



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

**RESOLUTION 8 A – 2009M**

**PHARMACEUTICAL AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCT COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is a valuable natural resource that supports the ecological health of the region and sustains communities within the basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system provides drinking water for some forty million U.S. and Canadian citizens and supports a commercial and sport fishery worth more than \$4 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, concern is being raised about the affects of the improper disposal of pharmaceutical and personal care products (which include medications, cosmetics, cleaning agents, veterinary drugs, and more) on the water quality and ecological health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and

**WHEREAS**, the improper disposal of PPCPs may pose environmental and safety hazards including potentially harmful effects on wildlife due to accumulation of PPCPs in waterways, accidental ingestion of expired or unused PPCPs by children or the elderly, and illegal use or theft of unwanted pharmaceuticals; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Province of British Columbia passed a regulation which requires all pharmaceutical brand owners in British Columbia to provide consumers with a proper disposal method for expired or unused medications (including natural health products and nonprescription drugs); and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of *extended producer responsibility*, in which manufacturers are deemed responsible for a product over the entire life cycle of the product, has been embraced in a number of countries, including in the European Union and Australia, specifically around PPCP collection and disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. there is no national legislation or program with respect to the collection and disposal of PPCPs which has resulted in a piecemeal and inefficient approach, often administered at the local or state level, making it difficult to properly manage the problem; and

**WHEREAS**, in Canada, where this issue is managed at the provincial level, generally consumers can return unused medicines to pharmacies but public education needs improvement and often municipalities and community pharmacies are responsible for the cost of these collection and



disposal efforts; and a regulation is expected in the summer of 2009 in Ontario that upholds producer responsibility for collection and disposal of PPCPs; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities, including towns, villages, cities and regional municipalities, by and large have stepped into a leadership role on PPCP collection and disposal by holding discrete or ongoing collection events or accepting pharmaceuticals at household hazardous waste depots, in order to address the issue where federal, state, provincial and industry action has been inadequate; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S. especially, dialogue with industry on *extended producer responsibility* has been difficult and there are efforts in the U.S. and Canada to continue the dialogue and engage industry, such as through the Product Stewardship Institute, and the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative support the launch of a GLSLCI program on PPCP collection and disposal, aimed at encouraging action, including advocating for national policies on PPCP collection and disposal that are based on the concept of extended producer responsibility and where necessary helping communities develop and hold PPCP collection events, and bolstering public education, in the absence of action by industry and other orders of government; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal and provincial governments to develop and implement national and provincial programs on PPCP collection and disposal so that there are uniform policies for consumers and industry to follow; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for further partnership between industry and all orders of government on the issue of PPCP collection and disposal so that a feasible and effective solution to PPCP collection and disposal is developed and implemented.

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

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