



February 19, 2019

Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart &
Members of Council
Calgary City Council
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M
Calgary AB T2P 2M5



Dear Councillor Colley-Urquhart & Members of Council:

As Calgary's Lead Medical Officer of Health and Provincial Dental Public Health Officer, we would like to express support on behalf of Alberta Health Services (AHS) for the City of Calgary's interest in again considering community water fluoridation (CWF) as a preventive measure against tooth decay.

AHS endorses CWF as a foundational public health measure to prevent dental disease and improve oral health. CWF is a safe, cost-effective and equitable measure to improve oral health of our community.

Scientific evidence shows that fluoridation continues to be effective in reducing tooth decay even in an era with widespread availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoridated toothpaste. There have been several major systematic reviews of the literature published on this topic in addition to dozens of individual studies confirming the benefits of CWF. Additionally, local evidence has demonstrated a negative impact on children's oral health following the cessation of CWF in Calgary.

AHS values the oral health of Albertans and supports CWF as a public health approach to minimize dental disease and related complications.

Municipal governments can be confident that the use of CWF at the recommended level does not pose a risk to public health. We continue to monitor scientific evidence on this issue and continue to support fluoridation as a safe and effective way to prevent dental disease.

We are available to provide health information, respond to health inquiries and present medical and scientifically based facts on various health topics to communities, organizations and municipalities. Please feel free to reach out to us directly using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rafael Figueiredo".

Dr. Rafael Figueiredo
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Alberta Health Services
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Strong".

Dr. David Strong
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