



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

RESOLUTION 5 – 2009M

INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, cites, towns, counties, regional municipalities, and other units of local governments in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence were founded as long ago as four hundred years, and many date back from one hundred to three hundred years; and

WHEREAS, these local governments have invested in the roads, bridges, transportation systems, schools, hospitals, wastewater and drinking water facilities, and many other forms of infrastructure over the years, there has been tremendous stress on these systems and local funding alone has not been sufficient to meet the needs for upgraded and replacement infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence local governments recently have been investing over \$15 billion annually in protection and restoration of the resource on such things as water infrastructure, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure, green space, and many others; and

WHEREAS, investments by the federal, state, and provincial governments in infrastructure to protect and restore the Great Lakes has not kept pace with local investments and the increasing need for improvements to the infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, economic conditions in both Canada and the United States are such that it is very difficult for local units of government to finance major infrastructure investments, but such investments are viewed as exceedingly important and beneficial for the economic recovery in both countries; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian government has developed an Economic Action Plan consisting of over \$18 billion in available investment funds for provinces, territories, and municipalities for infrastructure projects over the next two years; and

WHEREAS, the United States government passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which includes \$787 billion in investments, including about \$111 billion for infrastructure and science; and

WHEREAS, the economic recovery funding in the United States includes \$4 billion for wastewater infrastructure and \$2 billion for drinking water infrastructure.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the federal governments of the United States and Canada for recognizing the tremendous need for infrastructure investments and the significant value for job creation and economic recovery from such investments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of Canada and the United States to expedite the distribution of funding to local governments and improve the efficiency of the distribution process, recognizing the need for accountability for the investments, so that work can be started as soon as possible in 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the federal governments of Canada and the United States to recognize the unique value of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to the quality of life and economic well being of the people of both countries in making investment decisions.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Heartwell', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

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