

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent.

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 1 - 2007M

MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN THE GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence serve as a source of drinking water, a place for recreation and enjoyment, such as sport fishing, and a means of livelihood for many commercial fishermen across the Basin;

WHEREAS, widespread contamination of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from a wide variety of toxic pollutants has occurred over the years;

WHEREAS, among the many toxic contaminants, some of the greatest concern is over mercury pollution because of the serious threats it poses to human and ecological health;

WHEREAS, exposure to mercury is of special concern to children, women of child bearing age, and people who subsist on fish as a large part of their diet, such as Native American and First Nation peoples;

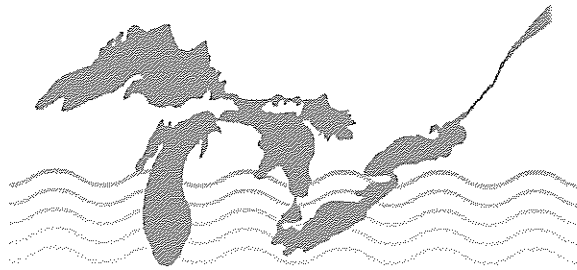
WHEREAS, mercury contamination in fish is one of the major reasons for advisories against eating certain sizes, types, and numbers of fish in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canadian Binational Toxics Strategy of 1997 includes special emphasis on mercury reduction and a number of actions have been implemented to advance the goals of the strategy;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy highlights mercury as one of the toxic pollutants of significant concern that requires priority consideration for action;

WHEREAS, a workgroup with federal, state, local, and tribal representatives has been working on a mercury phase down strategy over the past year, and that strategy is nearing completion;

WHEREAS, federal, provincial, local, and first nation governments in Canada have identified mercury as a priority pollutant of concern and have implemented a number of actions to reduce the release of mercury to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

WHEREAS, coal-powered electricity generation is a major source of mercury contamination;

WHEREAS, mercury continues to be present at unacceptable levels in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and further action is necessary to get additional reductions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that cities and other local units of government support the goals of the United States and Canadian Binational Toxics Strategy and will take actions wherever possible to help implement and accelerate the actions anticipated under the Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to work with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy team to complete the “Mercury in Products Phase Down Strategy” to reduce mercury in products and in waste disposal; and

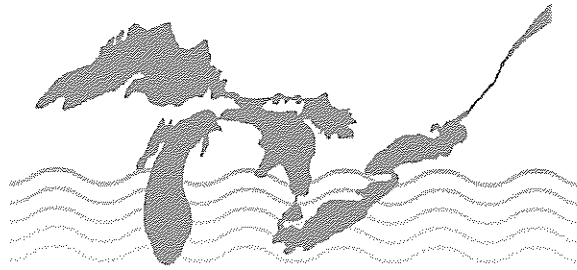
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work with its members and other participating local governments to implement those elements of the strategy that are appropriate for them.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 2 - 2007M

BALLAST WATER

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species, including fish, pathogens and parasites, have been released into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as well as inland lakes and rivers;

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission has stated that the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species is expected to be one of the leading causes of biotic change in lake ecosystems in the 21st century, resulting in irreversible ecological damage, and diminishing rehabilitation prospects for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;

WHEREAS, invasive aquatic species such as sea lampreys and zebra mussels have already had a significant negative economic impact on commercial and recreational fishing activity and municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS, vessels entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from the Atlantic Ocean are the primary source of new aquatic invasive species entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence system;

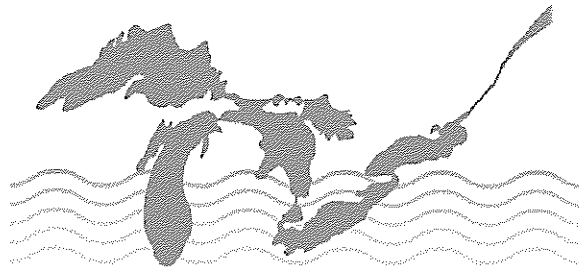
WHEREAS, current ballast water regulations have proven ineffective, particularly in regulating the flushing of NOBOB (no ballast on board) tanks;

WHEREAS, federal governments have been slow to take decisive legislative or regulatory action and to provide the necessary funding to deal with this issue in a comprehensive and effective way, despite broad consensus in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region that such action and funding is needed;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canadian advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes United, and Heal Our Waters Coalition have called for a moratorium on entrance of oceangoing vessels into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence until effective methods of ballast water treatments are implemented;

WHEREAS, the lack of United States federal standards or regulations has compelled states to enact ballast water treatment requirements in Michigan and California, and other states are currently considering similar legislation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and United States federal governments to



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

adopt a long term target of zero new introductions, not a reduced rate of aquatic species invasions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on both the Canadian and United States federal governments to pass comprehensive federal legislation to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species, including a ballast water regulatory program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such federal legislation must achieve the following:

