



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

**RESOLUTION 8 – 2008M**

**CONTROL OF UPPER GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS**

**WHEREAS**, the decline in water levels in Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan and Georgian Bay (the Upper Lakes) have caused concern amongst property owners, municipalities, recreation enthusiasts, and shippers; and

**WHEREAS**, Upper lake levels have risen recently due to the winter melt and spring precipitation, but they remain below long term average levels; and

**WHEREAS**, declining lake levels in the Upper Lakes are economically affecting recreational boating, fisheries habitat, shipping and boating; and

**WHEREAS**, accelerated evaporation and drought due to climate change, 'glacial rebound', and erosion are some of the factors that scientists believe are contributing to declining lake levels; and

**WHEREAS**, unlike Lake Ontario and Lake Superior, there are no flow controls managing water levels between Lakes Huron/ Michigan and Lake Erie; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a scientific debate over whether erosion in the St. Clair River has stabilized or continues to contribute to dropping lake levels; and

**WHEREAS**, an International Joint Commission (IJC) study group on the Upper Great Lakes and a Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) (including Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative representation) have been established to explore the question of increased flow through the St. Clair River, as well as to review flow controls on the St. Mary's River; and

**WHEREAS**, the IJC would like to see if its study concludes that erosion in the St. Clair River is the primary factor in declining lake levels before recommending mitigation measures, and the U.S. and Canadian governments are awaiting the IJC recommendations before considering any action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has sent a letter to the IJC dated December 19, 2007 underscoring the importance to municipalities of the issue of water levels in the Upper Lakes and the need to move forward expeditiously on the IJC Upper Lakes Study.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to call on the IJC to move forward expeditiously on the IJC Upper Lakes Study, and requests regular, publicly available updates on the progress of the study; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that once finalized, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Governments of Canada and the United States to implement the recommendations of the IJC Upper Lakes Study expeditiously; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will keep its members informed of developments related to water level controls, including holding a meeting in the fall for members in the Upper Lakes region.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Peterson", written over a horizontal line.

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