



Report Number: C2019-0219
Meeting: Combined Meeting of Council
Meeting Date: ~~2016 September 12~~
 2019 February 25

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: WATER FLUORIDATION IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

**Sponsoring Councillor(s): COUNCILLOR COLLEY-URQUHART, ~~COUNCILLOR DEMONG,~~
 COUNCILLOR POOTMANS**

WHEREAS a study comparing the occurrence of tooth decay in children in Calgary and Edmonton post-discontinuation of community water fluoridation in Calgary has demonstrated a relatively greater increase in the amount of tooth decay in Calgary;

AND WHEREAS the same study demonstrated that children in lower income families have suffered the greatest increase in tooth decay;

AND WHEREAS tooth decay has a negative impact on a child's health and development, causing pain, potential infection, school absences, as well as family distress and expense;

AND WHEREAS for example the number of children being seen through the Alex Dental Health Bus (which provides mobile services to city schools in high-needs areas) has doubled since it began in 2013, jumping from 798 to 1607 so far in 2016;

AND WHEREAS the number of children with decay has gone from 225 in 2013 to 745 in 2015 (2016 stats not available), with also a rise in the number of children needing advanced treatment for tooth decay (resulting in more than \$1.4M in treatment provided to 13,000 children by the Alex and its partners alone);

AND WHEREAS the largest demand for dental services for children in Calgary is coming from those families who have lost jobs or have lower incomes without benefits such as the working poor and disadvantaged families;

AND WHEREAS community water fluoridation continues to be advanced by local and Canadian health authorities as the most effective, safe and cost-efficient means of preventing tooth decay in all ages and across all community residents;

AND WHEREAS Calgary City Council exercised its unique authority as a municipality to discontinue community water fluoridation in Calgary in 2012;

AND WHEREAS the last systematic review of the literature undertaken on behalf of Calgary City Council in 2008 by the University of Calgary had not only a local but also an international impact in recommending a change to the target optimal fluoride level from 1.0 ppm to 0.7ppm, in that the new level has been adopted by Health Canada and other international agencies;

AND WHEREAS City potable water has to meet a whole host of water quality parameters in the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines under the City of Calgary license to operate with Alberta Environment; which requires the City to treat the raw water taken from the river with various chemicals; which enables the treatment process in City water treatment plants to produce water that meets the requirements of our license (the treatment chemicals and processes used are all approved Alberta Environment are all essential in order to meet the conditions our license);

AND WHEREAS there is a legislative maximum allowable level of fluoride in drinking water (which Calgary is below) but no minimum level. Consequently, Calgary is not required to add fluoride as part of our license to operate to meet Canadian Drinking Water guidelines. As such council direction to add fluoride is required to do so.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council:

1. Engage the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health (OIPH) to conduct an objective assessment of the evidence:
 - a. In the extant literature, and
 - b. By examining questions and concerns from members of City Council by conducting individual interviews.
 - c. By enlisting other University of Calgary partners such as the School of Public Policy as appropriate.
2. Invite the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health to report and present their findings directly to City Council no later than ~~December 2016~~ June 2019, and, invite the study's Principal Investigator, Dr. Lindsay McLaren, to present her findings and respond to questions concurrently.