

## NOT WORTH THE PAPER THEY ARE WRITTEN ON

### Drinking Water Guidelines for “Artificial” Fluoridation NOT LEGALLY BINDING

Ontario Ministry of the Environment guideline for fluoride of 0.5-0.8 mg/L was removed from the Safe Drinking Water Act 2002 Amendments, O.Reg., 170/03, June 5, 2006

Country	1950-2011	2011	Country	1950-2000	2000-2008	2008
USA	0.7 – 1.2 mg/L	0.7 mg/L	Canada	1.0-1.2 mg/L	0.8-1.0 mg/L	0.7 mg/L

#### Justice O'Connor, Walkerton Inquiry

“[M]atters as important as safe drinking water and public health should have been covered by regulations which, unlike guidelines, are legally binding,” and that drinking water quality standards “should have the force of law,” and “conservative and enforceable water quality standards are an important basis for a multi-barrier approach to water safety”. [emphasis added]

#### Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines

“The Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines (1968, 1972, 1978, 1986, 1996, 2006) are developed by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water and administered by Health Canada. These non-binding, non-enforceable guidelines are reviewed bi-annually by the Committee.” [emphasis added]

#### Suzuki Foundation

In 2006, the Suzuki Foundation compared Canadian guidelines to those of the WHO, U.S, EU, and Australia and found that “more than ¾ of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality relating to chemical contaminants appear to provide less protection for public health than standards or guidelines in other industrialized nations.” [emphasis added]

### Drinking Water Guidelines for “Natural” Fluoride NOT LEGALLY BINDING

“Fluoride is one of the **natural contaminants** found in public drinking water supplies”.  
*US National Research Council 2006 Review: Fluoride in Drinking Water, p13.*

MAC – Fluoride
1.5 mg/L

# Drinking Water Guidelines for “Natural” Fluoride: MAC NOT SAFE

The MAC guideline has never been defined as a safety standard which protects all citizens, for a lifetime of ingestion, from adverse health effects. It is a concentration of a contaminant that industry has deemed reasonable. <http://www.agswater.com/mclg.html>

## Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water

“The MAC is declared to be “protective of health, provided care is taken to follow Health Canada’s recommendations regarding other sources of exposure to fluoride”

## International Expert in Risk Analysis and Fluoride Toxicity

Dr. Thiessen, PhD, SENES Oak Ridge, Inc., Center for Risk Analysis, is a professional in the field of risk analysis, including exposure assessment, toxicity evaluation, and risk assessment. She has recently served on two subcommittees of the National Research Council’s Committee on Toxicology, including the NRC’s Committee on Fluoride in Drinking Water. Available from: [http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/Kathleen\\_Thiessen\\_Nov27\\_2009\\_Health\\_Canada.pdf](http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/Kathleen_Thiessen_Nov27_2009_Health_Canada.pdf)

1. Who is expected to take care to follow Health Canada’s recommendations? Members of the public?
2. Are they adequately informed that if they fail to spit out their toothpaste, any adverse health effects from the local drinking water are their own responsibility?
3. Do the local water authorities monitor their populations for “excess” consumption of toothpaste or tea?
4. If “excess” consumption occurs, are the violators warned to reduce their fluoride intakes, or will the local water authorities reduce the water fluoride concentration to protect the health of their constituents?

## **There is no legal requirement in Ontario to remediate drinking water or warn citizens about fluoride levels in excess of the MAC in Ontario.**

“Where supplies contain naturally occurring fluoride at levels higher than the MAC of 1.5 mg/L but less than 2.4 mg/L the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recommends an approach through local boards of health to raise public and professional awareness to control excessive exposure to fluoride from other sources.”

Available from: Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water Standards, Objectives and Guidelines [http://www.ontario.ca/drinkngwater/stel-1\\_046947.pdf](http://www.ontario.ca/drinkngwater/stel-1_046947.pdf).