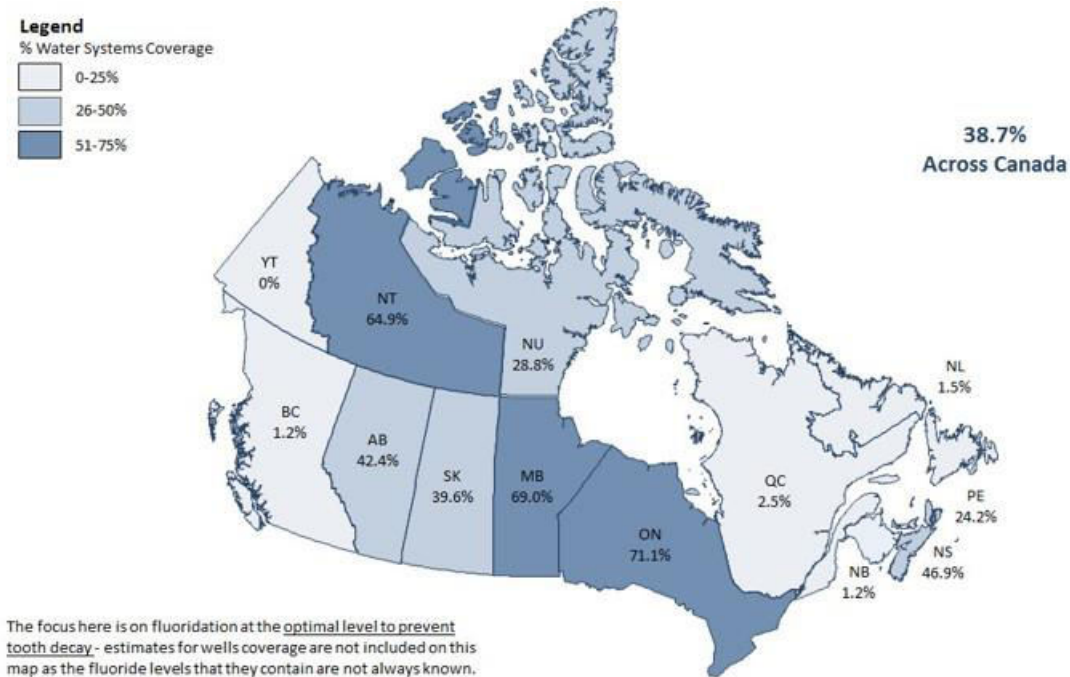


## Water Fluoridation Across Canada<sup>i</sup>

According to the Government of Canada's 2017 report on Community Water Fluoridation in Canada, Ontario has 71.1% of water system coverage compared to a Canadian average of 38.7%.



Most provinces and territories have rates considerably lower than Ontario. There is one territory and four provinces with fluoridation rates below 2.5%.

Yukon 0%

BC 1.2%

New Brunswick 1.2%

Newfoundland 1.5%

Quebec 2.5%

The rates in the remaining provinces and territories range from 24.2% to 69.0%. It is important to note that Alberta's rate is likely lower since Calgary was documented as a fluoridated community when in fact they discontinued water fluoridation in 2011.<sup>ii</sup>

PEI 24.2%

Nunavut 28.8%

Saskatchewan 39.6%

Alberta 42.4%

Nova Scotia 46.9%

Northwest Territories 64.9%

Manitoba 69.0%

The following table provides 2007 estimates for community water fluoridation in all 10 provinces and 3 territories.<sup>iii</sup>

**Table 1** Provincial and territorial estimates for community water fluoridation coverage in 2007<sup>s</sup>

Province	Total population	Population with fluoridated water	Population without fluoridated water	Percentage with fluoridated water	Percentage without fluoridated water
British Columbia	4,113,000	152,241	3,960,759	3.7%	96.3%
Alberta	3,290,350	2,457,406	832,944	74.7%	25.3%
Saskatchewan	968,157	356,096	612,061	36.8%	63.2%
Manitoba	1,148,401	803,116	345,285	69.9%	30.1%
Ontario	12,160,282	9,229,015	2,931,267	75.9%	24.1%
Quebec	7,546,131	489,420	7,067,711	6.4%	93.7%
New Brunswick	729,498	188,607	540,891	25.9%	74.2%
Nova Scotia	913,462	519,031	394,431	56.8%	43.2%
Prince Edward Island	135,851	32,174	103,677	23.7%	76.3%
Newfoundland/Labrador	505,469	7,572	497,897	1.5%	98.5%
Nunavut	29,474	0	29,474	0.0%	100.0%
Northwest Territories	41,464	23,400	18,034	56.4%	43.6%
Yukon	30,372	0	30,372	0.0%	100.0%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>31,611,911</b>	<b>14,258,078</b>	<b>17,364,803</b>	<b>45.1%</b>	<b>54.9%</b>