1. An immediate requirement that all ships exempted from current regulations because they are in the no ballast on board condition be required to treat residual ballast water by best management practices such as ballast water exchange or other technology; and
2. Establishes a ballast water treatment standard regime for ocean-going vessels that includes:
 - The ultimate goal of zero discharge of viable organisms;
 - A requirement to meet an environmentally protective standard within five years or less following enactment;
 - A requirement to review technology on a periodic basis both before and after the five-year period to define the best performing technology and to require application of discharge standards based on the performance of the best technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of the United States and Canada to develop management programs and regulatory programs as necessary for all intra-lake, Canadian coast-wise, and ocean-going commercial shipping vessels to undertake management practices that advance towards the goal of preventing aquatic invasive species that are introduced into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River from being spread throughout the system; and

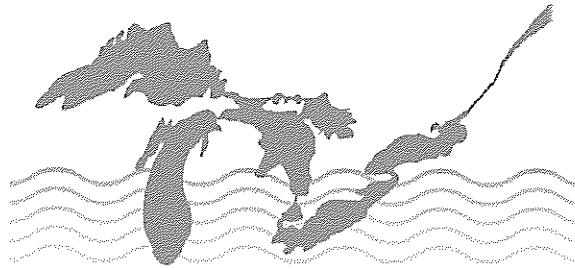
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that governments must ensure that all options investigated to control the introduction of non-native invasive species in the Great Lakes not result in the transfer of the problem to the St. Lawrence River region.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 3 – 2007M

INVASIVE SPECIES

WHEREAS, over 180 aquatic invasive species have already caused damage and are continuing to cause damage to the waters in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, harming the ecological integrity, biological diversity and economic health of the bi-national Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region;

WHEREAS, new and damaging aquatic invasive species are being introduced into the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence ecosystem, including inland lakes and rivers, at a rate of more than one species per year through a number of methods, the most prominent of which is the discharge of ship ballast water;

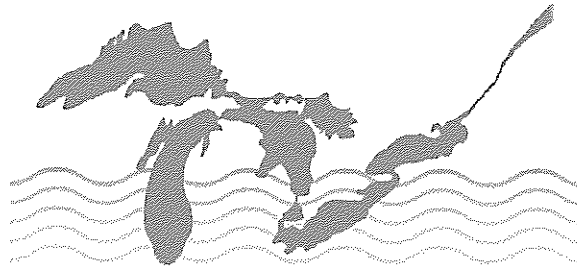
WHEREAS, local governments are taking steps to prohibit the release of aquatic invasive species in the waters of their communities, for instance through the use of municipal ordinances, but do not have the adequate authority, jurisdiction or resources to effectively control and prevent aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal action with regards to aquatic invasive species, work is underway by stakeholders through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to develop a rapid response communication protocol to help alert the necessary agencies upon the discovery of a new aquatic invasive species within the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the United States, some state governments are now moving forward to enact their own state laws and regulations to control such species;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly supports state efforts to prevent and control invasive species, but the existence of different state laws and policies that are not necessarily similar or coordinated is not the most effective or the most efficient approach to prevention and control of aquatic invasive species;

WHEREAS, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, Bill S.725, was introduced in the United States in March of 2007 to amend the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act and the bill currently sits in committee;



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

WHEREAS, current ballast water regulations in both Canada and the United States have proven ineffective, particularly in regulating the flushing of NOBOB (no ballast on board) tanks;

WHEREAS, although there has been strong support in recent years from within and outside of Canada and the United States for federal comprehensive aquatic invasive species legislation, such legislation has not yet advanced;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes that aquatic invasive species issues are urgent and that time is of the essence with respect to protecting the Great Lakes waters from their harmful ecological and economic consequences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the federal governments of Canada and the United States to promptly enact comprehensive national aquatic invasive species legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work jointly as a coalition, and work separately with their respective members of the Canadian Parliament and the United States Congress, to actively encourage through letters, meetings, and other opportunities to promptly enact comprehensive national aquatic invasive species legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to urge the Canadian and United States governments to provide maximum funding and enforcement for existing aquatic invasive species control and prevention programs, specifically for adequate operation of the Asian Carp Barrier in Chicago's Sanitary and Ship Canal, even in the absence of new legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian government to work with the United States government to harmonize their approaches to ballast water control and invasive species protection; and

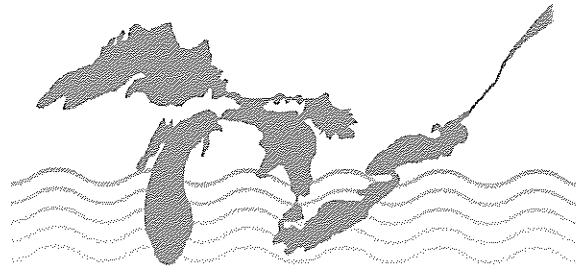
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will further encourage the use of municipal ordinances and other municipal measures to prohibit the release of aquatic invasive species into the waters of their communities and the shared Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 4 – 2007M

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE BEACHES

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin recognize that lakes and rivers are a key part of the economic well-being and the quality of life for our communities;

WHEREAS, improving and protecting the quality of water is fundamental to maintaining healthy lakes, rivers, beaches and waterfronts;

WHEREAS, municipal officials are responsible for providing recreational opportunities and for protecting the public health of residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, *E. coli* bacteria levels are used across the Basin to indicate acceptable water quality conditions to protect the health of beach users;

WHEREAS, current standard laboratory procedures typically provide results 24 hours after sample collection and therefore are unable to provide “day of sampling” results;

