

PRESS RELEASE

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

October 16, 2023

Arsenic Study Re-starting Sample Collection – Starting October 10, 2023.

The Yellowknife Health Effects Monitoring Program (YKHEMP) is continuing to reach out to residents this fall. This 5-year follow-up of the baseline study, which launched in 2017, is a continuation of the work that started earlier this year, in spring 2023.

The study is led by Dr. Laurie Chan, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Toxicology and Environmental Health at the University of Ottawa, and governed by an advisory committee.

So far this year, 225 Yellowknife residents have participated in the 5-year child and youth follow-up; 79 of whom were new participants and 146 of whom were returning participants from the 2017-18 baseline study. Our goal is to include a total of 400 participants in the 5-year follow-up.

Starting October 10, our team began going door-to-door to over 1000 randomly selected households in Yellowknife, inviting children and youth (3 to 19) in those households to take part in this important study. Participation involves a 30-40 minute interview, followed by providing biological samples of urine, toenails, and saliva. Participants will receive a letter with their personal results next year, and will also receive \$50 in gift cards as a thank you for their participation in the study.

The purpose of YKHEMP is to establish baseline levels of contaminant exposure and examine possible health effects among the residents of Yellowknife, Ndilq, and Dettah in the Northwest Territories, before remediation work begins. Then, during remediation, as monitoring continues, new results will be compared to the baseline to find out whether participants' arsenic levels are being impacted by work being done at Giant Mine.

2037 residents of Yellowknife, Ndilq, and Dettah participated in the baseline study in 2017-2018. Preliminary results from this study were presented to the public at community meetings in 2019 and February 2023. These results can be found on our website in our [plain-language 2023 Progress Report](#).

The study will continue in another 5 years, where all past participants (regardless of age) will be invited to participate in the study again. This longitudinal data is important for learning about any long-term impacts of living next to Giant Mine.

For further information, visit ykhemp.ca or contact: **Renata Rosol**, Project Manager, Cell: 613-325-9080 | Email: ykhemp@uottawa.ca