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The following *Snapshot of water fluoridation in Canada* was taken from the Water Fluoridation in Canada: Past and Present document published in the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association in 2009.<sup>iv</sup>

**Box 1** Snapshot of water fluoridation in Canada (percentage of population with fluoridated water)

**Ontario (75.9%)**

Since 2008, the fluoridation debate in Ontario has been very active. At least 8 communities were challenged to discontinue community water fluoridation. Municipal councils voted to continue fluoridation in Hamilton, Tottenham and Atikokan. Dryden (by referendum) and Niagara (by regional council) voted not to restart its water fluoridation program. Halton and Norfolk councils voted to continue fluoridation while awaiting the final report of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water. Thunder Bay, which is not fluoridated, has implemented a public education program on community water fluoridation. Waterloo's water supply is currently fluoridated, with a future plebiscite scheduled for the 2010 municipal elections. Other Ontario cities have decided to adjust their fluoride levels, with Toronto and Hamilton lowering their levels to 0.6 parts per million.

**Quebec (6.4%)**

In 2008, Quebec City voted to discontinue water fluoridation, while Dorval resumed fluoridation after a 5-year hiatus. Montreal's water supply remains non-fluoridated.

**Nova Scotia (56.8%)**

Fluoridation in Nova Scotia began in the 1970s. Currently, 57% of the population has access to fluoridated water. The province has a fluoride mouthrinse program offered in select schools for children 4–12 years of age. The Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection supports the fluoridation of drinking water to help prevent caries (see the department's position statement at: [www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/position\\_statement-fluoridation.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/position_statement-fluoridation.pdf)).

**Alberta (74.7%)**

Calgary went through 5 plebiscites on fluoride up to 1998. A vote in 1989 received a majority, and water fluoridation started in 1991. A plebiscite held in 1998 resulted in a narrow victory for water fluoridation (55% voted yes). Edmonton has fluoridated its water since 1967.

**British Columbia (3.7%)**

Despite the British Columbia Ministry of Health Services supporting water fluoridation in the prevention of caries, less than 4% of B.C. community water is fluoridated.

**Newfoundland/Labrador (1.5%)**

Only 1.5% of the province's community water is fluoridated, down from 3.5% in 2005. Most private and community water sources in the province come from wells which may have natural sources of fluoride (see the map "Areas of potential fluoride concentration in well water" at: [www.env.gov.nl.ca/Env/env/waterres/Groundwater/Fluoride/GW&Fluoride.asp](http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/Env/env/waterres/Groundwater/Fluoride/GW&Fluoride.asp)).

**Prince Edward Island (23.7%)**

A plebiscite on fluoridation was held in Charlottetown in 1967. Fluoridation began in 1968 in this city as well as the Canadian Forces Base in Summerside. Currently, P.E.I. is focusing on preventive dental programs for children and adolescents through schools, which include topical fluoride application for the partial prevention of tooth decay.

Based on the rates of water fluoridation in the Canadian Dental Association document and the Government of Canada's water fluoridation statistics rates have decreased in most of the provinces of which there is data to compare.

Province/Territory	Canadian Dental Association (2007)	Government of Canada (2017)
Ontario	75.9%	71.1%
Manitoba	69.9%	69.0%
Northwest Territories	56.4%	64.9%
Nova Scotia	56.8%	46.9%
Alberta	74.7%	42.4%
Saskatchewan	36.8%	39.6%
Nunavut	0%	28.8%
Prince Edward Island (PEI)	23.7%	24.2%
Quebec	6.4%	2.5%
Newfoundland	1.5%	1.5%*
New Brunswick	25.9%	1.2%
British Columbia	3.7%	1.2%
Yukon	0%	0%

NA – Not available

\*Alberta's current rate is likely lower since they included Calgary as a fluoridated community despite water fluoridation was discontinued in Calgary in 2011.

\*To my knowledge no communities in Newfoundland currently fluoridate their municipal drinking water.

