March 4, 2015

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

Dear Dr. Hoskins:

Re Community Water Fluoridation:

On January 23, 2015 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached resolution from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding Community Water Fluoridation. The following motion was passed:

Motion No: 2015-3

Moved by: David Inglis  
Seconded by: Kevin Eccles

“That the Board of Health receives the correspondence as circulated and that the Board of Health support the resolution from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit urging the Province of Ontario to amend the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act to require community water fluoridation for all municipal water systems (when source-water levels are below the Health Canada-recommended level of .07 mg/L), and further that the governing body that initiates the legislation be responsible for any costs incurred to implement such systems.”

Carried

Sincerely,

Hazel Lynn MD, FCFP, MHSc  
Medical Officer of Health

Cc: All Ontario Boards of Health

Encl.
December 18, 2014

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Dr. Hoskins:

On December 18, 2014, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health passed the following resolution regarding community water fluoridation:

WHEREAS global health experts and evidence support community water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay; and

WHEREAS providing fluoride via community water offers the positive benefits equally for everyone in the community; and

WHEREAS individuals in the community of lower socio-economic status suffer a more significant burden of poor health; and

WHEREAS Windsor-Essex has a higher than average number of individuals living in low income compared to the province; and

WHEREAS the relationship between poor oral health and risks associated with childhood development are known; and

WHEREAS the relationship between poor oral health and poor physical and mental health is clear;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Windsor Essex County Health Unit recommends that the Province of Ontario amend the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act to require community water fluoridation for all municipal water systems (when source-water levels are below the Health Canada-recommended level of 0.7 mg/L) to prevent dental caries.

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Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Yours very truly,

Gary McNamara  
Chair, Board of Health

Dr. Gary M. Kirk  
Associate Medical Officer of Health and CEO

cc: Board Members, Windsor-Essex Board of Health

Local MPPs
Mary Brennan, Director, Council Services (distribution to County Councillors)
Becky Murray, City Council Services (distribution to City Councillors)
Ms. Monika Turner, Director of Policy, AMO
Dr. David Mowat, Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health
The Honourable Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Dr. Jerry Smith, President, Ontario Dental Association
Dr. Charles Frank and Dr. Lesli Hapak, Board Members, Ontario Dental Association
Dr. Matt Duronio, President, Essex County Dental Society
Dr. Peter Cooney, Canadian Oral Health Advisor, Public Health Agency of Canada
Dr. Haider Hasnan, President, Essex County Medical Society
Dr. Peter Donnelly, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario
Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry
Ms. Sue Makin, President, The Ontario Public Health Association
Ms. Amy MacDonald, Co-Chair, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
Mr. Gordon Fleming, Manager of Public Health Issues, alPHA
Mr. Adam Vasey, Director, Pathway to Potential
Ontario Boards of Health