Mayor and Members of Council
Board of Health - Hamilton Council
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3

November 25, 2008

Dear Mayor and Members of Council

As President of the Ontario Dental Association (ODA), a practicing dentist for almost 40 years, and a resident of Hamilton, I want to encourage you to continue water fluoridation. Extreme opinions should not factor into your decision making - facts should: and the fact is there is overwhelming evidence of the safety and benefits of water fluoridation in community water supplies.

National and international experts agree:

- Health Canada’s 2008 report states water fluoridation is both safe and effective. The federal government supports “water fluoridation as a public health measure to prevent dental decay,” and notes that “the big advantage of water fluoridation is that it benefits ALL residents in a community regardless of age, socio-economic status, education or employment.”

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) calls fluoridation “one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century.” The U.S. Surgeon General also agrees: “Community water fluoridation continues to be the most cost-effective, equitable and safe means to provide protection from tooth decay in a community.”

- The World Health Organization (WHO) believes that “universal access to fluoride for dental health is a part of the basic human right to life.”

- A Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health article notes: “the effect of fluoride on reducing caries is now well established”, and that water “ingested during development of the teeth allows fluoride to be incorporated into the developing dental tissues making them more resistant to demineralization.”

These are the facts. Water fluoridation is safe, effective and it’s never been needed more. In a time when tooth decay is an infectious disease and is described by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control as the most common chronic childhood disease, we need water fluoridation to help fight this battle – it’s what is best for kids, adults and communities like ours.

As a resident of Hamilton and the President of the ODA, I encourage you to vote yes to continuing with water fluoridation at tomorrow’s Council meeting. For more information you can visit the ODA website at www.youroralhealth.ca.

Sincerely

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President, Ontario Dental Association

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