

Metroland Letter to the Editor

Let authorities know the score on incineration

Thu Jun 26, 2008

To the editor:

Re: Smoking ban pleases top doc, June 22.

It is fitting that Durham Region's medical officer of health believes in protecting the health of children.

I am puzzled, then, as to why Dr. Robert Kyle seems eager to give his blessing to an incinerator in Durham when incinerator emissions are linked to more than 30 human illnesses and diseases.

Unborn and breastfeeding babies and young children are most vulnerable to these pollutants.

There are over 200 pollutants emitted from incinerators, more than 50 of which are known toxins to child development.

Durham Region proposes to monitor about a dozen of these emissions.

Regional council has not supported the monitoring of human health. As a result, when our incinerator makes people sick, nobody will know it or be able to prove it.

Tens of thousands of physicians in the European Union (and 42 in Durham) have petitioned against incineration, their primary concern being child health.

Dr. Kyle will decide whether incineration is safe for Durham Region.

Send your concerns to him at health@region.durham.on.ca, with a copy to Durham Region (clerks@region.durham.on.ca). To learn more about incineration and its alternatives, visit www.durhamenvironmentwatch.org.

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