

Pediatric Dental Specialists of Windsor-
Essex County

January 17, 2019

Mayor McNamara,
Members of Tecumseh County Council

I would like to speak to you on behalf of the pediatric dental specialists of Windsor-Essex County. We are witness to the severity of the oral health problems in our community. The Health Unit report is sobering. It has identified Windsor-Essex County to have a tooth decay rate two times that of any other comparable city in Ontario. What is more sobering is realizing that most of the children that pediatric dentists see are under the age of 4.

Our slides will clearly show you what we see every day in our practices. These are young children that are suffering from pain and infection. The volume of patients we are seeing makes it impossible to treat all of them as quickly as they should be treated. These children are all from our community.

Our local pediatric dental specialists would like to emphasize the importance of supporting the Health Unit's recommendations. Although public discussion often becomes focused upon community water fluoridation, the dental health problems in our community are complex. Fluoride supplementation to municipal water is an important component of the sound preventive program outlined in the recommendations of the report. In addition, it is imperative that funding for early dental education continue, that every child sees a dentist by their first birthday and as a community, we aggressively insist that the provincial government more appropriately fund the Healthy Smiles Ontario program.(HSO) Currently, it is through the generous and often volunteer services of the dental community by both specialists and general dentists, that these children receive care.

I thank you for the opportunity to be here and I encourage you to look deeper. What do we want for our community and especially for our children?

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Durocher, Dr. Alex Meriano, Dr. Thomas Oper, Dr. James Starr, Dr. Richard Tann and Dr. Anne Young