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Fluoridation is not the answer

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The concern with drinking water fluoridation is that as informed citizens, the public objects to having toxic chemical added to their drinking water.

The substance added to the drinking water is not a 100 per cent pharmaceutical grade fluoride; the chemical added to the water is a waste product of the fertilizer industry using phosphor rock which contains arsenic, lead and cadmium, and is rich in uranium. In toxicology, toxics are generally substances that are bioaccumulative, harmful, man-made and their effect is dose related. This applies to the ingredients added to the drinking water by fluoridation.

Bone cancer has been shown to be associated with radium in the drinking water. Long-term ingestion of these harmful elements should be avoided altogether.

I'd like to bring your readers' attention to the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society from Oct. 14 to 21, 2008. This survey reveals that three quarters of Ontarians believe there are toxic chemicals in their "environments," while a similar proportion think they exist in the products that they use.

Among those who think that these toxic chemicals exist, eight in 10 believe those chemicals found in their environments or products they use could be harmful to the health of themselves or their family.

Almost all (94 per cent) Ontarians say they'd "like to learn more about the presence of toxic chemicals in their environments and in the products" that they use. Moreover, eight in 10 (84 per cent) would "use an easy-to-navigate website to find out more about the toxic chemicals in their environments and in the products that they use." Thinking about how to handle the perceived existence of these toxic chemicals, most Ontarians believe that the Government of Ontario should consider this issue to be a "priority," with eight in 10 (80 per cent) giving it at least a seven on a priority scale of one to 10. Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment in its position paper on drinking water fluoridation concludes that fluoridation of drinking water is scientifically untenable, and should not be part of a public-health initiative or program.

Early childhood caries are on the increase in both fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas. The latest research in University of Manitoba should be of interest. Dr. Schroth has found many children with early childhood caries had mothers with low levels of vitamin D3 during their second trimester, when primary teeth begin to develop and calcify.

The attention needs to be given to the prenatal diet and good nutrition. This may explain why the problem is worse in the populations with a lower socio-economic status.

We also need to consider the part the media plays in promoting processed and junk food with advertising aimed directly at kids.

This is a complex problem, however, adding a toxic waste to our drinking water can't be the solution.

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