

Mayor McNamara, members of council.

I am the chair of the Windsor Essex Chapter of the Council of Canadians.

Some of our major work is connected to water, be it protecting lakes and rivers from contamination by toxic oil spills etc., lack of government overview for construction projects, like pipelines, bringing awareness to past dumping of mercury by the pulp and paper industry at Grassy Narrows, fighting bottled water companies for pumping water from our aquifers for profit.

Locally we held demonstrations and lobbied to have the petcoke piles removed from the bank of the Detroit River, and we took 750 litres of water to Detroit when the city was turning water off to low income residents who could not afford to pay their bills.

Through our Blue Planet Project we have worked helping citizens of other nations take back their water systems from unscrupulous corporations.

Between 2008/2009, our national chair Maude Barlow served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the United Nations.

As you can see we are passionate about clean safe water.

This brings me to the Health Unit's request to re-introduce Hydrofluorsilicic acid (HFSA) into the water supply of our municipalities the majority of which, about 90%, ends up in our lakes and rivers.

This is a great way for the fertilizer industry to dispose of their waste and get paid to do it.

HFSA is:

- Classified by the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) as synthetic, persistent, bio accumulative and toxic.
- An industrial byproduct never regulated under Canada's Food & Drug Act.
- Co-contaminated with lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic elements according to National Sanitation Foundation certificates of analysis.
- Prohibited from direct environmental disposal by the Hazardous Waste Act.

5 years ago Dr. Hyman told us that somehow miraculously this toxic chemical is converted to Fluoride, he called it hydrolyze, but he was not clear as to what happens to the arsenic, lead, mercury radionuclides and other toxic elements. Do these accumulate

in our bodies, like some studies have found? How much lead is too much? Keep in mind Flint Michigan. What affect will this having on our bodies? What is the affect on the environment, our lakes and rivers?

I am not a scientist but I do know there are alternative ways of protecting teeth from decay and it is not by adding a toxic chemical to our water.

When we presented to Windsor City Council some councillors suggested that this was a Social Justice issue and that we need to think of the children. I say that it is a Human Rights issue. That adding Hydrofluorsilicic acid to the water supply of a whole population contravenes our right to clean, safe water.

We are just now finding out more about Doug Ford's Bill 66 and changes to the Clean Water Act and Great Lakes Protection Act. Will these changes allow municipalities to be off the hook for any harm to health and the environment?

In conclusion, the Council of Canadians is asking Tecumseh Council not to approve the re-introduction of this or any other toxic chemical into our potable water system.

Sincerely,

Douglas Hayes
The Council of Canadians
Windsor Essex Chapter

