

### Order Paper Questions

The sampling locations, the maximum levels observed and the dates of collection are as follows:

|                  |                         |              |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Calgary          | 1.68 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 25 |
| Edmonton         | 0.91 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 25 |
| Fort Churchill   | 0.73 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | October 2    |
| Fredericton      | 0.58 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 29 |
| Inuvik           | 0.56 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 28 |
| Montreal         | 0.48 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | October 12   |
| Moosonee         | 0.59 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 27 |
| Regina           | 1.43 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 29 |
| St. John's       | 0.58 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | October 5    |
| Saskatoon        | 0.83 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 29 |
| Sault Ste. Marie | 0.57 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | October 1    |
| Thunder Bay      | 0.78 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 28 |
| Toronto          | 0.79 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 30 |
| Vancouver        | 0.53 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 24 |
| Whitehorse       | 1.54 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 22 |
| Windsor          | 1.45 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 25 |
| Winnipeg         | 0.97 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | October 3    |
| Yellowknife      | 0.64 pCi/m <sup>3</sup> | September 30 |

Although these increases were readily detected above the pre-test national average of 0.05 picocuries per cubic meter (pCi/m<sup>3</sup>), the absolute values are very small. The health effects arising from breathing radioactivity in air at these levels for the short period are negligible. In addition, radioactivity in pasteurized milk was measured. Increases of the radioactive element, iodine-131, were observed at 10 out of 16

sampling locations. The cities, the maximum levels measured and the dates of collection are as follows:

|                  |          |                 |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Calgary          | 19 pCi/l | October 1-7     |
| Edmonton         | 14 pCi/l | October 8-14    |
| Halifax          | 27 pCi/l | October 1-7     |
| Moncton          | 20 pCi/l | October 1-7     |
| Ottawa           | 29 pCi/l | October 8-14    |
| Quebec           | 13 pCi/l | October 8-14    |
| St. John's       | 13 pCi/l | October 8-14    |
| Sault Ste. Marie | 18 pCi/l | October 1-7     |
| Vancouver        | 18 pCi/l | September 24-30 |
| Windsor          | 55 pCi/l | October 8-14    |

These levels are not of concern to public health because they are a small fraction of the maximum permissible concentration of 2000 pCi/l. Moreover, the increases were observed for only a short period.

### EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CONSTITUENCY OF NICKEL BELT

#### Question No. 1,113—Mr. Rodriguez:

For each fiscal year since 1970, what amount was spent in the Constituency of Nickel Belt by the Department of National Health and Welfare and those agencies that report to it?

#### Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):

| Year    | Support to Individual Athletes | Support to Projects Dealing with the Non-Medical Use of Drugs | Contributions under the New Horizons Program | Operating Costs of Regional Office (Sudbury) | Total         |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------|
| 1970-71 | Nil                            | Nil   | Nil  | Not available                                | Not available |
| 1971-72 | Nil                            | Nil   | Nil  | Not available                                | Not available |
| 1972-73 | Nil                            | Nil   | 8,900  | Not available                                | Not available |
| 1973-74 | Nil                            | Nil   | 43,376                                       | 107,900                                      | 151,276       |
| 1974-75 | Nil                            | Nil   | 7,607  | 128,800                                      | 136,407       |
| 1975-76 | Nil                            | 36,250  | 32,346                                       | 125,300                                      | 193,896       |
| 1976-77 | 1,800                          | Nil   | 37,757                                       | 151,500                                      | 191,057       |

In addition to the above, the Department of National Health and Welfare has incurred numerous other expenditures in the province of Ontario, but it is not possible to isolate these expenditures on a constituency basis.

### XYLITOL

#### Question No. 1,148—Mr. Yewchuk:

1. Were tests conducted on xylitol to determine its potential as an anti-carie agent and, if so (a) what were they (b) what were the results?
2. Were steps taken to determine the usefulness of xylitol as a substitute for sugar since the imposition of the saccharin ban and, if so (a) what were they (b) what were the results?
3. Did the Department of National Health and Welfare study the problem linked with the future use of xylitol by diabetics and, if so, what were the results?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** 1. Yes. (a) and (b) Several studies have suggested that xylitol reduces dental caries. In one study, laboratory animals were fed a diet which contained sugar and produced dental caries. When xylitol was substituted for sugar in the

[Mr. Bégin.]

diet, the dental caries were practically eliminated. In another study, a group of human volunteers consuming a normal diet including sugar was compared to a group consuming a normal diet which included xylitol in place of sugar. It was found that after one year dental caries were reduced in the xylitol group by approximately 90 percent. In a third study, two groups of human volunteers, both consuming a normal diet, consumed several sticks of either a xylitol-sweetened chewing gum or a sucrose-sweetened chewing gum each day for one year. By the end of the year, the xylitol group had significantly fewer dental caries than the sugar group.

2. (a) and (b) The usefulness of xylitol as a substitute for sugar has been considered. Xylitol is not a suitable substitute in situations where reduction of calorie intake is indicated