



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

RESOLUTION 12 – 2010M

Investing in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to over 40 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem is very large and complex encompassing a wide range of human and natural systems and activities; and

WHEREAS, the ecosystem has been subjected to extensive degradation over the years from industrial, agricultural, commercial, and municipal sources for many years; and

WHEREAS, there have been significant investments by governments and the private sector over the past 40 years that have reduced the environmental stresses on the resource and have begun the restoration process; and

WHEREAS, with the remaining problems like contaminated sediments from the past, continued pollution from stormwater runoff and other sources, and future threats like climate change, there remains a very substantial need for investment in the future to fully restore and continue to protect the resource; and

WHEREAS, estimates for U.S. Federal investment on the Great Lakes were about \$500 million per year from 2006-2009, with a substantial increase in 2010, including \$475 million alone as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Federal expenditures in Canada on the Great Lakes from 2005 to 2009 under the Canada Ontario Agreement were about \$40 million; and

WHEREAS, estimates for Canadian Federal and Québec investments on the St. Lawrence River are about \$80.8 million and \$33.4 million, respectively, for the five years from 2005-2010 ; and

WHEREAS, local governments in the U.S. and Canada are spending an estimated \$15 billion per year on a wide range of protection and restoration work on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the U.S. Federal government to continue investing under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at the \$475 million level, to encourage partnerships with allocated funds, and continue the other Great Lakes related programs at previously estimated levels of \$500 million per year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federal government substantially increase its investments in both the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence commensurate with the expanse, needs and value of the resources to Canada.

Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

Denis Lapointe, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield