



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)**

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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