

**Mercier, Betty**

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**From:** chrisgupta@  
**Sent:** Monday, April 02, 2012 12:09 AM  
**To:** Mercier, Betty  
**Cc:** Fontana, Joe; Polhill, Bud; Armstrong, Bill; Swan, Joseph; Orser, Stephen; Baechler, Joni; Branscombe, Nancy; Brown, Matt; Hubert, Paul; Henderson, Dale; Van Meerbergen, Paul; Brown, Denise; Usher, Harold; Bryant, Judy; White, Sandy; Simon, John; Braam, John  
**Subject:** Input to: Water Conservation and the Future of Water and Wastewater Rates.  
**Attachments:** Notice of Motion- Calgary removal of Fluoride.pdf

Hi Betty,

If possible, could you please attach the following to the [agenda for April 2nd Civic Works Committee?](#)  
Regarding item 31 [Water Conservation and the Future of Water and Wastewater Rates.](#)

The said delegation, completely omits current and future costs of water fluoridation and its effects on the water infrastructure. A crude estimate provided by Dan Huggins of the city's water department states the current cost to be around \$133,000/year, given the short fall in the water budget this cost should be more rigorously calculated as it appears to primarily be only a rudimentary estimate. The estimate does not seem to attempt to include the much more significant costs that take into account the capital and damage to the infrastructure from the corrosive nature of Hydrofluorosilicic acid (HFSA) used to fluoridate the water. Further the following costs are also missing:

Price per ton of pH adjustment chemicals e.g., sodium hydroxide

WHMIS training (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

Costs of protective gear

Price per ton of fluorosilicates for 2011. Costs are climbing quickly. 2009 costs were used in the City's crude estimate.

Given the above concerns it is instructive to make a cost comparison with other jurisdictions:

For example in Quebec the fluoridation cost is taken up by the government. Via the FOI (Freedom of Information) the cost for the program in the last five years is shown below. These are official data rounded off:

The average cost in the last 5 years: \$4,000,000 per year

Population served (total): 200,000 (this is smaller than that of London's as only 3% of Quebec is fluoridated)

Cost by person : \$20/year\*

Cost by person for 60 years \$1,200

\*This is a far cry from the 38 cents per person/year that is indicated in the Dan Huggins' estimate which does not include a serious look at capital and other costs mentioned above.

The PQ FOI is only available in French. Please let me know if this would be helpful to recalculate the real costs in London and I will try to obtain it.

Another interesting comparison is that of Calgary, who after a serious look at the costs concluded that it was costing the city far more than they had expected.

In Calgary \$750,000 was the annual cost of operating the fluoridation system, this to does not include Capital and upgrades etc. and is more like what was done in London only more rigorously. While this may not be a direct comparison and is based on the Calgary's population of 1.2 million vs roughly 0.4 million of London. From this comparison a cost of \$187,000 is more realistic than the crude London estimate of \$133,000.

Here is what the Calgary motion (extracted from the attached) on fluoride states:

"AND WHEREAS adding fluoride is an unnecessary expense, since it is not required to produce potable water, and only a fraction of potable water is consumed as drinking water;

AND WHEREAS the operating cost of fluoride is \$750,000 annually and the estimated capital costs of required upgrades to the Bearspaw and Glenmore fluoride systems is up to \$6 million;"

Similar conclusions have been reached in other jurisdictions in Ontario i.e. Thunder bay, Dyden among others.

Also attached is the following comprehensive paper on costs to help the city to arrive at the real costs on water fluoridation:

Costs of Artificial Water Fluoridation (This link is public domain\*\* and can be attached as per the authors note below)

Even at the ridiculously low cost of 38 cents/customer/year for water fluoridation estimated by the city's water department, the "Average Revenue Shortfall per customer (**\$8.50**)", shown on page 1 of the said report, could have significantly been reduced in an year over year scenario, not to mention the escalating going forward costs, more accurate estimates could literally wipe out this short fall and even put the city in the black.

Given that the cost of adding HFSA is spurious at best as it does not contribute anything to the city's mandate for water treatment - this should clearly be the first place to start to reduce the current and future deficits.

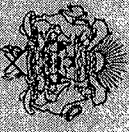
Chris Gupta P. Eng.  
919 Plantation Rd  
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\*\*Date: Mon, 5 Mar 2012 16:34:07 -0500  
From: Carole Clinch  
To: Chris Gupta

March 5, 2012

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Carole Clinch



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

NM  
**RECEIVED**  
2010 DEC -9 P 3:29

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

THE CITY OF CALGARY  
CITY CLERK'S

NM2011-JANUARY 10

RE: **FLUORIDE**

ALDERMEN Farrell, Chabot, Stevenson, Mar, Pincoff,  
Colley-Urquhart, Carra, Demong, Jones, Keating

WHEREAS fluoride is readily available from sources such as toothpastes, mouth rinses, supplements, and topical applications;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Dental Association have concluded that fluoridated water should not be given to infants, either by itself or in infant formula;

AND WHEREAS it would be more appropriate to allow an individual the choice, since it is easy to access fluoride, but costly and unreasonable for consumers to remove it from their drinking water, and administering it is being done without the consent of that person;

AND WHEREAS the amount of fluoride ingested is not controlled because it is dependent on how much water is consumed, and the effects on the individual are not monitored;

AND WHEREAS adding fluoride is an unnecessary expense, since it is not required to produce potable water, and only a fraction of potable water is consumed as drinking water;

AND WHEREAS the operating cost of fluoride is \$750,000 annually and the estimated capital costs of required upgrades to the Bearspaw and Glenmore fluoride systems is up to \$6 million;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council repeal the existing Fluoridation Bylaw and direct Administration to apply to Alberta Environment for an amendment to The City's License for its water treatment plants to discontinue the addition of fluoride to Calgary's water supply.

Signature of Member(s) of Council

*[Handwritten signatures of council members]*