

New Brunswick Dental Society says Moncton Dentists will receive more business because of Moncton City Council decision

Fredericton – The New Brunswick Dental Society is disappointed in the City of Moncton’s decision to uphold the 2011 moratorium of removing fluoride from the municipal drinking water.

“Countless health organizations know that water fluoridation is a safe and effective way to prevent tooth decay”, stated Dr. Robert Hatheway, President of the NBDS. “It is regrettable that Moncton is going to eliminate it, as their decision will have an adverse effect on many for years to come, including the most vulnerable living among us.”

Representatives of the New Brunswick Dental Society attended meetings of Moncton city council this past January to provide background on the subject, based on their experience as health care professionals. They urged Council to overturn the 2011 decision and to reinstate water fluoridation, saying it saves millions of dollars in public health costs, is supported by over 90 health organizations worldwide who regularly review the most recent scientific literature, and protects those who might not have access to dental health care, such as the elderly and low-income families.

“It is most unfortunate that Moncton City Council didn’t take us up on our offer to answer any follow-up questions after the January meeting,” commented Dr. Hatheway. “However, our members will continue to promote fluoride and good oral health care habits as part of an overall health strategy and are willing to discuss options with their patients.”

Water fluoridation is supported by more than 90 health-related organizations around the world, including the World Health Organization, Health Canada, the Canadian and American Dental Associations, the Canadian Medical Association, the Food and Drug Administration of the United States and the Canadian Public Health Association. Both Canada’s Chief Dental Officer and New Brunswick’s Chief Medical Officer have also issued statements in support of continued municipal water fluoridation.

The New Brunswick Dental Society exists to promote professional growth, high ethical standards and quality care giving through communication, education and the regulation of dentistry in New Brunswick.