## Communities In Canada that Have Discontinued or Rejected Starting Water Fluoridation by Province

### Ontario

Community	Population	Date
Cobalt		December 11, 2001
West Elgin	5,400	June 2003
Dutton-Dunwich	3,000	June 2003
Welland, Pelham and part of Thorold		February 2008
Dryden	7,600	April 2008
Thunder Bay	108,359	July 21, 2009
Waterloo, St. Jacobs and Elmira	103,000	October 25, 2010
Lakeshore	33,000	October 31, 2011
Amherstburg	20,000	February 7, 2012
Orillia	40,000	July 17, 2012*
Kirkland Lake	8,133	December 2012
Windsor	279,000	January 28, 2013**
La Salle	29,000	January 28, 2013***
Tecumseh	24,000	January 28, 2013***
Tottenham	4,800	September 30, 2013
Huntsville	19,100	January 2014
Lake of Bays	3,500	January 2014
Kingsville	21,400	April 28, 2015
Nairn and Hyman	477	April 11, 2016
Cornwall	46,340	May 24, 2016
Parry Sound	6,400	October 22, 2018

\*Rejected the implementation of water fluoridation

\*\*On December 17, 2018 Windsor City Council voted for the reintroduction of water fluoridation.

\*\*\* La Salle and Tecumseh affected by Windsor's vote in 2013

## Manitoba

Community	Population	Date
Cranberry Portage	615	January 1, 2009
Churchill	1,000	October 18, 2011

## Alberta

Community	Population	Date
Drayton Valley	7,000	December 31, 2008
Athabasca	2,600	November 1, 2010
Calgary	1,300,000	February 8, 2011
Taber	6,500	July 20, 2011
Slave Lake	7,000	September 12, 2011
Okotoks	25,000	April 23, 2012

## Saskatchewan

Community	Population	Date
Meadow Lake	5,000	July 4, 2011
Rosetown	2,300	July 16, 2012
Nipawin	4,401	July 10, 2017

## Quebec

Community	Population	Date
Laval	437,413	2000
Sainte-Thérèse	27,000	2002
Boisbriand	27,258	2002
Saint-Janvier de Mirabel	50,513	2002
Blainville	59,104	2002
Quebec City	531,902	April 1, 2008
Montréal	1,942,044	2009
Sainte-Marie de Beauce	13,889	2009
Longueuil	246,899	2009
Beaupré	3,752	2010
Gatineau	314,502	May 5, 2010
Ville de Saguenay	145,365	2010
Verchères	5,782	February 7, 2011
Amqui	6,094	2011
Fermont	2,474	2013
Bécancour	13,272	2013
+ 80 municipalities by resolution		2013
Richmond	3,300	October 20, 2014
La Prairie	24,948	December 2, 2014
La Ville de Trois-Rivières	137,026	November 21, 2016
Mont Joli	5,604	2017
Montmagny	11,117	2018

\*Rejected the implementation of water fluoridation

## Newfoundland

To my knowledge no communities in Newfoundland currently fluoridate their municipal drinking water. Some areas in Newfoundland have high levels of naturally occurring fluoride in their well water.<sup>v</sup>

## New Brunswick

Community	Population	Date
Dieppe	20,000	December 12, 2011
Saint John	76,550	March 11, 2014
Moncton	72,000	September 18, 2017

## British Columbia

Community	Population	Date
Comox/Courtenay		February 1992
Port Hardy		November 1993
Campbell River		April 1993
Kelowna		November 16, 1996
Kitimat		March 1998
Squamish		October 16, 2000
Kamloops		October 13, 2001
Burns Lake	2,000	June 25, 2003
Golden	3,500	November 19, 2005
Williams Lake	11,200	November 19, 2011
Lake Cowichan	3,000	November 19, 2011
Prince George	71,970	November 16, 2014
Sparwood	3,500	November 16, 2014

## Yukon

Community	Population	Date
Whitehorse		July 28, 1998*

\*Discontinued after 30 years of fluoridation

Updated January 3, 2019

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/fluoride-water-map-canada.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.calgary.ca/UEP/Water/Pages/Drinking-water/Fluoride.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.cda-adc.ca/jcda/vol-75/issue-6/451.pdf>

Community Dental Health Services Research Unit. Provincial and territorial estimates for community water fluoridation coverage in 2007. Toronto: Faculty of dentistry, University of Toronto; 2007.

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.cda-adc.ca/jcda/vol-75/issue-6/451.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/cycle/groundwater/well/fluoride.html>