



917 Lesperance Rd.
Tecumseh, Ontario
Canada, N8W 1W9

January 2019

RE: WECHU Letter of Support for increase in oral health services/funding

Dear Mayor McNamera and Council,

I write on behalf of the Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS), in support of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU)'s report on oral health and their recommendations to improve oral health status in Windsor-Essex. We strongly support their proposal and the focus on enhancing programming, expanding advocacy efforts and increasing funding to prevent poor oral health in our community.

As an organization that works directly with children/youth, and in particular those who live in low-income households, we see firsthand the impact of poor hygiene, unmet dental health needs, dental emergencies and problems getting dental health services. Families with inadequate income typically have difficulty in meeting basic costs, including struggling to pay for food, accommodation, clothing, health care, utilities, and dental care if they have no insurance or have to pay out of pocket. This can add to a family's level of stress.

Oral health is vital to general health and overall well-being at every stage of life. Despite this fact, many residents in Windsor and Essex County lack the support they need to maintain good oral health and face considerable barriers to accessing services. As a key community partner, WECAS understands the importance of this issue as it continues to affect the children and families we serve.

We urge the City of Windsor to endorse the recommendations from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to improve oral health status in our region.

Sincerely,

Derrick Drouillard, BSW, MSW, RSW
Executive Director