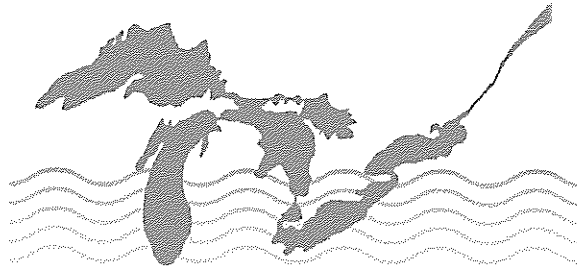
WHEREAS, water quality sampling protocols are not standardized across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin;

WHEREAS, the lack of a reliable water quality pathogen indicator and the untimely testing process may lead to unnecessary beach closures or beaches remaining open when they should be closed;

WHEREAS, recreational water quality criteria for the Great Lakes are in need of revision in both the United States and Canada;

WHEREAS, the BEACH Act 2000 required the United States EPA to complete studies within three years of enactment to assess pathogens in recreational water and publish new or revised water quality criteria five years after enactment; EPA did not do this and a federal district court has found EPA in violation of the BEACH Act and has required them to complete reporting and adopt revised criteria;

WHEREAS, the United States EPA has not established a time line for completing revised water quality criteria for pathogen indicators required by the BEACH



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

Act; the Canadian federal government water safety guidelines are in the process of revision without a set timeframe for release;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has developed and is piloting a sanitary survey tool that allows cities and municipalities to understand and address the sources of beach contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the federal, state, provincial and local governments across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin as well as research and academic institutions and public health agencies in the United States and Canada to work together to:

1. Establish and implement a common and safe *E. coli* standard or other indicator for application at all Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin beaches;
2. Standardize water quality sampling protocols and beach posting protocols;
3. Develop and standardize accurate and timely rapid bio-detection methods to assess beach water quality conditions on the day of sampling; and
4. Identify effective beach management programs that will improve recreational water quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will investigate the use of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Sanitary Survey tool by member cities so that they may become knowledgeable about the sources of contamination at their beaches and explore remediation efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the implementation of the above program will occur alongside efforts to encourage the United States EPA, Canadian government, provincial and state governments to adopt appropriate recreational water quality criteria and standards.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 5 – 2007M

WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River are national and international treasures vital to the region;

WHEREAS, these treasures are shared common resources between the citizens of Canada and the United States;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the premier freshwater system in the world, containing almost twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and providing drinking water to over thirty-five million Canadian and United States citizens;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are also vital to the region in terms of industry, recreation, and their value as natural habitats;

WHEREAS, only one percent of this resource is renewed each year;

WHEREAS, improper water management could cause irreversible damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem;

WHEREAS, water is needlessly wasted through the use of inefficient appliances throughout the Great Lake and St. Lawrence River Basin;

WHEREAS, climate change is accelerating the year-round evaporation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence surface waters;

WHEREAS, water treatment and distribution is one of the highest energy consumption activities within municipal operations;

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need to conserve water actively and use it efficiently and agree that growth, conservation, and efficiency can occur simultaneously;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 which urges cities to work towards achieving a fifteen percent reduction below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015 and



encourages more cities to implement water conservation programs by fostering a best practices network;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the Governors and Premiers of the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces for their work in developing the regional water conservation and efficiency objectives called for in Article 304(1) of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and looks forward to further revisions to the objectives to ensure a focused, timely approach to regional water conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members reiterate the need for cities to continue leading water conservation and efficiency efforts and encourage further municipal involvement in the Water Conservation Framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to promote its Water Conservation Framework amongst its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities through promotional materials and presentations to municipal councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages municipalities to include water conservation and efficiency measures in their energy efficiency and climate change plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages other levels of government to work closely with municipalities to explore how they can introduce measures that would directly help municipalities reach their water conservation goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal and state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States to adopt measures to ban the sale of water-inefficient toilets, and other water inefficient household appliances.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mayor Gary Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT LAURENT

RESOLUTION 6 -2007M

THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES
COMPACT AND THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN
SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin are precious public natural resources shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the world's largest source of surface freshwater and are essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of the cities, villages, townships, and counties along the shores and in the surrounding watershed;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence support countless recreational, commercial, tourism, and cultural activities for basin residents and visitors; drive economic development and improve the economic value of shoreline communities; support critical aquatic and coastal ecosystems; provide fresh drinking water for millions of people; and support agricultural and industrial activities;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent about twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and drinking water for more than 40 million people throughout the Great Lakes basin;

WHEREAS, despite their size, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are finite and vulnerable to depletion and degradation with only one percent of the water in the Great Lakes being recharged each year;

WHEREAS, future diversions and consumptive uses of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin water resources have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economy and welfare of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable but finite Waters of the Basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come. The most effective means of protecting, conserving, restoring, improving and managing the Basin Waters is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs mutually agreed upon, enacted and adhered to by all of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces;



WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors have endorsed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers have signed Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement—agreements to conserve, protect and improve the Great Lakes and its sustaining waters—but the Compact is not binding until ratified by each Great Lakes state legislature and consented to by the US Congress;

