City of Hamilton  
Mayor and Councillors  
77 James St. N  
Hamilton, ON  
L8R 2K3  

June 26th, 2008

Regarding July 9th Meeting to Discuss Fluoride

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Councillors:

I live in the city of Hamilton and have concerns for my infant. There are several reasons why I feel my child may be exposed to chemical overdose.

1) I live very close to the emitting stacks of the steel industry and after an event last year I qualified to have the soot power-washed from my home at the expense of the city/steel plants. We breathe this air every day.

2) I live in an older home which I have been informed by the city will be investigated for lead service lines and lead tap water levels.

3) The Hamilton city water that we drink is fluoridated. I have enclosed a copy of a study which suggests that blood lead levels can increase in children who consume fluoridated water. No health official has ever informed me of this.

For these reasons I am concerned that my daughter may be exposed to more chemical ingestion than most children. Ending water fluoridation would be one of the easier chemical processes that could be removed from my daughters life.

Please consider ending this now, before she is subject to years of potential harm. Thank you.

Kindest regards

Julie Schaafsma
Dartmouth researcher warns of chemicals added to drinking water

Posted 03/15/01

In a recent article in the journal NeuroToxicology, a research team led by Roger D. Masters, Dartmouth College Research Professor and Nelson A. Rockefeller Professor of Government Emeritus, reports evidence that public drinking water treated with sodium silicofluoride or fluosilicic acid, known as silicofluorides (SiFs), is linked to higher uptake of lead in children.

Sodium fluoride, first added to public drinking water in 1945, is now used in less than 10% of fluoridation systems nationwide, according to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) 1992 Fluoridation Census. Instead, SiFs are now used to treat drinking water delivered to 140 million people. While sodium fluoride was tested on animals and approved for human consumption, the same cannot be said for SiFs.

Masters and his collaborator Myron J. Coplan, a consulting chemical engineer, formerly Vice President of Albany International Corporation, led the team that has now studied the blood lead levels in over 400,000 children in three different samples. In each case, they found a significant link between SiF-treated water and elevated blood lead levels.

"We should stop using silicofluorides in our public water supply until we know what they do," said Masters. Officials at the Environmental Protection Agency have told Masters and Coplan that the EPA has no information on health effects of chronic ingestion of SiF-treated water.

In their latest study published in a special December 2000 issue of NeuroToxicology, Masters, Coplan and their team analyzed data on blood levels from more than 150,000 children ages 0 to 6. These tests were part of a sample collected by the New York State Department of Children's Health, mostly from 1994 to 1998 in comparable non-fluoridated and SiF-treated public drinking water in communities with populations of similar size. Socio-economic and demographic risk factors for high blood lead were also considered using information from the 1990 U.S. Census. The researchers found that the greatest likelihood of children having elevated blood lead levels occurs when they are exposed both to known risk factors, such as old house paint and lead in soil or water, and to SiF-treated drinking water.

"Our research needs further laboratory testing," added Masters. "This should have the highest priority because our preliminary findings show correlations between SiF use and more behavior problems due to known effects of lead on brain chemistry." Also requiring further examination is German research that shows SiFs inhibit cholinesterase, an enzyme that plays an important role in regulating neurotransmitters.

"If SiFs are cholinesterase inhibitors, this means that SiFs have effects like the chemical agents linked to Gulf War Syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome and other puzzling conditions that plague millions of Americans," said Masters. "We need a better understanding of how SiFs behave chemically and physiologically."