

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health /CEO

DATE: 2018 July 19

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## **SMALL, NON-COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS**

*It is recommended that Report No. 046-18 re Dr. Fatih Sekercioglu's doctoral thesis: "Ontario's Small, Non-Community Drinking Water Systems: How to Ensure Provision of Safe Drinking Water and Source Water Protection" be received by the Board of Health for information.*

### **Key Points**

- Dr. Fatih Sekercioglu is the Manager of Safe Water, Rabies, and Vector-Borne Disease and has been studying small, non-community drinking water systems (SWDSs) for his doctoral studies at UWO.
- On July 5, 2018, Dr. Sekercioglu successfully defended his thesis and completed his studies.
- Dr. Sekercioglu's research will be highly applicable to the work done by MLHU to safeguard rural SWDSs in our region.

### **Background**

Dr. Fatih Sekercioglu is the Manager of the Safe Water, Rabies, and Vector-Borne Disease team at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Fatih's background is as a Public Health Inspector and, since 2012, has been working to complete his doctoral studies in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario.

Fatih's research investigated the contributing factors to adverse water quality incidents in small, non-community drinking water systems (SWDS or 'wells'), risk awareness and perceptions amongst owners of SWDSs, and proposed a sustainable operations model for Ontario's SWDSs. Attached is Fatih's thesis for reference ([Appendix A](#)). His research will be valuable in helping to inform practice and guide policy at the municipal and provincial levels. Meanwhile, Fatih has helped to establish the Middlesex-London Health Unit as a provincial leader in supporting small, non-community drinking water system best practices. This work is very important in helping to ensure the safety of drinking water for rural residents.

On July 5, 2018, Fatih defended his thesis and has thus now completed his doctorate in geography. We would like to recognize Dr. Sekercioglu's accomplishment and congratulate him on a successful defence.

This report was prepared by the Office of the Director - Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases Division.



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