



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

RESOLUTION 15 -2010M

Water Infrastructure Investments

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; and

WHEREAS, one of the most challenging problems is the management of wastewater and storm water by local units of government; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are responsible for providing safe drinking water to the citizens of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure for large numbers of municipal wastewater and drinking water systems is old and in need of major repair; and

WHEREAS, the wastewater infrastructure deficit in the eight Great Lakes states in the United States is at least \$73 billion, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study, and the amount for drinking water is also substantial, as is the investment deficit in Canada for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, U.S. and Canadian local units of government invest over \$10 billion each year in capital and operating expenses for wastewater management, and related water quality work, getting much of that money from operating revenues, tax dollars, and bonding authority; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government has funding programs for wastewater, storm water, and drinking water infrastructure, and the Canadian government has general infrastructure programs, the amounts of money available to local governments is nowhere near enough to eliminate the infrastructure deficit in both countries; and



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the federal governments of the United States and Canada to increase the infrastructure funding available to local governments at a level sufficient to eliminate the wastewater, storm water, and drinking water investment deficits in 20 years or less.

Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis Lapointe', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

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