



WATERLOOCHRONICLE <http://www.waterloochronicle.ca/opinions/article/150250>

Physicians should support bottled water

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As physicians, we are very disappointed that, in discussions on bottled water and water safety, there is seldom mention of the toxic hydrofluosilicic acid (otherwise known as fluoride) added to our public water systems in almost half of Canada.

Outlawing the sale of bottled water is unfair to people living where the public water supply is fluoridated. Many people are at risk from drinking fluoridated water — risk of bone cancer, fractures, hypothyroidism, underdevelopment of the central nervous system in infants and young children, and early menarche in girls to name a few. Stopping fluoridation is, of course, the answer to this problem but, until that is done, unfluoridated bottled water should be available and provided at no cost to those who cannot afford it.

Water fluoridation is not effective in preventing dental cavities and it is unethical to force people to ingest an untested, unapproved medication, without control of dosage, without monitoring its effects and without informed consent of the recipients.

As ethical, prudent physicians, we must support the use of bottled water until fluoridation is stopped and our public water systems are safe.

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