



Northwest Territories Minister of Health

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Mr. Peter Ernerk, M.L.A.,
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Ernerk:

Further to your question in the Assembly on November 19, 1987, I would like to provide the following information.

To date, there has been only a single reported case of AIDS in the Northwest Territories, but it is almost certain there are other individuals who are infected with the virus that causes AIDS.

The estimate of infected individuals in the Northwest Territories is 50 to 100 infected people for every reported case of AIDS. This estimate is taken from numbers developed from studies in the United States and applied to the situation in Canada and the Northwest Territories.

This number (50 to 100 people) is an estimate based on the most academically sound epidemiological studies available at this point.

The proportion of infected individuals who progress to clinical AIDS is not known, primarily because experience with the disease encompasses only about 7 years, which may be less than the incubation period. There is, however, evidence to suggest that a high proportion of infecteds will ultimately develop the AIDS disease.

I am confident that an approach educating the public about how the disease is transmitted will assist in keeping this disease from spreading throughout the Northwest Territories. I would however appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. Detailed information concerning AIDS is available from Ms. Judith Geggie, AIDS Co-ordinator, Yellowknife - telephone 873-7017.

Yours sincerely,

Nellie J. Cournoyea
Nellie J. Cournoyea
Minister

c.c. J. Geggie