

March 17 2011

Dear Chair Carr, Mayors and Councillors:

With new research confirming negative human health impacts to people (especially children) from consuming too much fluoride and with more municipalities having enacted or considering a ban on municipal water fluoridation, BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association, OakvilleGreen Conservation Association, Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources and MiltonGreen, are urging Regional Council to put this issue on the Council agenda.

Some of the most recent developments on the fluoride issue are listed below.

As we have stated before, we are not “anti-Fluoride”. We agree with the science that shows fluoride can be effective in preventing caries when applied topically as toothpaste or through topical application in a dentist’s office. However, recent studies demonstrate that ingesting it is not effective in preventing tooth decay and it is harmful to human health and the environment.

Municipalities rely on the advice of Health Canada that fluoride is safe, however, Health Canada leaves it up to municipalities to decide whether to fluoridate water or not. We note that this leaves municipalities liable for the negative human health impacts that studies show fluoride can cause from fluorosis that discolours and damages tooth enamel (costing parents thousands of dollars in dental bills), to lowering children’s IQs, thyroid dysfunction, hip fractures and an increased risk of bone cancer.

According to the experts, fluorosis in teeth is simply a visible symptom of overexposure to fluoride that people ingest in their daily lives as pesticide residue on food, from toothpaste, from dental procedures and through drinking water.

According to Halton’s last four oral surveys, this Region’s children are suffering from a significant incidence of fluorosis. In talking to some Regional Council members we have found they have children with fluorosis and also that some of their dentists are against the practice of fluoridating municipal water. We encourage you to talk to each other and learn from your own experiences rather than rely on outdated reassurances from Health Canada.

We have been told you are awaiting a report from Health Canada on the safety of fluoride. Unfortunately, we expect this panel will give the same pat reassurances as similar panels in the past because it is comprised of people who belong to professional organizations that publicly endorse fluoridation of municipal water.

We are attaching a recent letter from Miloslav Nosal, MSc., Pd.D., Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Calgary who was part of an Expert Panel for Water Fluoridation appointed in 1997 by the City of Calgary who expresses the same concerns about professional bias clouding a decision that should have been based on analysis of the latest scientific studies.

We are also attaching a Globe and Mail article from April 2010 about Statistics Canada data that shows there is virtually no difference in dental cavity rates between Ontario, which has one of the highest water fluoridation rates in the country compared to Quebec that has one of the lowest.

Recent Developments:

- ③ Calgary City Council voted to end water Fluoridation in February 2011.
- ③ Take a minute to view this Alberta T.V. news show debate between a family doctor arguing against municipal water fluoridation and a dentist arguing for it. http://www.albertaprimetime.com/Stories.aspx?pd=1874&FlashVars=Video/PTG_011111.flv
- ③ The American Pediatric Society, the American Dental Association, and the Centre For Disease Control all recommend making infant formula without fluoridated water to avoid fluorosis (what should new mothers in Halton do?).
- ③ The Journal of the American Dental Association (JADA) published another article confirming mixing infant formula with fluoridated water puts babies at risk of fluorosis in January 2011.
- ③ The 25th study linking fluoride to lowered IQ is published in the Journal of Hazardous Material (December 2010).
- ③ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends lowering water fluoride levels to stem the rising rates of dental fluorosis from all sources.
- ③ A study showing fluoridated water boosts lead absorption in lab animals' bones, teeth and blood, as reported by Sawan, et al. (Toxicology 2/2010). Earlier studies already show children's blood-lead-levels are higher in fluoridated communities, reported Sawan's research team.
- ③ The Cancer Prevention Coalition reports, "[Danger of Bone Cancer From Fluoride in Toothpaste, Drinking Water](#)".
- ③ The U.S. National Research Council's report to the Environmental Protection Agency on fluoride toxicity included these negative human health impacts: suppression of thyroid function at levels now experienced in the U.S. population, neurotoxicity, including lowering of IQ in children, and increased risk of bone cancer seen in animal and human epidemiology studies.
- ③ The Centre For Disease Control in the U.S. reports 40.6% of all U.S. 15-year-olds suffer from dental fluorosis.
- ③ A July 2009 Journal of the American Dental Association research paper reveals similar tooth decay rates regardless of water fluoride content. However, fluoride-damaged teeth (dental fluorosis) rates increased along with water fluoride levels, according to analysis by Kathleen Thiessen, PhD, SENES Oak Ridge, Inc. - "Fluoridation No Benefit; Definite Harm" here: http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/Clinch_2009_No_Benefit_Definite_Harm.pdf

The undersigned groups are appealing to you to take this issue seriously, put it on the Council's agenda, and act in the best interest of Halton's residents'. Please end the fluoridation of Halton's water.

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