



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

RESOLUTION 15 – 2009M

PROMOTION OF A GREAT LAKES BASIN-WIDE APPROACH TO PHOSPHORUS
MANAGEMENT

Submitted by the Regional Municipality of Halton

WHEREAS, many municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are experiencing the accumulation of rotting algae along the shoreline; and

WHEREAS, this phenomenon is negatively affecting basic enjoyment and use of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence waterfront, resulting in economic impacts for municipalities, local businesses and industries related to foul odours, beaches that are unsuitable for swimming and clogged water intake pipes; and

WHEREAS, algae growth is understood to be limited by phosphorus availability, but further study is required to quantify the various point and non-point sources of phosphorus to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and to understand the impact of Dreissenid (zebra) mussels on the distribution of phosphorus in the near-shore environment; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a significant source of phosphorus to the Lakes and the River and governments and other groups are working to reduce nutrient loadings from such sources; and

WHEREAS, there is general agreement that source control is the most cost-effective and efficient means of reducing phosphorus discharges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all levels of government including the federal, state/provincial and municipal governments work in partnership in a coordinated manner to develop and promote a science-based, fiscally responsible, Great Lakes basin wide phosphorus management strategy and regulatory approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal and state/provincial governments provide funding for a coordinated research and monitoring program aimed at providing the scientific and economic data required to inform sound policy development and action-oriented decision making related to phosphorus management, including fish aquaculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal and state/provincial governments take further action to ban phosphates in residential and commercial products that are contributing to phosphorus



discharges to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and local governments work with federal, provincial, state governments and other stakeholders to maximize reductions in phosphorus from agricultural sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a bi-national public awareness campaign be initiated to promote the use of phosphorus-free cleaning products and encourage the use of phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers unless phosphorus addition is absolutely required for a soil deficiency or a newly seeded lawn.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Heartwell", is written over a horizontal line.

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