



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

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## DRINKING WATER FLUORIDATION IN LONDON – MAY UPDATE

### ***Recommendation***

***It is recommended that Report No. 075-12 re Drinking Water Fluoridation in London – May Update be received for information.***

Board of Health Members have been kept apprised of the City of London Council process to review the current practice of fluoridating the City's drinking water supply. On January 25, 2012, Council's Civic Works Committee held a special Public Participation meeting at Centennial Hall. Both the Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Bryna Warshawsky, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services, made presentations. Fifty-Nine (59) presentations were made by public participants at this meeting, including Dr. Maria van Harten, Dental Consultant for the Middlesex-London Health Unit and four other health units in Southwest Ontario, who presented on behalf of the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry. Following the presentations, the Civic Works Committee directed City staff, in consultation with Health Unit staff, to report back at a future meeting of the Civic Works Committee on the various issues and concerns raised by individuals as part of the public participation portion of the meeting.

Attached as [Appendix A](#) is the report prepared in follow up to the Committee's direction. Preparation of the responses involved a significant time commitment on the part of Dr Warshawsky, Dr. van Harten, and Mr. Paul Sharma, Manager, Oral Health, working in consultation with Mr. John Braam, Director of Water and City Engineer and Mr. Dan Huggins, Water Quality Manager. As can be seen in [Appendix A](#), the staff recommendation was for City Council to support the continuation of fluoridating London's drinking water.

The staff report was reviewed at the April 23, 2012, meeting of the Civic Works Committee. The Committee voted to endorse the staff recommendation. This recommendation was then considered by City Council on May 1, 2012. Following a lengthy debate, City Council passed the staff recommendation by a vote of 10 to 5.

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Medical Officer of Health