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## Slap on the hand

Waterloo Chronicle Editorial

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Regional councillors said that lessons were learned regarding last year's fluoride injection system breakdown that left much of the city without fluoridated water.

The region's water services department and public health better understand their duty to report and will never allow a communication snafu happen like this again.

While those platitudes are all fine going forward, what level of accountability was required from last year's breakdown?

Depending on who you ask, either no one was reprimanded while others assure us that hands were slapped.

But according to a Chronicle investigation into what was going on behind the scenes at the various departments it suggested this wasn't just about errors of omission, it also included major errors of commission.

This wasn't just about the confusion of who knew what when. There was also evidence that those in the know failed to report in a timely manner, despite knowing their obligations under Ministry of Health protocols.

It wasn't just a case of confusion when public health officials knew all of the fluoridated water had been off for more than 90 days and delayed going public.

Those delays in properly informing the public went on for six months, double the required reporting time.

And there was even some suggestion that they weren't prepared to go public until the slow pace of the repairs forced their hands.

So while it's great that the people involved know this type of behaviour will no longer be tolerated, a slap on the wrist doesn't equate to the public trust that was broken by their actions. Regional council should have done more than just give them a public scolding.

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