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EPA Petition Could Spell End of Fluoridation

Wednesday, 7 December 2016, 10:36 am

Press Release: [fluoride Action Network](#)

06/12/16

PRESS RELEASE

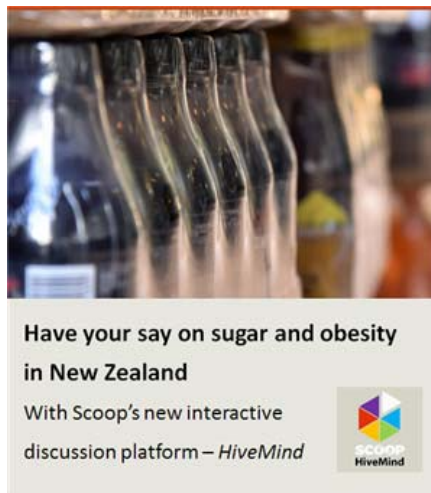
EPA Petition Could Spell End of Fluoridation

The New Zealand Government's proposal to take away legal responsibility for water fluoridation from local councils and give it to the District Health Boards could prove to be an exercise in futility.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now under legal threat from a [petition](#) demanding that the EPA apply their standard risk assessment rules to water fluoridation. Applying these rules would result in the EPA enacting a Regulation to prohibit the addition of fluoridation chemicals to the drinking water. If the EPA do not act within 90 days, the legal team at Fluoride Action Network (FAN) USA will take court action.

Fluoride Action Network have provided the EPA with a detailed assessment of all studies on fluoride and brain effects that have been completed since the [2006 National Research Council's Fluorides in Drinking Water](#). That review states, "it is apparent that fluorides have the ability to interfere with the functions of the brain and the body by direct and indirect means" (page 187) and recommended further research.

FAN's assessment provides unequivocal proof that current allowable levels of fluoride are not protective for all members of the population from damage to the brain. Those particularly vulnerable are bottle-fed babies, children, the elderly and people with kidney or thyroid problems.



USA health authorities lowered the maximum level for fluoridation last year to a level lower than New Zealand's. The US authorities are obviously concerned about fluoride's harm to the brain, as they are currently funding three major studies to determine at what dose harm to the brain occurs. They are:

- The **National Toxicology Program** undertaking a [study on animals](#) to evaluate potential neurobehavioural effects from fluoride exposure during development.
- The **National Institute of Health** funding a [Canadian study](#) which looks at a world-renowned Mexican longitudinal study of the potential impact of population-wide levels of fluoride exposure on neurodevelopment.
- The **National Institute of Health** funding York University to lead the [largest study](#) to date investigating whether early life exposure to low level fluoride affects the developing brain.

Spokesperson for Fluoride Free NZ (FFNZ) Mary Byrne says: "It is backward and reckless for the New Zealand Government to embark on new legislation to further entrench fluoridation and extend it to the other half of New Zealand that has never been fluoridated."

FFNZ is asking the NZ Health Select Committee members to review the details of the petition and to recommend that the new legislation be shelved. "Fluoridation belongs to a by-gone era and far too much is now known about adverse health effects for any further consideration on fluoridation to be seriously considered." says Ms. Byrne.

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[Gordon Campbell: On The New Team's Potential Cabinet Picks](#)

Now that the charade of a contest for the National Party leadership is over – the pre-arranged succession had about as much drama as the upcoming transition from Queen Elizabeth to Prince Charles – attention will shift once again this week to the minor placings.

Will Nick Smith /Murray McCully /Anne Tolley volunteer to go, be pushed, or be left where they are? Any "renewal" that doesn't dispose of that kind of deadweight deserves to be regarded as a failure, right out of the box... [More>>](#)

[English & Bennett Confirmed - Reshuffle Before Xmas:](#)
[National Selects New Leadership Team](#)

The New Zealand National Party caucus today elected Bill English and Paula Bennett as its new Leader and Deputy Leader, Party President Peter Goodfellow says. Mr English and Mrs Bennett will serve as National's 12th leadership team in its 80 years, and will soon travel to Government House to be sworn in as New Zealand's 39th Prime Minister and 18th Deputy Prime Minister. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Labour - [Congratulations Bill English: so what's new?](#)
- Greens - [Fixing National's housing crisis must be a top priority](#)
- ACT - [Free Press:ACT's regular bulletin](#)