WHEREAS, the states of Minnesota and Illinois have ratified the Compact and the Province of Ontario has enacted laws to implement the Agreement while the Province of Québec has approved the Agreement;

WHEREAS, the other states are at various stages of considering the Compact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon the states of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to promptly ratify the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become enforceable law in the Great Lakes states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to give its consent to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become a binding interstate compact on the Great Lakes states; and

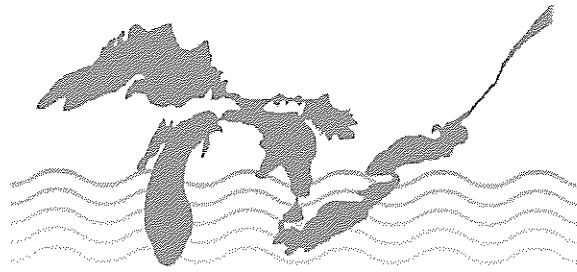
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the government of Québec to adopt the policies and programs mutually agreed upon with the Great Lakes states and Ontario in the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution will be sent to: the Council of Great Lakes Governors, each of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, legislative leaders in each Great Lakes state legislature, and the Great Lakes Delegation in the United States Congress.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007

Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 7 – 2007M

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, in 1987 the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development introduced the term *sustainability*—now commonly used as in the present context—when it declared that “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”;

WHEREAS, a sustainable city or municipality enhances the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of current and future generations;

WHEREAS, the American Planning Association developed the following four principles in 2000 to help communities implement sustainable practices:

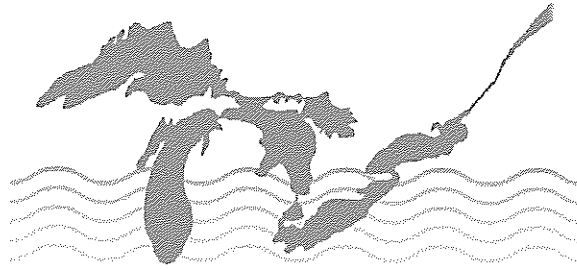
1. Reduce dependence on fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and materials;
2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature;
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems;
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently;

WHEREAS, the local, action-oriented nature of cities and municipalities make them the ideal order of government for sustainability-related improvements and piloting projects;

WHEREAS, citizens are more directly engaged with their city or municipality than their state or nation and cities and municipalities are able to act more quickly on behalf of their citizens;

WHEREAS, while many cities and municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River have already adopted and implemented sustainable practices, many have committed in principal to sustainability but are challenged for various reasons in developing and funding such efforts;

WHEREAS, cities and municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River have responsibility to help ensure the sustainability of these shared common resources for current and future generations;



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need for cities and municipalities to be sustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognize the responsibility to share and promote sustainability best practices with one another; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes a responsibility to work toward greater sustainability and foster greater awareness of local sustainable actions that can and are being implemented, and to work with cities and municipalities to urge action in other levels of government to further sustainability.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 8 – 2007M

THE DECLARATION OF MAYORS FROM MUNICIPALITIES BORDERING
THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence River is important to bordering cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, there are many uses associated with the St. Lawrence River;

WHEREAS, there is a will to maintain these uses for the benefit and well-being of the citizens of these bordering cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, it is important for the mayors of the cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River to unite and mobilize with regards to the challenges and issues of this river;

WHEREAS, there is a will on the part of the mayors of the cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River to join forces with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, to take up the challenge to protect and enhance the St. Lawrence – Great Lakes ecosystem that we all share;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the Declaration of Mayors of Municipalities Bordering the St. Lawrence River, which has already been adopted by more than 40 municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

**Declaration of the Municipalities
Bordering the St. Lawrence River in
the Great Lakes Influential Area**

**(from the Ontario border to close to
Trois-Rivières)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Context** **pages 3 - 4**

APPENDICES

- **Draft resolution for the adoption of the Declaration** **page 5**
 - **The Declaration** **pages 6 - 9**
 - **List of bordering municipalities** **pages 10 - 14**
-

Context

In September 2006, the mayor of Montréal, Gérald Tremblay, set up a meeting with the mayors of municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes influential area (from the Ontario border to close to Trois-Rivières) to discuss the challenges and issues of the St. Lawrence River. (See Appendix 1)

On October 17, more than 20 representatives of municipalities accepted Mayor Tremblay's invitation and attended a meeting at the Montréal Biosphère.

The mayors and their representatives discussed the impact of water level and flow rate regularization on municipal activities such as water captation, port activities, floods, etc. They also discussed water activities such as pleasure boating, swimming, recreational fishing, as well as the development, use and access to riverbanks and preservation of the ecosystem.

As a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Mayor Tremblay felt it was necessary for municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River to develop a strategy and action plan that would reflect the concerns of residents living along its shores.

As a result, participants recognized the importance to mobilize as elected officials to devise a vision as well as shared orientations in terms of managing and protecting this section of the river. All the participants agreed to create a group that would promote the interests and concerns of residents with governments and stakeholders.

The participants felt it was relevant to meet once a year and were in favour of setting up a technical committee that would ensure an information watch over the St. Lawrence River, develop a common vision and propose concrete and structuring actions.

