



My name is Richard Bohay and I am the Acting Director for Dentistry and Acting Vice Dean in the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. I hold a D.M.D. degree from the University of Saskatchewan and a M.Sc. Degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Western Ontario.

The University of Western Ontario has a long tradition of excellence and is well-respected nationally and internationally. The medical school was founded in 1881 and the dental school some 42 years ago.

We at Schulich teach critical thinking and encourage our students to apply these concepts to everything they hear and read. But, we are also proud of our faculty who are training tomorrow's health care professionals with an evidence-based curriculum: a curriculum that articulates the benefits of community water fluoridation. The scientific literature; the well-conducted science, the peer-reviewed science; tells us that community water fluoridation is the best way to protect our communities from dental disease, and this is what we teach our students.

While the services we provide in the dental school are not free, the fees are lower than fees charged in a private office. If not for the dental school clinics, many of our patients would be unable to afford the costs of dental care. Our patients include senior citizens, uninsured working adults and children who would otherwise be unable to afford dental care.

While government programs such as Ontario Works and the Ontario Disabilities Support Program provide important support for dental care there is no universal dental care program for all. Because of this, we are extremely proud of our outreach community service programs. With the dedicated dentists, assistants, hygienists and students who volunteer their time, along with the support of many local community service clubs, we are able to deliver some dental services in the community to qualified adults and children at no cost. I can tell you that these programs are already over-subscribed and we are unable to provide care to all that would benefit from them.

We all know the best way to manage a disease is to prevent it. For decades, the dental profession has been a leader in promoting preventive oral health care both in the office and in the community. Community based water fluoridation is a foundation in preventing dental disease. Should London decide to eliminate drinking water fluoridation, I expect that dental disease will increase and so too will the need for more dental treatment.

We respectfully ask that you recommend the ongoing fluoridation of drinking water in London as supported by the scientific literature, dental and medical experts and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. Failing to do so is likely to increase the burden of dental disease for those who cannot afford dental treatment, including those patients we treat in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Clinics.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted to the City of London on January 16, 2012
By Richard Bohay, DMD, MSc, MRCD(C)
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