



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

RESOLUTION 5 – 2008M

ACCELERATION OF THE RESTORATION OF AREAS OF CONCERN (AOC)

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are resources of tremendous value to the people of the United States and Canada and add greatly to the economic well-being and quality of life for the citizens who live there and the visitors who travel there; and

WHEREAS, contamination from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic sources have caused a wide variety of problems and impairments to the resource over the years; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada formally designated 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) with especially significant problems in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, to date, only three of the AOCs have been restored to the point of being removed from the list of contaminated areas in almost 20 years, while another four are being prioritized by the Canadian Government for clean up by 2010; and

WHEREAS, these areas continue to present threats to human health and the environment, and are often viewed as a stigma for the cities and surrounding communities in the vicinity; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and provincial authorities have the primary responsibility for the remediation and restoration work that needs to be done in these contaminated areas under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Canada Ontario Agreement, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and the St. Lawrence Plan; and

WHEREAS, local government may be in a position to help accelerate the cleanup of these areas; and

WHEREAS, study released by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in February of 2008 shows that local governments are investing billions in water quality management programs to help advance the cleanup of AOCs and other nearshore areas; and

WHEREAS, a Brookings Institution report recently concluded that the cleanup of AOCs and other investments in the Great Lakes would be expected to reap a 200-300% return on investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and member cities located in AOCs engage state, provincial and federal governments to determine ways and means to accelerate the clean up and delisting of AOCs, with local government cooperation and involvement; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that where cities determine that local involvement is appropriate and could serve to advance the cleanup process, mayors and their staff look for opportunities to lead and participate in projects to help restore the areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cities look for opportunities to partner with tribes and first nations in these remediation and restoration efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that cities call on the federal, state, and provincial authorities to prepare and implement a plan to accelerate the cleanup and delisting of AOCs, and that Congress, the Canadian Parliament, and provincial and state legislatures, appropriate or budget the necessary funding to allow for this accelerated remediation process.

Signed this 17th day of July, 2008

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