



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

RESOLUTION 2 – 2016M

SAFE DRINKING WATER

WHEREAS, one of the most fundamental responsibilities of a local government is to provide clean, safe, affordable drinking water to its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system provides one of the most abundant and cleanest sources of surface and groundwater on earth for drinking water supply; and

WHEREAS, local governments have invested billions of dollars in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure over the years to ensure that the surface waters are protected and that drinking water is delivered to homes safely; and

WHEREAS, it has not been possible for all cities to keep up with infrastructure needs and one result has been less certainty around the integrity of the drinking water delivery system; and

WHEREAS, two major incidents recently in the Great Lakes region caused a great deal of concern and public disruption because of threats to the drinking water in communities, namely:

- In August of 2014, a massive algal bloom in the Western Lake Erie Basin led to the formation of the toxic microcystin, resulting in the City of Toledo advising over 450,000 of its customers not to drink or bath in the public water for close to a 72 hour period, requiring the Governor to call out the National Guard to help deliver water to residents; and
- Over the course of the summer and fall of 2015 in Flint, Michigan, there were elevated lead levels in the drinking water for many months after the State-appointed emergency manager directed that the water supply be changed from Lake Huron to the Flint River, without making the necessary changes for corrosion control; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental problem for most older cities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is the number of lead service lines still in place between municipal water mains and homes; and

WHEREAS, responses to the compromised drinking water at the State and Federal level were not sufficient to deal with the magnitude of the crises presented; and



WHEREAS, one of the underlying problems that contributed to the crisis was the inadequacy of the lead and copper drinking water rule currently in force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that providing safe, clean, affordable drinking water to residents is one of the most fundamental of responsibilities of local governments, and residents have a fundamental right to it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local governments have an obligation to determine whether or not there are problems with the quality of the water delivered to residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is committed to supporting its member cities to help identify whether they have a lead in drinking water problem, and if so, what measures could be taken to solve the problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to update and improve its lead and copper rule for drinking water on an expedited basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial, and federal drinking water authorities to take immediate steps to improve implementation and enforcement of the laws designed to assure safe drinking water to all citizens; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will seek funding and other support from partners to help ensure that member cities receive the best possible assistance to deal with and solve this critically important problem.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss