



March 29, 2012

Dear Mayor Bob Bratina and Hamilton City Councillors:

The Council of Canadians is Canada's largest member-based advocacy organization with tens of thousands of members and over 70 community-based chapters across the country. We are a social justice organization and address environmental issues through an environmental justice perspective.

Maude Barlow, the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, also served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly (2008-2009).

The Council of Canadians is opposed to the fluoridation of drinking water. We are concerned by the health and environmental impacts associated with it.

Drinking water is fluoridated in Canada, the United States and Australia, but almost nowhere else in the world. Western Europe and Japan have almost no fluoridated water supplies.

We are working with the Quebec-based group Eau Secours which is opposing the Charest government's plans to increase the fluoridation of water there from about 3 per cent to 50 per cent. We encourage our chapters across the country to promote local debate and move municipal resolutions in their community on this issue.

Water is a commons – a shared entity – and open dialogue and encouraging public participation in issues affecting water quality are critical to ensuring clean, safe drinking water for current and future generations. We applaud Tony Matthews and others' initiatives to bring this important matter before the Hamilton Board of Health. We also applaud your openness to hear concerns from the residents of Hamilton.

We understand that the Board of Health will discuss this issue on April 16th, 2012. We appreciate your consideration on this issue and the protection of safe drinking water and human health in the City of Hamilton.

Thank you for your attention into this matter.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow
National Chairperson
Council of Canadians

Emma Lui
Water Campaigner
Council of Canadians