



WINDSOR REGIONAL HOSPITAL
OUTSTANDING CARE—NO EXCEPTIONS!

CITY OF WINDSOR
 COUNCIL SERVICES

JUN 12 2012

RECEIVED

June 4, 2012

Mr. David Musyj
 President & CEO
 Windsor Regional Hospital
 1995 Lens Ave.
 Windsor, Ontario N8W 1L9

REVIEW - COMMENT	RECEIVED JUN 08 2012 MAYOR'S OFFICE	BRING FORWARD:
INFORMATION		COPY TO <i>Clerk</i>
FILE		

Dear David,

It has come to my attention that the City of Windsor is currently reconsidering the practice of community water fluoridation (CWF). This public health measure has benefited our city as well as millions of people around the world for over 60 years. Fluoride works by strengthening the enamel of teeth when ingested at the concentrations recommended by health experts. This benefit applies to people of all ages, including the elderly. For its low cost, fluoride benefits all residents in the community, regardless of socio-economic status.

Communities which have added fluoride to their municipal drinking water have seen a 20 – 50% reduction in the incidence of tooth decay (caries) both in the primary and permanent dentition. In contrast, communities that have removed fluoride from their water can expect a doubling of their decay rates over time. An increase in decay rates would result in dental/facial abscesses requiring urgent attention. This would definitely mean an increase in emergency room visits and operating room utilization in our hospitals. In an era where we are asking Ontarians to contain health care costs, the removal of fluoride from our community water would see an increase in these costs over time. Society's most vulnerable groups would be particularly at risk.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control declared CWF one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century. The Canadian Dental Association (2005) states that "50 years of extensive research throughout the world has consistently demonstrated the safety and effectiveness of fluoride in the prevention of dental caries". My concern is that a movement to remove fluoride from our community drinking water is a penny-wise, pound-foolish decision that will impact directly on the health care system.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Multari
 Chief, Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery & Dentistry
 Windsor Regional Hospital

- cc: Erie St. Clair LHIN
- The Honourable Dwight Duncan
- Teresa Piruzza, MPP (Windsor West)
- Mayor Eddie Francis
- Windsor City Councillors
- Dr. C. Frank, Essex County Dental Society
- Dr. M. Drkulec, President, Essex County Dental Society
- Dr. Gary Ing, Chief of Staff, WRH