While developing this project, the technical committee devised the "Declaration of Mayors of Municipalities Bordering the St. Lawrence River", which was submitted on March 8, 2007 to all the municipalities located in the Great Lakes influential area. (See Appendix 2)

This Declaration focuses on certain principles and findings that are associated with our municipalities' close proximity to the St. Lawrence River. It highlights their commitments based on financial ability, as well as reflects their demands regarding the St. Lawrence River. (See Appendix 3)

More specifically, the municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes influential area propose that:

- Governments recognize bordering municipalities as preferred partners in the management of the River and related activities.

- Governments help to raise awareness among residents of bordering municipalities of the challenges and issues relating to the St. Lawrence River.
- Governments support bordering municipalities to develop activities on the St. Lawrence River and along riverbanks.
- Governments agree to maintain their properties and infrastructures, assume their responsibilities in the fields of security, boating and various activities relating to the St. Lawrence River.

To this date, 48 city councils have adopted the Declaration. (See Appendix 4)

We propose to table the Declaration at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative at the annual meeting, to be held July 11-13 in Grand Rapids, MI, to solicit the association's support.

Later, we will make representations to government officials to raise awareness of the challenges and issues relating to the St. Lawrence River, as they are perceived by municipal governments, and will ask for their commitment regarding elements of the Declaration.

DECLARATION of Mayors of Municipalities Bordering the St. Lawrence River

Whereas the St. Lawrence River is important to our municipality,

Whereas the St. Lawrence River has many uses,

Whereas there is a will to maintain these uses for the benefit and well-being of our citizens,

Whereas the mayors of the municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River wish to unite and mobilize with regards to the challenges and issues of this River;

It is:

Proposed by:

Supported by:

And resolved to:

1. Adopt the "Declaration of Mayors of Municipalities Bordering the St. Lawrence River" (Declaration);
2. Authorize the tabling of the "Declaration" and a copy of this resolution before the annual meeting of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative for support;
3. Authorize the tabling of the "Declaration" and a copy of this municipal resolution before officials of the governments of Canada and Québec;
4. Submit a copy of this resolution to the representative of the technical committee created by the *Forum des maires des villes riveraines au fleuve Saint-Laurent*.

Declaration of Mayors of Municipalities Bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes Influence Area¹

As approved by the city council of:.....

At its meeting of:.....

We, the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River, in the Great Lakes influence area, are aware of our responsibilities and skills and reiterate the following principles:

- a) The St. Lawrence River is a public, natural resource;
 - b) The St. Lawrence River is essential to the quality of life and vitality of our municipalities;
 - c) We are responsible for maintaining its sustainability and, as bordering municipalities, are responsible for its protection, conservation, restoration, and improvement for the benefit of living and future generations.
2. We, the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River, in the Great Lakes influence area realize that:
- a) The St. Lawrence River supplies drinking water to more than half of the population of Québec, and its basin represents more than 40% of renewable freshwater in Québec;
 - b) The St. Lawrence River represents a tenuous aquatic environment and is a unique ecosystem of incomparable value;
 - c) The St. Lawrence River supports a multitude of recreational, commercial, tourist, cultural, agricultural, industrial and marine activities that are important to our development.
3. We, the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes influence area recognize that:
- a) The St. Lawrence River is vulnerable and subject to various threats (pollution, silting, erosion, etc.) resulting in its degradation, and ultimately in the loss of uses (municipal, economic, social and recreational, tourist, etc.);
 - b) The St. Lawrence River contributes significantly to the economic development of bordering municipalities and those located upstream, by way of the seaway.

¹ (from the Ontario border to close to Trois-Rivières, and encompassing more than 58 municipalities)

4. We, the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes influence area commit, within our financial limits, to make the necessary efforts to:
 - a) Protect, preserve, restore and improve the St. Lawrence River, by joining forces, and by helping to develop and implement policies and programs which we support, jointly;
 - b) Make citizens aware of the importance and fragility of this natural asset;
 - c) Implement programs to conserve water, thereby helping to reduce discharge into the St. Lawrence;
 - d) Assist with the implementation of and compliance with current and future environmental standards;
 - e) Help implement integrated management involving the St. Lawrence water resource;
 - f) Protect our shores through naturalization;
 - g) Promote the implementation of structuring activities relating to water;
 - h) Develop and implement a network that integrates the activities and infrastructures developed by the communities bordering the River.

5. We, the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River in the Great Lakes influence area request that the governments of Canada and Québec:
 - a) In view of the roles and responsibilities of the municipalities and as the citizens' closest representative:
 - i) Develop and maintain, with the mayors of the cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River, ongoing co-operation and concerted efforts in terms of the challenges and issues of the St. Lawrence River;
 - ii) Consult the mayors of cities and municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River as part of any modification or adoption of policies, legislation, regulations or standards that involve our ability to act on the St. Lawrence natural environment;
 - iii) Take into account the aspirations, interests and expectations of the mayors of municipalities bordering the St. Lawrence River, and to involve them in the next revision of the Canada-Québec Agreement on the St. Lawrence 2005-2010.

