



Government of
Northwest Territories

July 05, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
LANGEVIN BLOCK
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

MLA Concerns Respecting Cosmos 954 Effects on Health and Safety

I am writing to you to share concerns recently expressed by the Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. This riding was the location of much of the debris which was scattered over Great Slave Lake on January 24, 1978, when the former Soviet Union's satellite exploded upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere.

MLA Edjericon has raised concern that the crash and subsequent clean up through Operation Morning Light, which included local Indigenous harvesters, has caused higher rates of cancer among cleanup participants, and later, among local land users. While these events occurred over 45 years ago, there is public concern that radioactive material left from the crashed satellite remains a source of harm.

I am asking for your assistance to identify any information available from the Government of Canada, including past research that might address these concerns, and help to identify whether further research into the affects of the Cosmos 954 crash, and subsequent cleanup, is required.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caroline Cochrane".

Caroline Cochrane
Premier

- c. Members of the Legislative Assembly
Shaleen Woodward, Principal Secretary
Martin Goldney, Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs
Shawn McCann, Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs