



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

RESOLUTION 17 – 2008M

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY OF QUEBEC - ST. LAWRENCE AREA FROM THE PROPOSED REGULATION OF LAKE ONTARIO AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATER LEVELS

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission (IJC) is dedicated to helping the Canadian and American governments in their efforts to find solutions to issues regarding their shared waters; and

WHEREAS, the IJC implemented, in 2000, research efforts to revise the flow regulation criteria for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River; and

WHEREAS, these efforts, at a cost of \$20 million (US\$), have included solely tide-free zones for the St. Lawrence River, approximately to Trois-Rivières; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2008, the IJC presented its newly proposed Order of Approval and regulation plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and is currently soliciting public input; and

WHEREAS, the region covered by the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec (CMQ) covers both shores of the St. Lawrence River approximately 100 kilometres downstream from Trois-Rivières; and

WHEREAS, more than 730,000 inhabitants live and play along this part of the Saint Lawrence River, as well as draw their drinking water from it; and

WHEREAS, almost half of the flow into the St. Lawrence River, in the region of the CMQ, originates from Lake Ontario; and

WHEREAS, a decrease of the quantity of water coming in from Lake Ontario, be it caused by the anticipated regulation brought forward by the IJC or by climate change, combined with the anticipated increase in oceanic water levels, could, in the near future, impact the composition and the water level in the St. Lawrence River in the CMQ region; and

WHEREAS, certain regional drinking water intakes in the St. Lawrence River could be exposed to risks, caused namely by a possible mixing of saline waters; and

WHEREAS, a potential decrease of fresh water levels could affect the many wetlands along the St. Lawrence Rivers in the territory of the CMQ.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative make appropriate representations to the International Joint Commission so that the




Commission recognizes that the regulation of water levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, especially in the context of climate change, could have an impact in the CMQ region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative make appropriate representations to the International Joint Commission so that the Commission documents those impacts, and ensures that all stakeholders in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system, more specifically those in the CMQ region, be informed of such impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative remain aware of the official opinions voiced by various organisations and governments around the Great Lakes and intervenes as needed to remind such organisations and governments of the impacts of their positions on the municipalities in the CMQ region.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008


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