



January 2019

To Mayor McNamara and Tecumseh Council,

The Ontario Dental Assistants Association (ODAA) represents dental assistants across the province and is the certifying body for dental assistants in Ontario. In its capacity representing oral health care professionals, the ODAA is committed to the health and well-being of all residents of Ontario. Please accept this letter of support for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU)'s Oral Health Report 2018 Update and the accompanying recommendations, including the reintroduction of community water fluoridation in the City of Windsor and municipalities in the County of Essex as a key prevention strategy for dental caries.

The fluoridation of drinking water is one of the significant public health achievements of the 20th century. Community water fluoridation is a safe and effective means of preventing dental decay. There is a great deal of scientific evidence to support this claim and health and dental organizations worldwide endorse the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation.

Many Ontarians do not have dental coverage, and community water fluoridation, at the very minimum, provides benefits to all those who drink community water. Poor oral health can contribute to diabetes, heart disease, respiratory ailments, and other health concerns, and tooth decay is one of the primary health concerns related to children. Community water fluoridation programs play a crucial role in improving the overall health of Canadians and have resulted in significant decreases in tooth decay rates with 35%-50% decrease in children and 30% decrease in adults.

The ODAA strongly supports community water fluoridation as a benefit to not only oral health but to our overall health. If you require more information about ODAA and our support for WECHU's Oral Health Report 2018 Update and the accompanying recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone at 519-679-2566 or by email at info@odaa.org.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hibbs, PhD
Executive Director

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