



HE-D1-1

October 16, 2012

Region of Peel  
 10 Peel Centre Drive  
 Suite A and B  
 Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
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Human Services	
Peel Living	

Regional Municipality of Peel  
 Office of the Regional Chair

OCT 22 2012

RECEIVED

**Community Water Fluoridation**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Peel Regional Councillors:

The ODA was recently invited to a meeting to discuss community water fluoridation, and admittedly was surprised given Regional Council's very sound and recent decision to continue providing the Region's residents with the benefits of water fluoridation. We are pleased the meeting did not proceed, and do not believe there is a need for such a meeting to be re-scheduled.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for the knowledge-based decision made to continue to fluoridate the community water supply of Peel Region. The ODA believes that optimally fluoridated water is necessary to ensure the oral health and therefore overall health of all Ontarians. We know that the cost of prevention is far less than treatment. For every one dollar spent fluoridating the community water supply, the American Dental Association estimates that 38 dollars will be saved in dental costs.

At a time when every level of government is faced with economic realities and tough decisions to cost-control, I am pleased the Region of Peel has recognized the great value continuing to add fluoride to the community water supply has to all socio-economic demographics, and to the taxpayers of the Region. Dental disease disproportionately affects lower socio-economic individuals who, along with immigrants from countries with sub-optimal access to preventive interventions and oral health care services, bear the ravages of an avoidable disease. We commend you for ensuring that the economic disparity that exists in your communities does not act as a barrier to oral health in terms of access to optimally fluoridated water. Preventing dental disease also benefits the Region and taxpayers who fund dental treatment programs provided to various social assistance recipients.

As you are likely aware, Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, released a report this year entitled "Oral Health – More Than Just Cavities". In her report, Dr. King repeatedly stresses the importance of prevention. Dr. King notes that: "All Ontarians should have access to optimally fluoridated drinking water. Fluoridation is highly effective and can reach large populations who benefit from it." The Ontario Dental Association applauds the Region of Peel for recognizing the value of water fluoridation, and listening to the many provincial, national and international experts and authorities who stand behind its efficacy and safety.

Fluoride is a fiscally responsible, safe, and effective means to prevent tooth decay. Your decision to ensure Peel Region's water is optimally fluoridated to help prevent dental disease will benefit residents of all ages and incomes.

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
 DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

Date: October 16, 2012  
To: Mr. Emil Kolb  
Re: Community Water Fluoridation  
Pg: 2 of 2

HE-DI-2

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Should you have any questions relating to this or any other dental related matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



Dr. Arthur T. Worth  
President

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