



December 5, 2011

Mr. John W. Stuart,
Chief Operating Officer
Windsor Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 1625, Station A
4545 Rhodes Dr.
Windsor, ON N9A 5T7

CITY OF WINDSOR
COUNCIL SERVICES

JAN 24 2013

RECEIVED

Re: Community Water Fluoridation

Dear Mr. Stuart,

The Ontario Dental Association supports water fluoridation as a safe and effective means of preventing dental decay. Since community water fluoridation began in 1945, it has, and continues to be, studied in Canada and around the world. The results prove it is safe, effective and cost-efficient. Supporting water fluoridation is one more way to promote better health-care for everyone in your community.

We want you to know the credible facts about water fluoridation. Recognized as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the twentieth century, more than 90 national and international health organizations endorse the use of fluoride at recommended levels.

What the experts say:

- The Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health:
"Fluoride in drinking water is also safe."
- The Canadian Dental Association:
"CDA supports fluoridation of municipal drinking water as a safe, effective and economical means of preventing dental caries (cavities) in all age groups."
- Health Canada - Office of the Chief Dental Officer:
"Experts confirm the benefits of fluoride for dental health."
- Ontario Dental Association – Dr Harry Höediono, President:
"Community water fluoridation is a great equalizer. It doesn't discriminate against age, socioeconomic status, education or income."
- Ontario Medical Association – Dr. MacLeod, President:
"Ontario's doctors want their patients to know the process of adding fluoride to our drinking water in Ontario has been and is safe."
- The Centre for Disease Control (CDC):
"The CDC has recognized the fluoridation of drinking water to prevent dental decay as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century."

- The World Health Organization (WHO):
"That universal access to fluoride for dental health is a part of the basic human right to life."
- The U.S. Surgeon General:
"Community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay in a community."

Seventy percent of the population in Ontario currently has fluoridated water. In none of these regions have there been proven health, water quality or public safety issues with respect to the addition of acceptable levels of fluoride in public drinking water. Current best science, world -wide, supports community water fluoridation as being safe for people and the environment.

Experts agree there is a need to strongly support the use of fluorides, including fluoridation of community water supplies. As this measure alone is insufficient for high risk groups, governments should also incorporate fluoride varnishes and remineralization agents into dental programs.

Numerous independent studies from around the world confirm the benefits and safety of public water fluoridation. It is important to note the overwhelming evidence of the safety and benefits of water fluoridation and the strong support it has from the scientific community and international health organizations.

Health Canada's website states they "support water fluoridation as a public health measure to prevent dental decay," and that "the big advantage of water fluoridation is that it benefits all residents in a community regardless of age, socioeconomic status, education or employment."

The cost of water fluoridation is far less than the cost of remedying the effects of its absence in your community. The American Dental Association estimates that every dollar invested in water fluoridation saves 38 dollars in dental costs.

We encourage Councillors to take the time to review the facts about this important issue. It will make a tremendous difference to residents in the City of Windsor. Please visit the Ontario Dental Association's website at www.youroralhealth.ca for more information, or do not hesitate to contact us for further assistance.

When making decisions about public health policy it is important to listen to the world wide evidence gathered from credible, unbiased and recognized sources of scientific information. Anything else would be simply an opinion. We cannot rely on opinion when it comes to the best health of our citizens.

Sincerely,



Dr. Harry Høediono, President
Ontario Dental Association
Your Partner in Practice