



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

**RESOLUTION 14 – 2009M**

**ACTION ON WATER CONSERVATION**  
**Submitted by Town of the Blue Mountains**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the largest source of surface freshwater on earth, comprising close to twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately forty million U.S. and Canadian citizens rely on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system for their drinking water;

**WHEREAS**, water scarcity is becoming more of a reality for communities around the region given changing climactic conditions, growing populations, and increasing demands on a water supply that is not being fully recharged, particularly with respect to groundwater aquifers that are being used by industries that require large volumes of freshwater for their processes and production; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities provide clean, safe, reliable and regulated drinking water and many are implementing water conservation efforts to ensure a sustainable resource for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 to encourage leadership on water conservation within the region and the Framework's thirty-three participants have committed to working towards a fifteen percent reduction in water use within their jurisdictions by 2015, below year 2000 water withdrawal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the eight Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces signed the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Compact and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement in 2005, and the Compact has received federal consent in the United States, and the Agreement has been accepted and implemented by the Province of Ontario and a bill to implement the Agreement in Quebec is currently under consideration by the National Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the eight Great Lakes States and two Canadian Provinces are committed under the Compact and Agreement to develop and implement water conservation and efficiency programs that are either voluntary or mandatory, based on objectives and guidelines agreed to by the States and Provinces.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the United States and Canadian federal, state, and provincial governments to join municipalities to ensure the region becomes a leader with respect to water conservation by working to ensure systems are developed that reflect the true value of water; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the use of conservation practices by all water users which best suit each local jurisdiction, including valuing water appropriately, while ensuring that municipalities generate the necessary revenue for the operation and maintenance of their water supply and distribution systems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec to develop and implement water conservation and efficiency programs that contain real targets with respect to reductions in water use and meaningful timeframes within which to achieve the targets.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009

George Heartwell, Chair  
Mayor of Grand Rapids  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative