

January 21, 2013

Mr. Mayor and council members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf of safe drinking water. My name is Tia Toutant and I'm here tonight to make a case for safe water as a parent of a child injured by ingested fluoride.

Imagine my surprise when I took my three year old son to his first dentist appointment and learned that he had DENTAL FLUOROSIS. When I asked our dentist what it was, I was told it is a condition due to an over exposure to fluoride. How does a three year old get over exposed to fluoride?

We did not use toothpaste with fluoride because he was so young and didn't know how to properly spit.

I was stunned and saddened to learn he'd been poisoned by fluoride and perplexed as to how he got this condition. After being breastfed, we transitioned to infant formula that we mixed with our fluoridated tap water. I have since learned that fluoride from fluoridated tap water can damage formula-fed infants' teeth by causing dental fluorosis and that **minorities are at an increased risk** of this damage<sup>a</sup>.

Now, at the age of 7 my son has had many cavities and fillings - **water fluoridation not only caused his teeth permanent damage but it failed to protect him from dental decay**, too. As his adult teeth are growing in we can see the effects of fluorosis on them. We don't know what this fluoride poisoning has done to his bones, his brain or his other tissues. And we are not convinced that this is only a cosmetic concern as fluoridation promoters say – to think that ingesting fluoride has damaged his teeth cells but no other cells in his body...?!

How do I protect him from this? How do I limit his exposure to fluoride, which he obviously needs and deserves? I can't afford expensive filter systems. I can't afford the costly dental bills to cover-up the damage ingested fluoride has caused. These costs will only grow as he grows into adulthood. And every day I am forced to expose him to even more fluoride through our drinking water and in the bath.

I beg you to understand that fluoridation is not safe and not effective. It causes damage to some people. It damaged my son. We need safe municipal water, not water that is medicated with fluoride. Fluoride is easy to get for those that want it but next to impossible to avoid when it is in our water. It needs to be removed from Windsor's drinking water so future generations do not have to suffer the embarrassment and high dental health costs that my son will face.

Thank you for your time

Tia Toutant

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<sup>a</sup> [http://www.fluoridealert.org/studies/dental\\_fluorosis02/](http://www.fluoridealert.org/studies/dental_fluorosis02/)

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