

Mr. Stuart Leggatt, M.P.

Since this statement was attributed to Dr. Peter Newbury, my Department wrote to Dr. Newbury to ask for details of the cases in order that these cases be immediately pursued. We have now received Dr. Newbury's reply in which he points out that he was relaying heresay evidence which he has been unable to substantiate and, therefore, apologies for "having apparently raised a false alarm".

In view of the forum in which your question was asked, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

Please rest assured that we will most assiduously follow-up any suspected case of mercury poisoning to determine if the suspicions are substantiated.

Yours truly,

Marc Lalonde