



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

RESOLUTION 8 B – 2009M

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ON PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE
PRODUCTS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS, in the U.S., the number of prescriptions purchased increased 72% (from 2.2 billion to 3.8 billion) from 1997 to 2007, and the average number of retail prescriptions per capita increased from 8.9 in 1997 to 12.6 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, in Canada it has been estimated that Pharmacists in the ten Canadian provinces filled 453 million prescriptions in 2008, up 7.1% over the previous year and for 33.2 million Canadians, that's an average of nearly 14 prescriptions per citizen; and

WHEREAS, a major source of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in waterways is the contribution from human, veterinary and agricultural use of PPCPs and excretion of the chemicals in wastewater; and

WHEREAS, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or treat substances like PPCPs and as a result, some trace amounts of PPCPs pass through the system; and

WHEREAS, the impact of PPCP traces in waterways is generally recognized but largely not quantified and not understood in terms of the changes that may occur to the PPCP traces when mixed with water or when put through the wastewater treatment process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to prioritize research on the impact of PPCPs on our waterways, particularly a focus on chemical changes of PPCP traces that may occur in water and the wastewater treatment process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. and Canadian federal government to take a leadership role in the education of the general public on the impact of PPCPs on our environment and human health as well as proper collection, disposal and use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to explore the possibility of requiring drug manufacturers to conduct and provide an impact assessment with respect to how traces of the drug will affect our waterways and human health, including any chemical changes that may occur when the



drugs are used, excreted, treated in a wastewater treatment process, and released into water bodies, as a requirement towards drug approval by the U.S. FDA and Health Canada. This assessment should also explore what technologies in wastewater treatment methods could further ameliorate the impacts of these drugs.

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