



## **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**

### **RESOLUTION 2-2006M**

#### **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE WATER LEVELS**

**WHEREAS**, water levels across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are an issue of significant concern to many cities because of the effects they have on the ecosystem, navigation, water intakes, and other matters of importance;

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative passed a resolution at its 2005 Annual Meeting about the importance of governments addressing the issue of low water levels in Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay (the Middle Lakes);

**WHEREAS**, in spite of near average precipitation levels since then and good ice coverage on Lake Huron/Georgian Bay over the winter of 2005/2006, the water levels for them have declined further;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Rob Nairn, the independent hydrologist who is studying the outflow from Lake Huron to the St. Clair River estimates that during the past 12 months, the permanent loss of water from the Middle Lakes through that opening is another 20 – 30 centimetres (8 – 12 inches);

**WHEREAS**, recent 2005 bathymetry comparisons with 2002 of the outflow of Lake Huron show substantial changes in the profile;

**WHEREAS**, the initial phase of the Upper Lakes Study is to analyze the St. Clair River issue and propose mitigation measures;

**WHEREAS**, there is continuing concern that the above study has yet to begin and yet there are continuous and increasing economic and environmental costs resulting from the ongoing decline of the Middle Lakes' water levels;

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors and other key stakeholders in the Middle Lakes are eager for the Upper Lakes Study the analysis of the St. Clair River water flow and required mitigation measures to proceed without delay;



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urge both the government of Canada and the government of the United States to ensure prompt funding for the International Joint Commission to carry out the study of the Upper Lakes and specifically the outflow from Lake Huron to the St. Claire River during phase I of the Upper Lakes Study;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the study include recommendations for appropriate water flow mitigation measures that would lead to prompt government action to stop the excessive flow through the St. Claire River.

Signed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2006

David Miller, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative