



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

RESOLUTION 10 – 2010M

Municipal Involvement and Funding of the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin*

WHEREAS, municipalities have a vital and direct role to play in the protection of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission and other groups are calling for an increased focus on the nearshore area, the zone closest to land, where most activities occur. If the federal and provincial governments seek to achieve this increased nearshore focus, this will require new partnerships with municipalities, which have responsibility for much of the land use planning activities that affect the nearshore zone; and

WHEREAS, many activities in the Great Lakes will require increased collaboration among municipal, provincial and federal and other groups to achieve the protection and restoration of the Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Canada-Ontario Agreement is the main agreement between the Province of Ontario and the Canadian federal government to protect Great Lakes water quality on the Canadian side of the Lakes, and defines goals, actions and priorities, The Canada Ontario Agreement provides an ideal mechanism to increase municipal provincial and federal collaboration, especially on the nearshore zone; and

WHEREAS, the current Canada-Ontario Agreement, which expired on March 2010, was recently extended for one year term until March 31, 2011. The current agreement was extended for one year, rather than the goals re-negotiated, to allow for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement negotiations to be finalized and so serve as a guide for the Canada-Ontario Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members call on the provincial and federal government for “a seat at the table” for municipal governments on the upcoming negotiations of Canada-Ontario Agreement, so that the future Canada-Ontario Agreement will better reflect local priorities and needs, and increase municipal, provincial and federal collaboration.



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments are also requested to significantly increase their funding commitments to the Canada-Ontario Agreement, so that they more closely match Great Lakes needs and also commitments to \$475 million funding for 2010 made on the U.S. side of the Lakes.

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" and a long, sweeping underline.

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