

Town of Tecumseh and Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Come Up Short: No Science Indicating that Fluoride is Safe During Pregnancy With Respect to IQs and ADHD Symptoms in Offspring

Bold claims from Tecumseh Mayor McNamara and Medical Officer of Health Dr. Wajid Ahmed of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit were recently published in the Windsor Star regarding the safety of community water fluoridation.

Thus, information requests for peer-reviewed scientific research showing that fluoride exposure during pregnancy is actually safe with respect to IQ and ADHD symptoms in offspring were sent to both the Town of Tecumseh and the Windsor Essex County Health Unit.

Recent high quality, U.S. government-funded research, that had previously been provided to both Tecumseh Council and the Medical Officer, indicates the exact opposite. This credible research published by an international team of top public health departments found that fluoride exposure during pregnancy is associated with [lower IQs](#) and increased [ADHD symptoms](#). And the maternal fluoride exposures in this research were very similar to those recently [reported](#) for Canadian fluoridated cities.

The Town of Tecumseh dealt directly only with the part of the information request relating to Mayor McNamara, and provided no responsive records. (The privacy officer provided materials but none contained or cited any research papers showing that fluoride exposure during pregnancy is safe with respect to IQ and ADHD symptoms.) The town dealt with the part of the request relating to Dr. Ahmed by transferring the request to the Windsor Essex County Health Unit.

The Health Unit addressed the part of the request relating to Mayor McNamara by transferring the request to the Town of Tecumseh. It dealt directly only with the part of the request relating to Dr. Ahmed, seeming to contradict his claims, and stating "there are no responsive records".

The information request and responses are provided in full, below.

FOI Request, sent to the Town of Tecumseh, Thu, Apr 11, 10:04 AM

From: Christine Massey <cmssyc@gmail.com>

To: lmoy@tecumseh.ca

Also sent to the Windsor Essex County Health Unit, Apr 11, 2019, 12:34 PM

To: privacy@wechu.org

Dear Privacy Officer,

This is a Freedom of Information Request for Access to General Records, made under MFIPPA. I will mail in my \$5 application fee.

On April 10, 2010 Dave Battagello of the Windsor Star reported the following quotes.

Dr. Wajid Ahmed, medical officer of health for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit:

"As a persons of science, we stay up to date on all research and areas we work with," Ahmed said. "We look at the results and based our recommendations on that. One research paper does not negate longstanding research that dates back 73 years that shows fluoride is safe."

Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara:

"A lot of it was repetitive, but I must say I'm proud how council did their homework on this and based their decision on good science.... The reality is the science is solid and peer-reviewed."

Description of Requested Items:

1. All of the primary peer-reviewed scientific research papers on fluoride exposure from community water fluoridation during pregnancy published in the last 73 years, referred to by Dr. Ahmed and Mayor McNamara in their above statements published in the Windsor Star, showing that the fluoride exposure from community water fluoridation during pregnancy is safe with respect to IQ and ADHD symptoms in offspring.
2. All other primary peer-reviewed scientific research papers on fluoride exposure during pregnancy published in the last 73 years, referred to by Dr. Ahmed and Mayor McNamara in their above statements published in the Windsor Star, showing that the fluoride exposure during pregnancy is safe with respect to IQ and ADHD symptoms in offspring.
3. All non-primary peer-reviewed scientific research papers on fluoride exposure during pregnancy published in the last 73 years, referred to by Dr. Ahmed and Mayor McNamara in their above statements published in the Windsor Star, showing that the fluoride exposure during pregnancy is safe with respect to IQ and ADHD symptoms in offspring.

Format:

Pdf documents sent to me via email; I do not want anything shipped to me.

Contact Information:

Last name: Massey

First name: Christine

Address: xxx

Phone: xxx

Email: cmssyc@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Christine Massey, M.Sc.

Town of Tecumseh's Response, Thursday, May 16, 4:34 PM

Email From: Laura Moy Dipl. M.M., Director Corporate Services & Clerk,
lmoy@tecumseh.ca

Good afternoon, Ms. Massey

Receipt is acknowledged of your request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("MFIPPA"), as described in your email of April 11, 2019. Thank you for payment of the \$5.00 application fee, subsequently received in our office on April 16, 2019.

We have carefully studied your questions, and in accordance our obligations under MFIPPA, have conducted a diligent search to identify those records related to your request.

Part of your request relates to research papers on fluoride exposure that you say were "referred to by Mayor McNamara." For clarity, Mayor McNamara's statement was made in reference to the Windsor Essex County Health Unit Oral Report 2018 Update, as well as the Delegations and Communications provided at the Public Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

A copy of the Health Unit's Report is attached. The Agenda for the public meeting, including the Communications considered at the meeting, can be found at the following link:

<https://tecumseh-pub.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=5948>

In reviewing your request, we believe that responsive records, specifically those relating to records responsive to the statement made by Dr. Ahmed, may not be in the Town's custody or under its control. In accordance with our obligations under MFIPPA, we have forwarded your request to the Windsor Essex County Health Unit.

I encourage you to let us try and respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. We note that in accordance with MFIPPA, you may appeal the forwarding of your request, and/or file a complaint with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, who may be contacted at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
2 Bloor Street East,
Suite 1400
Toronto, ON

M4W 1A8

Telephone: 1-800-387-0073

1-416-325-7539

Facsimile: 1-416-325-9195

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Best regards,

Laura Moy

Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Town of Tecumseh

519-735-2184 Ext 116

May 10, 2019

Sent via e-mail only - cms@wechu.org

Ms. Christine Massey



Dear Ms. Massey:

Request for Access

File Number: WECHU-2019-001

Thank you for your request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("MFIPPA"). More particularly, you requested a number of records, as detailed on Schedule "A" to this letter. For your ease of reference, we respond further under the headings below.

Responsive Records

We have carefully examined your questions, and in accordance our obligations under MFIPPA, have conducted a diligent search to identify those records responsive to your request.

- Part of your request relates to research papers on fluoride exposure that you say were "referred to by Dr. Ahmed". For clarity, Dr. Ahmed's statement was made on the basis of general professional expertise as a physician trained in public health and as such there are no responsive records.
- When examining your request, we believe that, in addition to the responsive records in our custody or control, one or more responsive records, specifically those relating to records responsive to the statement made by Mayor McNamara, may not be in our custody or under our control. In accordance with our obligations under MFIPPA, we have forwarded your request to the Town of Tecumseh.

Access Decision

- Access cannot be provided as we have been unable to identify any records responsive to your request. Therefore, we are returning your \$5.00 to you via regular mail.

Questions or Concerns

- We encourage you to let us try and respond to any questions or concerns that you may have. We note that in accordance with MFIPPA, you may appeal our request for extension, the forwarding of your request, and/or our assessment of fees, or file a complaint with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, who may be contacted at:


Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8

Telephone: 1-416-325-7539 / Toll free: 1-800-387-0073

Facsimile: 1-416-325-9195

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,


Theresa Marentette, RN, MSc