 - b) In view of the fact that the St. Lawrence River is a significant natural resource for our municipalities and that developing activities to enhance it is important:

- i) Assist with the development and implementation of infrastructures to revitalize the recreational uses of the St. Lawrence River (access points, parking areas, storage, etc.);
 - ii) Help bordering municipalities to develop and establish a network to integrate the activities and infrastructures developed by bordering communities, or a “blue route”;
 - iii) Consider the rich potential of the St. Lawrence islands as a national park to be developed and promoted by governments, according to their jurisdiction.

- c) In view of the fact that the River contributes to the communities’ economic, social and recreational strength, and that the expectations and demands of citizens and other users of the St. Lawrence River must be met:
 - i) Help raise consciousness by creating St. Lawrence Day, awareness school programs, etc.;
 - ii) Consider implementing shore-to-shore transportation (ferries) as part of a public transit policy;
 - iii) Include the St. Lawrence River into the Québec tourism policy.

- d) In view of the fact that the federal and provincial governments, because of their status and responsibilities, are significant players with regards to the St. Lawrence River:
 - i) Protect the uses of the St. Lawrence River, as part of the current reflection process involving the upgrading of seaway infrastructures;
 - ii) Maintain and increase their commitment as to infrastructure maintenance and ownership (quays, retaining walls, etc.), as to water safety support through coast guard involvement at events (fireworks, stranded boats), and in the event of environmental disasters (stranded barges, accidental spills, floods, etc.)

- e) In view of the financial framework that applies to the municipalities:
 - i) Recognize the municipalities’ financial limits and their ability to assist in achieving the goals and projects for the St. Lawrence River.

**List of the municipalities bordering the St.Lawrence
River in the Great Lakes influential area**
(from the Ontario border to close to Trois-Rivières)

and

**Identification of those who had adopted the
« Declaration ».**

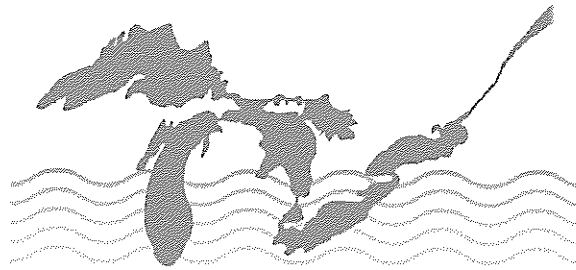
Municipalities	Mayors	Adoption of the “Declaration” by the municipal council
Dundee	Jean Armstrong	
Saint-Anicet	Alain Castagner	April, 2nd
Sainte-Barbe	Jean-Claude Chantigny	
Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka	Gilles Boulé	
Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague	Yves Daoust	
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield *	Denis Lapointe	April, 17th
Beauharnois	Daniel Charlebois	April, 3rd
Rivière-Beaudette	Denis Brodeur	April, 2nd
Saint-Zotique	Gaétane Legault	
Les Coteaux	Réal Boisvert	
Coteau-du-Lac	Robert Sauvé	
Les Cèdres	Géraldine T. Quesnel	April, 11th
Pointe-des-Cascades	Francis Masse	
Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot	Serge Roy	June, 12th (to come)
Vaudreuil-Dorion	Guy Pilon	March, 19 th
Léry	Yvon Mailhot	April, 10 th
Châteauguay *	Sergio Pavone	April, 10 th
Sainte-Catherine	Jocelyne Bates	April, 10 th
Delson	Georges Gagné	April, 10 th
Candiac	André J. Côté	(to come)
La Prairie	Lucie Roussel	April, 24 th

Municipalities	Mayors	Adoption of the “Declaration” by the municipal council
Brossard	Jean-Marc Pelletier	April, 16 th
Saint-Lambert	Sean Finn	June, 13 th (to come)
Longueuil	Claude Gladu	April, 17 th
Boucherville	Francine Gadbois	March, 20 th
Varenes	Michel Tremblay	
Verchères	Claude Fradet	April, 2nd
Contrecoeur	Suzanne Dansereau	April, 2nd
Sorel-Tracy *	Marcel Robert	April, 2nd
Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel	Olivar Gravel	April, 2nd
Sainte-Anne-de-Sorel	Réjane T. Salvail	May, 7 th
Baie d’Urfé	Maria Tutino	April, 10 th
Beaconsfield *	Bob Benedetti	March, 19 th
Pointe-Claire	Bill McMurchie	May 7 th
Dorval	Edgar Rouleau	March 19 th
Montréal-Est	Yvon Labrosse	May, 28 th
Charlemagne	Normand Grenier	April, 3 rd
Repentigny	Chantal Deschamps	April, 17 th
Saint-Sulpice	Michel Champagne	
Lavaltrie	Norman Blackburn	
Lanoraie	André Villeneuve	April, 2 nd
Berthierville	Yvon Poirier	April, 2 nd
La Visitation-de-l’Île-Dupas	Maurice Désy	April, 2 nd

