GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE

RESOLUTION 7-2006M

CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem contributes to meeting Canada’s obligations under the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

WHEREAS, Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem has guided the Governments of Canada and Ontario in their work to improve the environmental quality of the Basin since 1971;

WHEREAS, the Agreement and the Annexes to the Agreement on the Areas of Concern, Harmful Pollutants, Lake-wide Management, and Monitoring and Information Management have defined the goals, responsibilities, and commitments of both governments;

WHEREAS, the implementation and outcomes of the activities undertaken under the Agreement involve municipalities on the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, cities and towns have extensive experience with the issues addressed under the Agreement and are eager to make progress on the improving the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, cities and towns have an important role to play in identifying problems and implementing solutions to further the restoration and protection of resources;

WHEREAS, the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem was signed in March 2002 and is due to be reviewed in 2007;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urge the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to initiate and proceed with the review of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem as soon as possible;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the review of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem fully involve local governments as full and equal partners, address the critical issues facing the resource, integrate wherever possible elements included in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy in the United States, and help shape the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States.

Signed this 23rd day of June, 2006

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