



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES

CWFC - 2/2018

The Region of Peel Community Water Fluoridation Committee met on July 5, 2018 at 1:13 p.m., in the Regional Council Chambers, 5th Floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, Suite A, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, ON.

Members Present: J. Downey; J. Kovac; M. Palleschi; J. Sprovieri

Members Absent: F. Dale, due to personal matters

Also Present: D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Polsinelli, Commissioner of Health Services; J. Smith, Commissioner of Public Works; P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor; Dr. J. Hopkins, Medical Officer of Health; K. Lockyer, Regional Clerk and Director of Clerk's; H. West, Committee Clerk; S. MacGregor, Legislative Assistant

1. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Nil

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-4-2018:

That the agenda for the July 5, 2018 Community Water Fluoridation Committee meeting be approved.

3. DELEGATIONS

Delegation 3.2 was dealt with.

3.2. Christine Massey, Spokesperson, Fluoride Free Peel, Regarding Water Fluoridation in Peel

Received

* See text for arrivals

♦ See text for departures

Christine Massey, Spokesperson, Fluoride Free Peel, expressed her disappointment with the report and played an excerpt from a YouTube video posted by Dr. William Hirzy, Senior Vice President, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Union, which presents his testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water regarding “Why EPA’s Union of Professionals Opposes Fluoridation”.

- 3.1. Liesa Cianchino, Chair**, Concerned Residents of Peel to End Fluoridation, Regarding Water Fluoridation in Peel

Received

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-5-2018:

That the Regional Clerk be directed to poll the Community Water Fluoridation Committee (CWFC) Members to schedule a date for a CWFC meeting in September, 2018.

Liesa Cianchino, Chair, Concerned Residents of Peel to End Flouride, provided a synopsis of her journey and advocacy efforts to end municipal water flouridation. She stated that John Remington Graham, Counselor at Law, would like to delegate to the CWFC, however, he was not able to attend this meeting. She requested that a further meeting be scheduled to receive his delegation. A Curriculum Vitae of John Remmington Graham and the judicial findings in three landmark cases in the United States regarding aritifical water fluoridation, was distributed to Members of the Committee and staff.

Councillor Sprovieri suggested that an additional meeting be scheduled. Committee Members suggested a meeting be scheduled in September, 2018.

- 3.2. Christine Massey, Spokesperson**, Fluoride Free Peel, Regarding Water Fluoridation in Peel

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting

4. REPORTS

- 4.1. Community Water Fluoridation - Staff Responses to Statements and Questions**

Presentation by Jessica Hopkins, Medical Officer of Health and Samantha Ball, Supervisor, Research, Policy and Planning Team Peel Public Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Received

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-5-2018:

Whereas the Province of Ontario is responsible for *The Safe Drinking Water Act*, the purposes of which include (i) recognizing that the people of Ontario are

entitled to expect their drinking water to be safe and (ii) providing for the protection of human health and the prevention of drinking water health hazards through the control and regulation of drinking water systems and drinking water testing;

And whereas, there has recently been a change in the Provincial Government and the Progressive Conservative Party sits as the Government of Ontario;

And whereas, there is a new Premier and Minister of Health and Long Term Care;

And whereas, Municipal Councillors do not have the detailed familiarity to interpret data regarding the efficacy of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid [HFSA] in water fluoridation treatments and are struggling with a range of conflicting reports and public concern on the matter of fluoridation;

Therefore be it resolved, that Region of Peel Council request the Premier of Ontario, and the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, whose mandate it is to protect the health of Ontarians, (i) to undertake appropriate and comprehensive toxicity testing necessary to reassure the public that the use of HFSA in water fluoridation treatments is safe; and (ii) take legislative responsibility for the regulation and administration of HFSA in water fluoridation treatments across the province relieving local governments from what is a provincial responsibility;

And further, that copies of this resolution be circulated to MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-6-2018:

That staff report back to Regional Council in six months, pending receipt of a response from the Premier of Ontario, and the Minister of Health and Long Term Care in regard to Recommendation CWFC-5-2018.

Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Medical Officer of Health, outlined the responses to the statements and questions that were presented to staff at the April 19, 2018 CWFC meeting. Dr. Hopkins highlighted that the water treatment additive HFSA that is used in the Region of Peel, completely dissociates when added to water leaving only the fluoride ion in the drinking water; therefore, toxicological studies are not required for HFSA as studies are required for substances that are ingested with water, not added to water.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Palleschi regarding where the data is derived that for every \$1 invested in community water fluoride, \$32 is saved from dental treatment costs, Dr. Hopkins stated the data comes from the 2016 O'Connell study. Dr. Hopkins undertook to provide Councillor Palleschi with a copy of the study.

Councillor Sprovieri raised concern that Health Canada lists fluoride as a mineral nutrient but does not regulate it, the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) classifies fluoride as a water treatment chemical and, the USA Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies fluoride as a neuro toxin and he questioned whether fluoride takes a different form. Dr. Hopkins responded that fluoride is classified and regulated differently based on its use and its form. She stated that

the EPA supports community water fluoridation and that fluoride, as used for water fluoridation, is not a neurotoxin.

In response to a question from Councillor Sprovieri, Patrick O'Connor, Regional Solicitor, stated that the Provincial government has the authority to mandate community water fluoridation; however, he noted it would be a multi-faceted policy development process to decide on whether or not to proceed with such a mandate.

Councillor Kovac inquired what type of program would be needed if the Region of Peel did not use community water fluoride. Dr. Hopkins responded that universal access to dental care and/or a fluoride varnish program could be considered, but would be at a greater financial cost to the Region, ranging from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Councillor Downey suggested that the issue be discussed with new Members of Provincial Parliament at the Annual AMO Conference being held in August, 2018.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1. Liesa Cianchino, Chair, Concerned Residents of Peel to End Fluoridation, E-mail dated May 10, 2018, Regarding the Response from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Received

Additional Item 7.1 was dealt with

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1. The University of Sydney Study Regarding the Health Effects of Water Flouridation

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-7-2018:

That staff review the University of Sydney Evidence Evaluation Report regarding the Health Effects of Water Flouridation and the Cochrane Review regarding Water Flouridation and provide a report to the next CWFC meeting.

Councillor Sprovieri distributed the University of Sydney Evidence Evaluation Report, making particular reference to page 20, and he requested that staff review the report, as well as the Cochrane Review regarding water flouridation and report back to the next Committee meeting.

6. IN CAMERA MATTERS

At 2:58 p.m., in accordance with section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, the following motion was placed:

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-8-2018:

That the Community Water Fluoridation Committee proceed “In Camera” to consider the following:

- Community Water Fluoridation – Staff Responses to Legal Statements and Questions (Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose)

RECOMMENDATION CWFC-9-2018:

That the Community Water Fluoridation Committee proceed out of “In Camera”.

The Committee moved out of closed session at 3:22 p.m.

- 6.1. Community Water Fluoridation - Staff Responses to Legal Statements and Questions (Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose)**

Received

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Additional Item 7.1

- 7.1. The University of Sydney Study Regarding the Health Effects of Water Fluoridation.**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting

8. NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.