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**Sent:** December-12-17 11:08 AM  
**To:** Bill Robertson <okotoksmayor@okotoks.ca>  
**Subject:** Fluoridation

Mayor and Council:

Late in 2016 a paper in the journal *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* appeared in which the authors claimed to have shown that cessation of fluoridation in Calgary in 2011 had caused an increase in cavities in second-grade students in Calgary. The paper was a study of such students in Calgary and Edmonton. You may have been aware of this due to the extensive news coverage of it, especially in Canada. The broadcasts and print articles for the most part did not offer any evaluation of the work except from the lead author and from other supporters of fluoridation. And in Calgary it has raised some consideration of reestablishing fluoridation, including among some members of the new city council.

That paper by McLaren *et al.* was wrong. Seven long-time opponents of fluoridation, I among them, asked the journal to retract the paper. After much struggle, the editor (an advocate of fluoridation) agreed to consider a commentary. Finally, the commentary has been published. Both the McLaren *et al.* paper and the commentary are attached to this message. If you don't want to suffer the technicalities, you may rely on the abstract of the commentary. We were polite and gentle, but essentially the McLaren paper and her defences of it have been consistently incompetent and misleading.

Briefly, the only noted change since cessation of fluoridation in Calgary second-graders is a continued increase in cavities, perhaps less rapid than before cessation, while long-fluoridated Edmonton showed a continued increase, perhaps at a little greater rate than in Calgary. The paper in question actually shows that the continued increase is not due to cessation of fluoridation.

By the way, there have appeared some very important papers on toxicity of fluoride in drinking water associated with serious adverse effects, especially in children, since 2011. If you face the fluoridation issue again, you will want to know about these.

Respectfully,  
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