



**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health,
Public Health
393 University Avenue, 21st Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2M2

Telephone: (416) 212-3831
Facsimile: (416) 325-8412

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste en chef,
santé public
393 avenue University, 21^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2M2

Téléphone: (416) 212-3831
Télécopieur: (416) 325-8412

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Dear Mayor Gary McNamara and Councillors of the Town of Tecumseh,

I am writing today in full support of the recommendation made in the Oral Health Report (2018) by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) for the re-introduction of community water fluoridation in the Town of Tecumseh, which, if passed, will contribute significantly to improved oral health and community health outcomes for your community and those in the City of Windsor and the Town of Lasalle.

Good oral health is an important part of overall health, well-being and quality of life. The importance of maintaining good oral health should not be taken lightly. Left untreated, oral health issues such as tooth decay and gum disease can contribute to other disease(s) including heart disease and stroke, diabetes and respiratory infections.

The benefits of water fluoridation are well documented. There is consensus from national and international professional health organizations, including Health Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Dental Association, the Canadian Medical Association, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization that the use of fluoride at recommended levels prevents tooth decay. Research shows that fluoridated drinking water reduces the number of cavities in children's teeth, which contributes to their healthy development. Reductions of tooth decay have also been observed in adults and seniors who reside in communities with fluoridated water.

Within our communities, lower income and other health-disadvantaged populations face a greater prevalence and impact of tooth decay and less equitable access to dental care. Services to prevent oral health issues may be less accessible to people without private dental insurance or those living on low incomes. In the absence of community water fluoridation, oral health inequities are further worsened.

The findings of the WECHU Oral Health Report (2018) show a concerning decline in the oral health status of the residents in Windsor-Essex County. Of particular concern is the oral health data of children which indicates growing issues and greater needs compared to the rest of the Province.

The health benefits of drinking water fluoridation extend to all residents in a community, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, education or employment. I urge you as municipal leaders to act on this growing issue by supporting the recommendation of the WECHU Oral Health Report (2018) to re-introduce fluoridation of drinking water in the Town of Tecumseh. Your decision will influence the oral health of the communities in the Town of Tecumseh, the Town of Lasalle and City of Windsor.

Yours truly,

David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health