Municipalities	Mayors	Adoption of the “Declaration” by the municipal council
Saint-Cuthbert	Bruno Vadnais	
Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola	Serge Giroux	
Saint-Barthélemy	Michel Beaudet	April, 2 nd
Maskinongé	Michel Clément	April, 2 nd
Louiseville	Guy Richard	April, 10 th
Yamachiche	Michel Isabelle	March, 28 th
Trois-Rivières *	Yves Lévesques	March, 19 th
Champlain	Marcel-P. Marchand	March, 12 th
Batiscan	Christian Fortin	May, 7 th
Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade	Gilles Devault	April, 2 nd
Saint-François-du-Lac	Georgette Critchley-Michon	10 avril
Pierreville	André Descôteaux	10 avril
Baie-du-Febvre	Claude Biron	April, 2 nd
Nicolet	Alain Drouin	April, 10 thl
Bécancour *	Maurice Richard	March, 19 th
Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets	Raymond Dion	April, 3 td
Deschailions-sur-Saint-Laurent	Christian Baril	May, 1st
Montréal *	Gérald Tremblay	March, 19 th
Conseil d’agglo. de l’île de Montréal	Gérald Tremblay	March, 22 th

As per June, 8th, 2007

* = members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 9 - 2007M

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE WATER AND WASTEWATER
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

WHEREAS, expenditures to address Great Lakes and St. Lawrence historical challenges, including control of wet weather overflow, treatment of sewage, and acute water loss due to leaks, are difficult for cities to finance on the rate base alone, particularly in cities with a shrinking tax base;

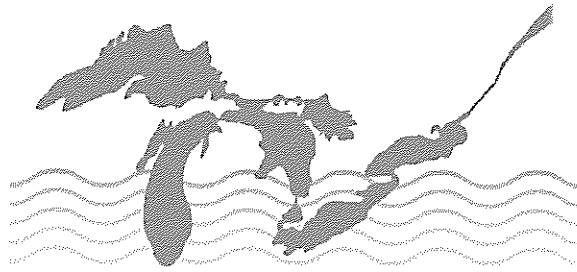
WHEREAS, historical waste water infrastructure challenges such as combined sewers, insufficient sanitary capacity and primary treatment contribute directly to the discharge of raw or untreated sewage into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence nearshore aquatic environment;

WHEREAS, water loss due to aging, cracked pipes contributes needlessly to water and energy consumption;

WHEREAS, the United States Great Lakes Regional Collaboration report called on the United States Government and Congress to provide \$7.5 billion in federal grants over five years to fund wastewater treatment improvements;

WHEREAS, there is no ongoing dedicated funding for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence infrastructure legacy projects in Canada;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and United States federal and provincial and state governments to create A Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Water Infrastructure Fund, a revolving fund with grants and loans for municipalities to invest in historical infrastructure challenges including the replacement of leaking pipes, separation of storm and sanitary sewage systems; and the upgrading of remaining primary sewage treatment plants; and



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and United States federal and state and provincial governments to undertake a survey of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence outstanding infrastructure legacy needs to determine the size of the challenge and the level of funding required.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 10 – 2007M

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN RESTORATION OF AREAS OF CONCERN AND
ZONES D'INTERVENTION PRIORITAIRE

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are resources of tremendous value to the people of the United States and Canada and add greatly to the economic well being and quality of life for the citizens who live there and the visitors who travel there;

WHEREAS, contamination from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic sources have caused a wide variety of problems and impairments to the resource over the years;

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada formally designated 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) with especially significant problems in the Great Lakes, and the governments of Canada and Québec also established 14 Zones d'intervention prioritaire (ZIP) along the St. Lawrence in need of special attention;

WHEREAS, to date, only three of the AOCs have been restored to the point of being removed from the list of contaminated areas in almost 20 years;

WHEREAS, these areas continue to present threats to human health and the environment, and are often viewed as a stigma for the cities and surrounding communities in the vicinity;

WHEREAS, federal, state, and provincial authorities have the primary responsibility for the remediation and restoration work that needs to be done in these contaminated areas under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Canada Ontario Agreement, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and the St. Lawrence Plan;

WHEREAS, some local governments may be in a position to help accelerate the cleanup of these areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that cities and municipalities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative located in or near these AOCs and ZIPs review and evaluate the issues present and actions needed to determine whether there are



steps that could be taken at the local level to help accelerate the remediation and restoration process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, where cities and municipalities determine that local involvement is appropriate and could serve to advance the cleanup process, mayors and their staff look for opportunities to lead and participate in projects to help restore the areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cities and municipalities look for opportunities to partner with tribes and first nations in these remediation and restoration efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cities and municipalities call on the federal, state, and provincial authorities to exert new efforts in these areas to accelerate the cleanup process, and that Congress, the Canadian Parliament, state legislatures, and provincial parliaments appropriate the necessary funding to allow for this to proceed.

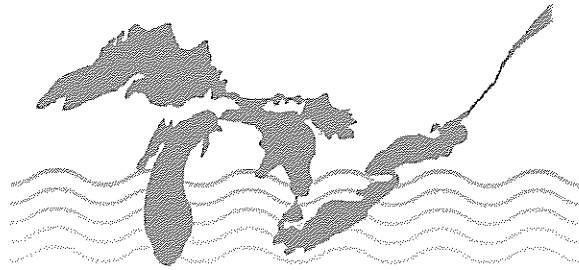
Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 11 – 2007M

GLOBAL THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus, as established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that the continued build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere threatens the stability of the global climate;

WHEREAS, there are significant long-term risks to the economy and the environment of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region from the temperature increases and climatic disruptions that are projected to result from increased greenhouse gas concentrations;