- Stand Up - [Bill English and Paula Bennett put on 90-day trial](#)
- Rainbow Wellington - [Bill English must be a Prime Minister for all New Zealanders](#)
- Federated Farmers - [Feds Challenge Bill English's Team to Continue Good Work](#)
- EMA - [Congratulations to new Prime Minister](#)
- LGNZ - [Local Government New Zealand welcomes new Prime Minister](#)

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- Werewolf - [Gordon Campbell on the National leadership "contest"](#)
 - TVNZ - [Q+A: Steven Joyce](#)
 - BusinessDesk - [English cites 'strong support', won't name preferred deputy](#)
 - Martin Doyle - [Martin Doyle Cartoon: Wonder who the PM and Deputy will be](#)
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- The White House - [President's Call with Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand](#)
 - Stand With Pike - [Bill English offered chance to stand with Pike](#)
 - Earlier coverage - [John Key announces resignation](#)

Education, Marketing, Taxes: Health Groups Call For Actions For Sugary Drinks

The New Zealand Dental Association is launching a new consensus statement on Sugary Drinks endorsed by key health organisations. The actions seek to reduce harm caused by sugary drinks consumption. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Greens - [Calls for a sugary drinks tax grow louder](#)
- Science Media Centre - [Taking sugary drinks to task](#)
- NZ Medical Association - [NZMA calls for tax on sugary drinks](#)
- Association of Salaried Medical Specialists - [Senior doctors and dentists support action on sugary drinks](#)
- The Heart Foundation - [Heart Foundation supports sugary drinks action](#)
- Hapai Te Hauora - [Hapai Te Hauora supports new coalition against sugary drinks](#)
- NZ Taxpayers' Union - [Soda Tax Claims Post-Truth Virtue Signalling](#)
- Public Health Association - [Your kids are sweet enough – hold those sugary drinks](#)
- Health Research Council Of NZ - [Missing link in understanding of type 2 diabetes](#)
- Earlier Scoop HiveMind Discussion - [No sugar coating: what should we do?](#) - [Sugar and Obesity Factsheet and links](#)

**More Departures? David Shearer Proposed For UN Peacekeeping Role**

Mt Albert MP David Shearer is being proposed for a demanding and exciting role heading the United Nations peacekeeping force in South Sudan, says Labour Leader Andrew Little. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Labour - [David Shearer statement on proposed United Nations role](#)
- *Image* 2012 Wellington.Scoop - [IMAGES: David Shearer gets sheared \(by Russel Norman\)](#)

**Security Agencies' Reports: GCSB Wants To Give ISPs More Power To Block Threats**

The Government Communications Security Bureau wants to give internet service providers more information and power to block cyber threats which are increasing, its director told the intelligence and security select committee yesterday.. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- *Intelligence Agency Reports:* - [NZSIS - GCSB](#)
- *No Right Turn* - [Yet More Spying](#)

**Education: Charter Schools Misleading Pass Rates**

Labour: NCEA results for charter schools have been massively overstated... In one case a school reported a 93.3 per cent pass rate when the facts show only 6.7 per cent of leavers achieved NCEA level two. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Post Primary Teachers' Association - [Yet another 'fail' for charter schools](#)
- Save Our Schools NZ - [Another misleading statement about charter schools](#)

**Rebstock Report Resolution: SSC Apologises To Derek Leask And Nigel Fyfe**

Following a complaint by Mr Leask, the Ombudsman found that the State Services Commission acted unreasonably in relation to Mr Leask and identified numerous deficiencies in the investigation process and in the publication of the final report and in the criticisms it contained of Mr Leask... [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Werewolf - [Gordon Campbell on the National leadership "contest" \(and the SSC apology\)](#)
- Out-Link - [Andrew Geddis: Doing the right thing | Pundit](#)
- State Services Commission - [Commissioner's statement of conduct expectations](#)
- Derek Leask - [SSC Apologises for handling of Rebstock Investigation](#)
- Public Service Association - [SSC apologises to Derek Leask and Nigel Fyfe](#)
- June Office of the Ombudsman - [State Services Commission Inquiry into leaked MFAT documents](#)
- *Image 2013* - [Satire: MFAT Watercoolergate](#)

International Rankings: Student Results 'Show More Resourcing Needed'

NZEI: New Zealand had only held relatively steady in international rankings in some areas because the average achievement for several other OECD countries had lowered the OECD average -- not because our student achievement has improved. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- NZ Govt - [NZ students consolidate PISA scores and improve rankings](#)
- Labour - [NZ student performance slips in international study - again](#)

Earlier:

- NZ Govt - [NZ science results headline encouraging international study](#)
- Labour - [National: Fails to achieve](#)
- NZEI Te Riu Roa - [International results show National Standards failure - NZEI](#)

Salvation Army Report: Beyond The Prison Gate Report

A new Salvation Army report says changes must be made to how prisoners re-enter society for New Zealanders to feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. [More>>](#)

ALSO:

- Department Of Corrections - [Corrections releases Crimes of Torture Act reports](#) - [Savvy sniffers boost protection at NZ border and prisons](#)
- NZ Govt - [Lower risk 17 year-olds included in youth jurisdiction](#) - [Corrections Inspectorate to be more transparent](#) - [Adams: Using data to fight crime](#) - [Minister welcomes Detector Dog graduates](#)
- NZ First - [Corrections Department Needs to Get with the Times](#) - [Raising Youth Court Age a Recipe for Disaster](#)
- JustSpeak - [Taking 17 year olds out of adult justice system long overdue](#)
- Sensible Sentencing Trust - [Youth Justice Decision Smells Fishy](#)
- NZ Police Association - [Resourcing Critical to Changes in Youth Justice Age](#)

Surprise Exit: Gordon Campbell On The Key Resignation

The resignation of John Key is one thing. The way that Key and his deputy Bill English have screwed the scrum on the leadership succession vote (due on December 12) is something else again. It remains to be seen whether the party caucus – ie, the ambitious likes of Steven Joyce, Judith Collins, Paula Bennett, and Amy Adams – will simply roll over... [More>>](#)

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- Wellington.Scoop - [PM resigning next week; refers to family pressures and "nothing left in the tank"](#)
- BusinessDesk - [Stocks show little sign of increased risk premium](#) - [NZ shares rise, market unfazed by PM change](#) - [NZ dollar recovers ground after surprise Key resignation](#) - [NZ retirement age in question with Key exit](#) - [NZ PM Key to step down citing family toll](#) - [English refuses to say if will stand for PM](#) - [Andrew Little warns Key's replacement Labour 'ready to go'](#) - [NZ dollar falls vs greenback after Key resigns](#)
- Dave Wolland - [Cartoon Comment – John Key's Resignation](#)
- Liana Pantaleo - [PM's Press Conference: Key will step down on a high note](#)
- NZ Govt - [Prime Minister John Key announces resignation](#) - [Speech: Prime Minister John Key announces resignation](#) - [Key: It has been my privilege to serve you](#) - [English: John Key one of NZ's greatest leaders](#)
- National - [National Party responds to Prime Minister's resignation](#)
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- Labour - [Andrew Little: Statement on John Key's resignation](#) - [Next Prime Minister must tackle foreign speculators](#)
- NZ First - [Hidden economic reasons for PM's decision](#)
- Greens - [Green Party statement on resignation of the Prime Minister](#)
- ACT - [ACT congratulates John Key](#) - [Free Press: ACT's regular bulletin](#)
- Maori Party - [Māori Party acknowledges John Key](#)
- United Future - [Dunne Speaks: That Was the Week That Was](#)
- UMR Research Ltd - [Public favour English as Key's successor](#)
- Tourism Industry Aotearoa - [PM raised profile of tourism in Govt](#)
- Auckland Action Against Poverty - [Welfare group have no faith in Key's replacement](#)
- NZ Property Institute - [Property Institute applauds 'Peoples Prime Minister'](#)
- Socialist Aotearoa - [After John Key Era? Where to now for Aotearoa...](#)
- Mana Party - [MANA says 'Haere Ra' to John Key](#)
- NZ Seniors Party - [The Wind of Change](#)
- Conservative Party - [John Key putting Family First](#)
- YeahNah - [Millennials Vote YEAH for John Key's Resignation](#)
- Income Equality Aotearoa NZ - [Prime Minister John Key resigns](#)
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