

How YOU Can Help Get Lead Out of School Drinking Water

Lead Facts

- Lead is found in tap/fountain parts and pipe solder
- There is NO SAFE LEVEL of lead. All exposure is linked to negative neurological health outcomes
- Ontario's legal limit for lead in water is twice that of the federal government's guideline
- In the last 5 years, half of Ontario schools have reported dangerous levels of lead in their water

Health Impacts

- Children are particularly vulnerable to the harms of lead exposure
- Even low levels of lead exposure are linked to:
 - Lower IQ scores
 - Behavioural problems
 - Decreased attention spans
 - Fine motor skill delays
- Exposure to lead can have life-long consequences

Talking to Your Trustee

Ontario's approach to preventing lead exposure in schools is outdated and ineffective. Your Trustee may not know the facts, but you can help by explaining to them that "good enough" isn't good enough.

When they say...

We are in compliance with provincial water quality requirements

We flush water through the pipes every morning to remove water that was in contact with lead overnight

It is the government's responsibility to regulate and enforce water safety measures

...You say

The rules and regulations are outdated and not doing enough to keep kids safe. We need to get the lead out.

That isn't enough to protect children. We need to prioritize removal and use more effective prevention measures

I agree that the province needs to do more, but you as a trustee also have the power to prevent the life-long health impacts of lead

Requests for Your Trustee

LEARN

- Read CELA's report to learn about weaknesses in existing regulation
- Find out how much lead is in the water at schools under your jurisdiction

ADVOCATE

- Pass a resolution calling on the province of Ontario to prioritize and fund the removal of lead from schools

ACT

- Prioritize replacing lead-containing fixtures
- Where replacement isn't possible, install filters or, if necessary, flush water before each use
- Take mitigation action on taps that exceed the federal standard



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CELA Publication #1622