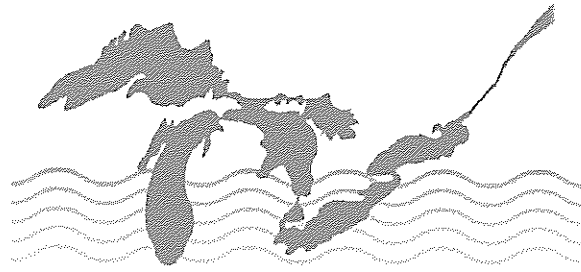
WHEREAS, the impacts of global climate change are expected to result in significant disruptions in the natural hydrological cycle in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, including extreme and more frequent wet weather events resulting in increased flooding and sewer overflows; accelerated evaporation of surface waters resulting in lowered lake and river levels; and increased water temperatures resulting in altered aquatic ecosystem conditions;

WHEREAS, the occurrence of any of these hydrological changes will have significant impacts on water quality and supply, will likely gradually increase municipal water demand, and will impact how water resources are managed by local water resources managers, including water and wastewater treatment providers;

WHEREAS, the regional impacts of global climate change are expected to negatively affect major industries including agriculture, commercial and recreational fisheries, and shipping;

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions are generated in urban centres, through municipal operations such as water and wastewater services, as well as through industrial, commercial and residential urban sources;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is one of the largest regional economies in the world and a significant greenhouse gas emitter;



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

WHEREAS, other industrialized regions are undertaking measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which make these economies more efficient and provides them with a competitive advantage;

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities basin have the responsibility and the capability to show leadership in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities and municipalities to assess their contribution to climate change and take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continue to share and promote best practices in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and cooling the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region through comprehensive energy and water conservation and efficiency, the generation and consumption of low-carbon and renewable energy, the expansion of public transit, the promotion of sustainable land use practices, and the adoption of innovative green infrastructure and building practices, such as green roofs and LEED certified building standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes a responsibility to foster greater community understanding of the local actions that can and are being taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to urge individual action amongst residents and businesses to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Governments of the United States and Canada and state and provincial governments to move forward on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stimulate further development and adoption of renewal energy technologies, provide incentives for municipal greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives, and to undertake further modelling and research on the anticipated impact of climate change on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin and possible adaptation strategies.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 12 – 2007M

FOUNDING CANADIAN CHAIR AND DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, David Miller, Mayor of the City of Toronto, joined the Great Lakes Cities Initiative in 2003, was the Vice Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in 2005 and served as Chair of the organization in the year 2006;

WHEREAS, Mayor Miller has demonstrated commitment to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River as well as to other environmental initiatives on the local, national and international level;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors and Members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative wish to continue the leadership role of Mayor Miller in the future of the organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors and Members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative hereby amend the bylaws of the organization in part “**Directors Part 5.01 Composition and Designation**” by adding to the following sentence at the end:

Included in the sixteen (16) members of the Board of Directors will be one member designated as founding United States Chair and Director for Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago and one member designated as founding Canadian Chair and Director for David Miller, Mayor of the City of Toronto.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT LAURENT

RESOLUTION 15 - 2007M

WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, Section 7209 of the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act* of December 17, 2004 calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to develop and implement a plan to require a passport or other document or combination of documents deemed to be sufficient to denote identity and citizenship for all travel into the United States by U.S. citizens and categories of individuals for whom documentation requirements have previously been waived; and

WHEREAS, securing land, air and sea ports-of-entry is absolutely critical; and

WHEREAS, Canada and the United States have unique relationship characterized by the world's longest undefended border; and

WHEREAS, more than 300,000 people from both countries cross the border every day to work, shop, and visit family and friends; and

WHEREAS, cross-border communities of Buffalo-Niagara and Detroit-Windsor are tightly knit both socially and economically and residents shop, attend school or worship, and events on both sides of the border; and

WHEREAS, only 23% of U.S. citizens and 40 % of Canadians hold passports; and

WHEREAS, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will require all Canadian and United States citizens to have a passport to enter the United States by June 1, 2009, or until three months after the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security have jointly certified that specific security criteria for travel documents have been established; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that a passport requirement is likely to reduce travel demand between Canada and United States to the detriment of both countries' tourist industries and economies; and



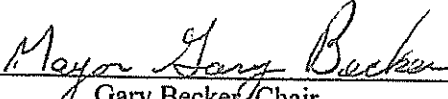
WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security is working with Washington State and with the Province of British Columbia to develop and carry out pilot testing of alternative secure identification options such as enhanced driver's licenses to determine the feasibility of enhancing existing forms of identification as valid border-crossing documents under the WHTI; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative advise the Governments of Canada and the United States that it is deeply concerned about the risk to the economic health of communities in both the United States and Canada associated with the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative request the Government of the United States to work with border cities and border states, in particular the States of Michigan and New York, and with Canada to develop solutions related to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative that provide for a secure border while facilitating trade and travel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are convinced that: transparent Canada-United States consultations on WHTI implementation are needed; it is necessary to consider commonly held documents as alternatives to a passport, for example, drivers' licenses; more information on the economic impact of WHTI is needed; the United States and Canada need to develop a comprehensive and well-planned communication, marketing and distribution plan to explain WHTI requirements.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007



Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative