

Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry Association canadienne de la santé dentaire publique

www.caphd.ca

January, 2019

To: Mayor Gary McNamara and Council, 917 Lesperance Rd. Tecumseh, Ontario Canada, N8W 1W9

Re: Community Water Fluoridation

The health and oral health of most Canadians has improved significantly over the last 100 years and most of this improvement is attributable to advances in public health. There are various public health achievements that led to this remarkable feat. The fluoridation of drinking water has been recognized as one of these remarkable achievements by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and by the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA). Community water fluoridation remains a major factor responsible for the decline in dental caries (tooth decay) during the second half of the 20th century.

Fluoride is a mineral that exists naturally in virtually all water supplies. Communities across Canada adjust the amount of fluoride in their community water source to levels that protect teeth from decay. Canadians have been doing this for nearly 70 years. That experience (and hundreds of studies and international experiences) demonstrates that fluoridation of drinking water remains safe and the most effective means of achieving community-wide exposure to cavity prevention effects of fluoride.

The Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) is the national voice of dental public health in Canada, representing more than 180 primary oral health clinicians, scientists, educators, administrators, health promoters, and policy makers from across Canada and abroad. As an organization dedicated to dental public health in Canada, CAPHD promotes the use of scientific evidence. Below is a list of web-resources in support of water fluoridation from national and international experts who have carefully weighed the evidence.

- Health Canada
- <u>Center for Disease Control</u>
- University of York: Systematic Review on Water Fluoridation
- Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council

CAPHD recognizes the benefits of community water fluoridation and, based on this current evidence, recommend it as a safe, effective and economical public health measure. In addition, community water fluoridation is indispensable when it comes to improving the oral health of disadvantaged populations. The City of Calgary is already seeing poor oral health outcomes since removing fluoride from their water in 2011. Let's protect the health of the community by continuing the fluoridation water in the Windsor-Essex County.

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Sincerely,

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