

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

8TH ASSEMBLY, 60TH SESSION

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TABLED ON Oct. 22, 1976

ARCTIC BAY HEALTH STUDY

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Medical Services, Health and Welfare Canada, conducted with the permission and the excellent cooperation of the entire Arctic Bay population a Health and Nutrition Survey on April 15 - 30, 1976.

A total of 332 persons plus several babies under six months were examined, representing almost 100% of the population present in the settlement at that time.

Detailed Health examinations including checking of hair and blood samples for certain metals as well as general physical and detailed laboratory examinations in regard to nutritional and general health aspects before and at regular intervals after opening of the Mine is in the opinion of Medical Services the best way to make sure nothing detrimental to residents health occurs and corrective action would be taken early if found necessary.

The findings in Arctic Bay, with regards to Mercury level, fall very well in line with earlier findings in Tuktoyaktuk, Holman Island, Coppermine, Igloolik and Rankin Inlet. The source of this mercury has not as yet been established, but on all accounts seems to be of a naturally occurring origin and not due to industrial pollution and may well have been present for many centuries. At present this is thought to be in a less poisonous form and should not give cause to any alarm and restriction on intake of any foods are not warranted at this time.

Medical Services certainly want to find more out about mercury in the residents blood, hair and in seals, fish and other animals, also what kind of Mercury - the toxic or less poisonous form, and they will be conducting further studies.

ARCTIC BAY HEALTH STUDY

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ՃԻՆՏԵՐԻ 18, 1976