

Community Services Report to
SPC on Community and Protective Services
2019 June 12

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
CPS2019-0781

Response to Water Fluoridation in The City of Calgary – Request for Deferral

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 February, Council directed that an assessment of evidence related to water fluoridation and other dental health interventions be undertaken through the engagement of the University of Calgary's O'Brien Institute for Public Health (OIPH) and other willing and qualified bodies. The results and findings from this review were to be reported through the SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than 2019 June.

OIPH is conducting its review using an approach that ensures a broad and multifaceted examination of research, including that related to the effectiveness of direct dental interventions, other jurisdictions' approaches, and the relationship between dental health and other disease vectors.

Due to the timing of other reports scheduled to come to the SPC on Community and Protective Services in Q2, as well as the availability of OIPH researchers, a deferral from the original Q2 report back date to July is required. The deferral will also allow the report to be made available to members of Council and the public in advance. The 2019 July 24 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services will deal solely with this issue to ensure enough time on the agenda for a full presentation, panel discussion, and public input.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council defer the response to Notice of Motion C2019-0219 Water Fluoridation in The City of Calgary from 2019 June to the 2019 July 24 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2019 February 25, Council adopted Notice of Motion C2019-0219 requesting that the O'Brien Institute for Public Health undertake a review of the evidence related to water fluoridation and other dental health interventions, and to report and present these findings to SPC on Community and Protective Services no later than June 2019. Additionally, Council directed that other potential willing and qualified bodies be engaged to similarly assess water fluoridation and other programs to improve dental health, and that any party participating in the inquiry be invited to present their findings at the same time.

BACKGROUND

As a result of Council direction in 2011 (UE2011-02), Calgary water treatment plants discontinued the addition of fluoride to the city's water supply. Since that time, Administration transferred a total of \$750,000 on a one-time basis from the Utilities (Water Resources/Water Services) budget to the Alexandra Community Health Centre ("The Alex") and to CUPS to support dental health for children living in poverty in accordance with Council's direction in CPS2012-0446.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

A deferral of the response to the Notice of Motion on water fluoridation is requested to allow time on the agenda to focus solely on this issue at the 2019 July 24 meeting of the SPC on Community and Protective Services, including a full presentation, panel discussion, and public input. The OIPH lead was unavailable for the 2019 June 12 committee meeting date and a deferral until 2019 July will also allow the report to be made available to members of Council and the public in advance, giving others time to read and respond to the review.

Since 2019 February 25, Administration has been coordinating with OIPH on the development of this report, including stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder and research activities have been ongoing and will be outlined in the 2019 July 24 report.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

To be addressed with the full report in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0219.

Strategic Alignment

To be addressed with the full report in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0219.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

To be addressed with the full report in response to Notice of Motion C2019-0219.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

There are no impacts as a result of this request to defer.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no impacts as a result of this request to defer.

Risk Assessment

No risks have been identified with respect to this request to defer.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

A deferral of the report back on the Notice of Motion on water fluoridation is recommended to allow time on the agenda to deal solely with this issue at the 2019 July 24 SPC on Community and Protective Services meeting given an already full agenda for June. As well, the OIPH lead was unavailable for the 2019 June 12 SPC on Community and Protective Services meeting. The deferral until July will also allow the report to be made available to members of Council and the public in advance of the agenda, giving others time to read and respond to the review.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None