



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

**RESOLUTION 4 - 2008M**

**THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES**  
**COMPACT AND THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN**  
**SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin are precious public natural resources shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the world's largest source of surface freshwater and are essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of the cities, villages, townships, and counties along the shores and in the surrounding watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence support countless recreational, commercial, tourism, and cultural activities for basin residents and visitors; drive economic development and improve the economic value of shoreline communities; support critical aquatic and coastal ecosystems; provide fresh drinking water for millions of people; and support agricultural and industrial activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent about twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and drinking water for more than 40 million people throughout the Great Lakes basin; and

**WHEREAS**, despite their size, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are finite and vulnerable to depletion and degradation with only one percent of the water in the Great Lakes being recharged each year; and

**WHEREAS**, future diversions and consumptive uses of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin water resources have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economy and welfare of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable but finite Waters of the Basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come. The most effective means of protecting, conserving, restoring, improving and managing the Basin Waters is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs mutually agreed upon, enacted and adhered to by all of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, the states of Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have ratified the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers have signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement—agreements



to conserve, protect and improve the Great Lakes and its sustaining waters—but, Congress must give consent to make the Compact federal law; and the Province of Ontario has passed legislation to implement the Agreement while the Province of Québec has approved the Agreement and has recently introduced legislation to provide a framework for the full implementation of the Agreement, which is supported throughout the region; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Province of Québec to adopt the recently introduced legislation to fully implement the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to give its consent to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become a binding interstate compact on the Great Lakes states; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution will be sent to: the Council of Great Lakes Governors, each of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, and the Great Lakes Delegation in the United States Congress; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon the eight Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces to continue to move forward with the development and implementation of the Compact and Agreement, and specifically with water conservation objectives to meet aggressive targets and timeframes.

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

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