



Presentation To: Region of Waterloo Administration and Finance Committee
From: Robert J. Fleming (Executive Director, WaterlooWatch)
Re: Honouring The People's Referendum Vote On Water Fluoridation
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Chair Galloway, members of this committee, good morning.

It's nice to see so many of you will be coming back. In fact, a majority of you will be serving another term of office. Thank you for your commitment to our community, and for your steadfast will to keep your word, thereby honouring a simple majority vote to cease artificial fluoridation of our municipal drinking water.

It's both good and appropriate to implement the democratic will of the voters.

I'd like to acknowledge the public for their time and attention spent learning about water fluoridation, and for ultimately coming out in droves to vote. A near record turn-out.

It's time our community set aside our differences, as we continue to be friends and neighbours, and collectively address dental caries in a much more direct and targeted manner:

1. By ensuring that every person, especially every child, has easy access to a toothbrush and toothpaste at all times; and is mentored or otherwise taught proper use.
2. By ensuring nutrition, eating habits, and daily lifestyles known to reduce dental decay are taught in our schools; and in other outreach programs.
3. By ensuring those in need, who cannot otherwise afford it, do receive nutritious food, regular dental monitoring, and prompt dental care.
4. By diverting money spent on our 'now ended' water fluoridation... ALL THE MONEY... towards programs which will achieve these things.

Such programs already exist locally, and need only be enhanced.

Staff and volunteers are already doing good things locally. Partner with them.

Partner with: Regional Public Health, the Food Bank of Waterloo Region, Dental Associations, Dental Hygienist Associations... and others.

We are on the cusp of something good.

Together, we can make these initiatives a collective and achievable reality.

Sincerely,

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