

Dear Mayor and Members of Windsor City Council;

It has been brought to my attention that the city will be determining next week whether to continue its water fluoridation program or not. Having worked in the Dental Professions for close to 30 years, and having seen firsthand the detrimental effects of dental caries, I believe the benefits the community obtains from being blessed to have water fluoridation - definitely outweighs the cost of continuing the service. Many countries and rural settings unfortunately cannot afford to implement water fluoridation, and the evidence of their dental disease is significantly greater than that found within a progressive city such as Windsor.

I attended a meeting last February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and was frustrated with the emotional presentations that have been well rehearsed by those wishing to have fluoride removed from our water. I have no doubt that some of the individuals who presented have had genuine dental issues with their children, however I feel that for factual information to be presented, a well documented investigation as to their alleged fluorosis would need to be validated. For those present who are not knowledgeable of conditions such as amelogenesis imperfect and dentinogenesis imperfect, these conditions can present visual changes to tooth enamel and may be a genetic issue. As well, childhood illness, fevers, use of antibiotics, nutrition etc. can also present visible clinical changes/ deficits to the teeth similar to fluorosis, -- however fluoride may not have even been a rationale reason for the clinical condition. Only a detailed medical and clinical history would assist in truly determining the cause.

The WHO and the FOI World Dental Federation jointly formulated goals for oral health to be achieved by the year 2000 which were; For the new millennium, new oral health goals are urgently needed not only to strengthen dental caries control and prevention activities, but also to address other significant components of the oral disease burden such as periodontal health conditions, oral mucosal lesions, oral precancer and cancer, craniofacial trauma, pain and oral health-related quality of life. Such global goals for oral health will assist regions, countries and local health care planners to develop preventive programmes that are targeted at populations and high-risk groups and to further improve the quality of oral health systems.

The current move is found in the Policy Statements, Promoting Oral Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century " A Call to Action" as outlined fully ( website) [http://www.iadr.com/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid-3566#\\_UQKtDCex-U4](http://www.iadr.com/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid-3566#_UQKtDCex-U4)

In summary;

The Goals of the Global Oral Health Goals, Objectives and Targets for the Year 2020 are:

- To promote oral health and to minimise the impact of diseases of oral and craniofacial origin on general health and psychosocial development, giving emphasis to promoting oral health in populations with the greatest burden of such conditions and diseases;
- To minimise the impact of oral and craniofacial manifestations of general diseases on individuals and society, and to use these manifestations for early diagnosis, prevention and effective management of systemic diseases.

Their stance on Water Fluoridation:

#### FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

The International Association for Dental Research (IADR), considering that dental caries (tooth decay) ranks among the most prevalent chronic diseases worldwide; and recognizing that the consequences of tooth decay include pain, suffering, infection, tooth loss, and the subsequent need for costly restorative treatment; and taking into account that over 50 years of research have clearly demonstrated its efficacy and safety; and noting that numerous national and international health-related organizations endorse fluoridation of water supplies; fully endorses and strongly recommends the practice of water fluoridation for improving the oral health of nations.

During the meeting of February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 it was mentioned that should the Windsor water fluoridation program cease to exist - that the funds used to currently operate the program would be transferred to the Health Unit to implement other preventative programs etc. This sounds very nice in theory, however having worked at the Dental Department of the Health Unit, and having provided services to all the Windsor Essex County Schools that the Health Unit provides for; there is no program or service that could be offered that would be as far reaching, as simplistic to deliver, as cost effective and as beneficial as water fluoridation.

If individuals were given fluoride tablets and or fluoride drops in lieu of water fluoridation as was done in the past and is still able to be prescribed today in 2013. We will have a much worse situation on our hands, who will monitor this? Who will educate the population on the need for fluoride supplements? How will those who need it the most obtain it? The risk of over dose it great .....The risk of increased dental disease is a given. Please maintaining the progressive city that you have assisted Windsor to become-----maintain the water fluoridation program that we currently are so fortunate to have.

Gratefully,

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