

May 25, 2018

Dear Councillors:

I am writing in support of the recommendations made by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health to improve the oral health of the Windsor-Essex communities.

As a general dentist who works at a Community Health Centre, I understand the importance of community wide preventive measures such as community water fluoridation. This is a safe and cost-effective way to improve the oral health status of everyone in the community. I have seen how easily people living in non-fluoridated areas get cavities- something that could have been prevented. The data from WECHU's 2018 Oral Health Report support the effectiveness of water fluoridation as decay rates in children increased since water fluoridation ceased in 2013.

Regarding an individual's right to choose what is in their water, community wide public health policies are necessary to achieve health equity and improve the health status of the population. Public health initiatives help everyone in the community, but especially the most vulnerable who face several barriers to achieving good health.

The oral health report shows that the children of Windsor and Essex County have higher urgent dental care needs than the rest of the province and that the oral health status is deteriorating over time. To improve the oral health outcomes of the population, there must be population based preventive strategies. Community water fluoridation, increasing access to oral health services and increasing funding to public dental programs are the strategies that will lead to the improvement of the oral health of the people of Windsor and Essex County. Please support the recommendations.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Mohanta".

Dr. Sanjukta Mohanta B.Sc. DDS
Past President, Halton-Peel Dental Association