

myspeakingpoints\_fluoridetownhall

My name is Sean Unwin a resident of St. Thomas.

Dr. Robert MacGregor, President of the Canadian Dental Association has recently been quoted as saying.

"CDA supports the fluoridation of community drinking water as a safe, effective and economical means of preventing tooth decay in all age groups.

For children under six years, the ingestion of excessive amounts of fluoride through swallowing fluoride tooth paste will increase their exposure to ingested fluoride and may increase their risk of developing dental fluorosis."

A different article, with no mention of Dr. MacGregor, is quoted as saying, ""to avoid permanent tooth discoloration, the Canadian Dental Association advises against fluoride supplement use for children before their permanent teeth have erupted, at about 6 or 7 years old." [http://www.orgsites.com/ny/nyscof/\\_pgg8.php3](http://www.orgsites.com/ny/nyscof/_pgg8.php3)

It is surprising to me that such an astute organization such as the CDA would support one method, that being water, of ingesting fluoridation which residents cannot opt out of while having warnings on another method which can be opted out of by residents through their consumer purchases. The warning for toothpaste is for a pea sized sampling or more. Based on other products of all sorts with a similar dosage warning should there not be a child-proof cap on toothpaste?

Allow me to point out where the CDA's position is, "the appropriate use of fluoride may help all Canadians maintain optimal oral health", that the keyword here is "may". There is not any substantiated proof that water fluoridation definitively reduces dental caries, as pointed out by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care:

"the balance of evidence suggests that rates of dental decay are lower in fluoridated than non-fluoridated communities. The magnitude of the effect is not large in absolute terms, is often not statistically significant and may not be of clinical significance."

Shortly thereafter the report states, "Canadian studies do not provide systematic evidence that water fluoridation is effective in reducing decay in contemporary child populations. The few studies of communities where fluoridation has been withdrawn do not suggest significant increases in dental caries as a result." [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry\\_reports/fluoridation/fluoridation.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/fluoridation/fluoridation.html)

Furthermore, the amount of our water supply that actually gets drank is minimal in relation to the total amount of water that is within the system. The dose and dosage of this service can not be controlled through adjustment maintenance by the water department.

Based on these points I have mentioned, I would submit that the cost is not economical and residents should be hesitant to agree that water fluoridation is safe and effective simply because it "may" help oral health.

Links of quotes available upon request.

Thank you all for your time this evening.