisory Committee, to see if another, separate study may be necessary at this time.</p>
Keeping results confidential.	<p>Keeping results confidential is our priority. Your name will not be linked to your results on any of the final documents. And final results will be presented at population level only –</p>

	<p>no individual results will be shared with anyone else but you.</p> <p>Dr. Laurie Chan is the only person who can connect your results with your name.</p>
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YELLOWKNIFE (YK)

ISSUE	CLARIFICATIONS AND/OR ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE RESEARCH TEAM
<p>YK residents and YKDFN members concerned about miners that worked at Giant Mine.</p>	<p>The research team will discuss and seek advice from the Health Effects Monitoring Program Advisory Committee (HEMPAC) on the best way to reach past mine workers, and have them participate in the monitoring program.</p>
<p>Linking our diet with contaminant results.</p>	<p>Currently, the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) study is collecting and analyzing samples of water, food and soil. They will release the final results by September 2017.</p> <p>In the fall 2017, the Health Effects Monitoring Program will begin testing people for levels of arsenic and other potential contaminants of concern. The study will also include questions on peoples' diet.</p> <p>Together, the two studies are highly complementary, and will share final results in order to create a more complete picture of contaminant exposure in Yellowknife, Ndilo, and Dettah.</p>
<p>Arsenic linked to higher rates of cancer?</p>	<p>It is difficult to link arsenic exposure to rates of cancer because cancer is multi-faceted.</p> <p>The Health Effects Monitoring Program will be designed in such a way that it will collect data for the next 10 years. This may provide us with stronger evidence for an arsenic-cancer link.</p>