

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;

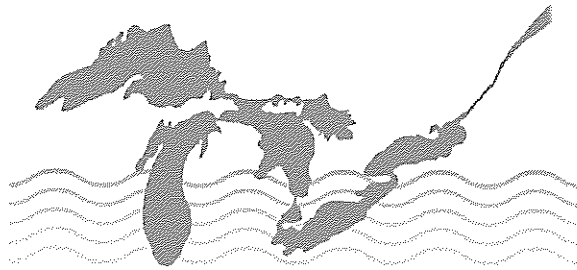
WHEREAS, mercury contamination in fish is one of the major reasons for advisories against eating certain sizes, types, and numbers of fish in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence;

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;



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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