August 19, 2009

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

[c/o Dr. Frank Stechey, DDS (President)]
6 Crescent Road
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Dr. Stechey (DDS, President – Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario),

This open letter to you, also published in the Waterloo Chronicle, concerns artificial fluoridation of municipal drinking water.

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO), founded in Toronto in 1868, is the governing body for all Ontario dentists. In 2003, the RCDSO announced policy indicating it “formally endorses use of fluoridation in municipal drinking water as effective means to prevent dental caries in all age groups.” It also stated, “Where fluoride has been added to municipal water supplies, there has been a marked decrease in tooth decay rates – between 35% and 50% in children, and 30% in adults.” It also stated the Centers for Disease Control (United States) “estimates that for every dollar (US) spent on fluoridation, $80 (US) is saved on dental care.” Reference: Dispatch, Official Publication of the RCDSO, April/May 2003 Vol. 17, No. 2 pg. 16

I assume the RCDSO continues to require that Ontario dentists support such formal policy. Therefore, Ontario dentists wishing to publically denounce water fluoridation are unlikely to do so, as they risk losing their Ontario dentistry license.

The RCDSO prefers to cite water fluoridation opinions, endorsements, and accreditations, without providing actual supporting Source Science. This is observed in your publications, speaking circuits and presentations – most recently in the RCDSO presentation to Thunder Bay Council on July 20, 2009; after which Council voted to not hold a plebiscite to bring fluoridation to their community.

In 1945, Brantford (Ontario) was the first Canadian municipality to adopt artificial water fluoridation. History shows Ontario dentists, licensed and regulated by the RCDSO, provided influence and support welcoming the arrival of fluoridation.

In July 2009, I spent two full days in Brantford, collecting whatever records of science or other information they had supporting fluoridation, pursuant to a freedom of information request. No supporting records of science existed at the time water fluoridation began in Brantford. There were, however, the usual opinions, endorsements, and accreditations, without supporting Source Science. It is becoming clear that artificial water fluoridation began in Ontario without solid science in hand.

Waterloo’s water has been artificially fluoridated since 1966, and we face a November 2010 re-vote on the matter. Our City, Region and Public Health have not been able to provide records of Source Science, under a freedom of information request, to prove artificial water fluoridation was/is safe, effective or cost effective.
When Ontario Dental Association (ODA) President Dr. Ira R. Kirshen wrote a response letter to the Waterloo Chronicle last month, he promised to provide science supporting water fluoridation benefits, safety and cost-effectiveness. But, when asked to deliver on his promise, Kirshen then indicated his association does not have Source Science in hand; but bodies like Health Canada do.

This past Saturday, on CFRB 1010 radio, Dr. Kirshen was unable to cite or provide Source Science during an hour-long panel debate on water fluoridation, and again he pointed to Health Canada.

The RCDSO teaches and regulates Ontario’s dentists. Yet, Ontario dentists and dental organizations promoting water fluoridation continue to offer only opinions, endorsements, and name-dropping. Supporters of fluoridation seem to crumble when asked to provide actual Source Science. It also appears Health Canada does not even loan out Source Science to the RCDSO for teaching purposes.

Opinions, endorsements, and name-dropping are not science. Nor is it professional to merely point to so-called reviews of science containing no released bibliography of the science reviewed – as was the case with Health Canada’s 2007 panel review on fluoride exposure, released in 2008.

The decision whether or not to fluoridate municipal drinking water is the municipality’s responsibility. Such an important decision, for which the municipality is ultimately accountable, must permit voters proper access to relevant Source Science.

What can the RCDSO offer our community, through The Waterloo Chronicle, pertaining to:

1. Source Science proving systemic ingestion/swallowing artificially fluoridated water causes a reduction in dental decay rates, having controlled for confounding variables?

2. Source Science proving systemic ingestion/swallowing the hydrofluorosilicic acid used to fluoridate, along with its trace co-contaminants arsenic, lead, mercury and radionuclides, is healthy and safe over a lifetime of human ingestion?

3. Source Science proving all fluorides are the same and that hydrofluorosilicic acid’s silicofluoride fully dissociates into free fluoride ions upon contact with water?

4. Source Science and Costing proving a dollar spent on water fluoridation saves any dollars on dental care?

Please respond as promptly as you can. After all… it is our water and our health at stake.

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