



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2009M

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the largest source of surface fresh water in the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada, their cities, states, provinces, tribes, and first nations, have shared the waters peacefully for almost 200 years; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 has guided the relations between the two countries relative to the shared waters for 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was established between the two countries in 1972, and has been amended twice since then; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has provided direction to both countries in their efforts to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, much progress has been made in the protection and restoration efforts in both countries; and

WHEREAS, with growing populations and new industrial, agricultural, and urban stresses on the resource, along with the challenges of climate change and more invasive species, the number, complexity, and severity of the challenges faced on the Great Lakes continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement has not been amended since 1987 and in many respects is seriously outdated and not designed to deal with many of the current problems; and

WHEREAS, the ecological relationship between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is better understood and more appreciated than before; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission, the Water Quality Agreement Review Committee, and other groups have engaged in extensive outreach on the Agreement and provided extensive analysis on what changes would be appropriate.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) strongly urges the federal governments of the United States and Canada to move forward quickly with negotiation of a new agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the federal governments of the United States and Canada should consult closely with their state, provincial, local, tribal, and first nations governmental partners throughout the negotiation process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the federal governments of the United States and Canada should reach out to the environmental, industrial, and agricultural communities and other stakeholder groups throughout the negotiation process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any final agreement recognize the critical role that local governments play in the protection and restoration of the resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any final agreement recognize the linkage between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in such areas as invasive species, water quality, and water levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any final agreement address the fundamental need for a clear vision for the resource, much better accountability for results, stronger management structures and systems, an ecosystem approach to problem solving; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a new agreement be in place no later than June 25, 2010.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

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