

September 21, 2018

Warden Tom Bain and Members of Essex County Council  
Corporation of the County of Essex  
360 Fairview Avenue West  
Essex, On N8M 1Y6

Dear Warden Bain and Members of Council,

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit cordially invites you to attend our workshop this fall entitled, "*A Tale of Two Countries – Access to Oral Health Care in Canada and the USA*". This event will be held on October 12, 2018 at the Fogolar Furlan from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Oral health is vital to general health and overall well-being at every stage of life. Unfortunately, nearly 1 in 4 residents in Windsor-Essex County report having no dental insurance coverage and many individuals go without seeing a dental professional, or visit the hospital emergency department. As well, we know through our 2016 Community Needs Assessment, that the need to improve dental services for adults, through free or low cost services, was a common theme in the older adult and low-income focus groups. Dental care for adults and seniors is not covered by OHIP, and we routinely receive daily calls and emails from people in pain.

By bringing in experts to speak on this topic, we hope to engage community leaders to be part of this event to share information and stimulate discussion on access to oral health care. This workshop also supports the recommendations of the WECHU [Oral Health Report: 2018 Update](#) released earlier this spring.

It would be an honour to have you, and members of Essex County Council, attend as key leaders and decision makers in our community and be a part of our day to listen, learn and share your expertise on this important topic; "Helping to shape the future of oral health in Windsor-Essex". For more information or to register, visit [wechu.org/oralhealthworkshop](http://wechu.org/oralhealthworkshop)

Sincerely,



Theresa Marentette  
Chief Executive Officer

c: Mayor Drew Dilkins and members of Windsor County Council