Is melamine contamination an issue in Canadian infants?

Currently, there is an outbreak of renal stones and renal failure in very young children in China, associated with consumption of milk formula contaminated with melamine. Other dairy products, such as frozen yogurt, chocolate cookies and toffee candies, made in China and exported to other countries have been found to contain melamine.

Infant formula manufactured in China is not approved for sale in Canada. Health Canada has confirmed with the four major manufacturers of infant formula sold in Canada that they do not use any milk ingredients that come from China.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has commissioned this survey to assess if any presentations of renal stones and/or acute renal failure in Canadian children may have been caused by a melamine contamination.

I. Over the past 12 months:
1. Have parents consulted you about possible milk products contamination? Yes___, how many?____ No___
2. Have you seen any infants (less than one year) with renal stones and/or unexplained acute renal failure? Yes___ No___ If No, we thank you for participating in this survey.

II. If yes, how many cases in infants? Renal stones _____ Unexplained acute renal failure _____ Both _____

III. For each case you have seen, please complete this part of the survey (photocopies can be used).
1. Date of birth (day/month/year) ______________ Sex___ Age at presentation: ___ weeks ___ months
Child’s ethnicity (check all that apply): Aboriginal ___ Black ___ Caucasian ___
Asian ___, specify __________________ Other; specify __________________
Born in Canada? Yes___ No___, specify country___________________ age at arrival___________
Travel outside Canada within the past 12 months? Yes___, specify country __________________ No___

2. If renal stones, on what basis was the diagnosis made?
Findings on first urinalysis: Hematuria___ Proteinuria___ Leukocytes___ Other_________________
Any evidence of urinary tract infection? Yes___ No___
Any evidence of known causes of stones:
Yes ___ No ___ Unknown
Hypercalciuria ___ ___ ___ Distal renal tubular acidosis ___ ___ ___
Hyperoxaluria ___ ___ ___ Extreme prematurity ___ ___ ___
Cystinuria ___ ___ ___
Other causes : ________________________________________________
Results of abdominal ultrasounds: _____________________________________________
Results of other imaging: ____________________________________________________
Any family history of renal stones: _____________________________________________

3. If unexplained acute renal failure, on what basis was the diagnosis made?
Highest serum creatinine: ______ micromoles/L
Major investigations undertaken to determine cause: __________________________________

4. Progress and outcome: ____________________________________________________

5. Milk products originating from China used in the past 12 months? Yes___ Possibly___ No___

6. What do you feel was the most likely cause of the infant’s renal stones and/or acute renal failure?
__________________________________________________________________________________