



May 29, 2018

Essex County Council  
Essex County Civic Centre  
360 Fairview Ave. West, Upper Level  
Essex, ON  
N8M 1Y6

Dear City Council,

**Re: Community Water Fluoridation**

On behalf of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), the collective national voice of more than 29,000 registered dental hygienists working in Canada, including over 225 CDHA members in Windsor and surrounding area, I am writing to express our strong support for the Essex County Council to encourage municipalities in the region to re-introduce community water fluoridation as a key prevention strategy for dental caries. The residents of Windsor and surrounding communities have been at a significant disadvantage after the City's 2013 decision to discontinue the addition of fluoride to the public water supplies.

Research demonstrates poor oral health outcomes following the cessation of water fluoridation. For more than 70 years, Canadian communities have been adjusting the amount of fluoride in their community water source to levels that protect teeth from decay. That experience (and hundreds of studies and international experiences) validates that fluoridation of drinking water remains safe and the most effective means of achieving community-wide exposure to the cavity prevention effects of fluoride. Leading health authorities, including Health Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, and the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry, continue to support water fluoridation as a means of preventing dental decay to all residents regardless of age, socioeconomic status, education, employment or dental insurance status.

Following the cessation of community water fluoridation in 2013, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU) committed to looking at community oral health data over a period of five years (2013-2018) and consulted with experts in to develop the [Oral Health Report \(2018 update\)](#). CDHA strongly supports the WECHU Board of Health recommendations that pertain to community water fluoridation, including:

- *The City of Windsor to re-introduce community water fluoridation as a key prevention strategy for dental caries; and*
- *Municipalities in the county of Essex to introduce or re-introduce community water fluoridation as a key prevention strategy for dental caries.*

As you continue to discuss community water fluoridation, I urge you to carefully consider the overwhelming evidence that supports community water fluoridation. CDHA strongly encourages you to protect the health of your community by continuing this critical public health measure.

Sincerely,

Ondina Love, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

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