



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

**RESOLUTION 10 – 2008M**

**WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River are national and international treasures vital to the region; and

**WHEREAS**, these treasures are shared common resources between the citizens of Canada and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the premier freshwater system in the world, containing almost twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and providing drinking water to over thirty-five million Canadian and United States citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are also vital to the region in terms of industry, recreation, and their value as natural habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, only one percent of this resource is renewed each year; and

**WHEREAS**, improper water management could cause irreversible damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, water is needlessly wasted through the use of inefficient appliances throughout the Great Lake and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is accelerating the year-round evaporation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence surface waters; and

**WHEREAS**, water treatment and distribution is one of the highest energy consumption activities within municipal operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need to conserve water actively and use it efficiently and agree that growth, conservation, and efficiency can occur simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 which urges cities to work towards achieving a fifteen

percent reduction below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015 and encourages more cities to implement water conservation programs by fostering a best practices network; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the Governors and Premiers of the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces for their work in developing the



regional water conservation and efficiency objectives called for in Article 304(1) of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and looks forward the development of focused, harmonized and aggressive water conservation objectives by the Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members reiterate the need for cities to continue leading water conservation and efficiency efforts for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and to lead by example with respect to water conservation, and encourages further municipal involvement in the GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to promote its Water Conservation Framework amongst its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities through promotional materials and presentations to municipal councils; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages municipalities to include water conservation and efficiency measures in their energy efficiency and climate change plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages other orders of government to work closely with municipalities to explore how they can introduce measures that would directly help municipalities reach their water conservation goals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal and state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States to adopt measures to ban the sale of water-inefficient toilets and other water inefficient household appliances, as well as to require the installation of water efficient household appliances in new and retro-fitted residential dwellings.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008

Lynn Peterson, Chair  
Mayor of Thunder Bay  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative