



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

RESOLUTION 14 – 2010M

Vision for 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, this ecosystem and the human activities that are part of it include such things as water, energy, cities, agriculture, industries, education, community, transportation, cultural and historical heritage, tourism and recreation, and diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, there are countless serious threats to the resource, including such things as invasive species, loss of wetlands and habitat, pollution from industrial, agricultural, and municipal activities, climate change, and many others; and

WHEREAS, the multiple federal, state, provincial, local, tribal, and first nation jurisdictions make coordination and implementation of work very difficult; and

WHEREAS, much of the work, especially municipal infrastructure, to be done to protect and restore the resource is very costly, and insufficient federal, state, and provincial funding has been provided in comparison to the over \$15 billion invested annually by local governments in this effort; and

WHEREAS, there have been a variety of good planning and funding efforts that have established some foundation for a vision, such as the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the Canada Ontario Agreement and the St. Lawrence River Plan; and

WHEREAS, there is no clearly articulated vision for the future of the resource agreed to by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Community, nor a comprehensive, integrated plan with goals, objectives, actions, timeframes, and parties responsible for the actions,



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the development of a vision and comprehensive plan for the resource;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such a vision for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region include the best ideas and practices for urban areas, protected landscapes and waterways, educational systems, water as an economic base, renewable and conventional energy generation and conservation, efficient transportation of goods and people, climate change mitigation and adaptation, advanced agricultural practices and food distribution, expanded tourism and recreation, and a community of many people unified by one water.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work with all governments and stakeholders to develop and implement a vision and plan that will help assure a sustainable future for the region with balanced progress on economic, social, and environmental issues.

Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Lapointe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

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