



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

RESOLUTION 3 – 2011M

IMPACT OF LOCAL INVESTMENT ON
THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is a significant natural resource and ecosystem upon which millions rely for drinking water and recreation, as well as being the cornerstone for industry and a vibrant regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a coalition of more than 70 U.S. and Canadian mayors and locally elected officials representing over 13 million citizens, working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and to help ensure the resource is managed in a sustainable manner for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes that mayors and local elected officials are at the frontline addressing issues concerning the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and serve as catalysts for action to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 study conducted by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and the Great Lakes Commission found that local governments around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River invest an estimated \$15 billion annually in efforts to protect and restore the resource; and

WHEREAS, investment in the Lakes and River results in a multitude of benefits, including jobs creation, quality of life improvements, environmental benefits and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative acknowledges the significance of federal investment in the region through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund of Canada and the positive effects these investments have had on the region and the resource; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region contains a great deal of aging water and wastewater infrastructure that needs to be brought up to date, and



there is an urgent need to invest in repairing and replacing this aging infrastructure and this represents one of the major investment deficits facing the region;

WHEREAS, funding for green infrastructure, a sustainable approach that can compliment and extend the life of traditional grey infrastructure, has not historically been a priority for federal, state or provincial governments, though there has been some movement towards dedicated funding, as exemplified in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 20% set aside for green infrastructure projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) encourages the continued commitment of local governments to invest to protect, restore and promote the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative encourages other orders of government to continue their commitment to protect, restore and promote the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence through increased and sustained investment in this vital resource; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative urges that all orders of government improve tracking and documenting the economic impact of investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, including job creation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls for dedicated funding for green infrastructure in both Canada and the U.S. through green infrastructure set asides in Canada's Strategic Infrastructure Fund and the U.S. Clean Water State Revolving Fund as a means to help address aging water and wastewater infrastructure issues throughout the region and country.

Signed this 16th day of June, 2011

Brian McMullan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of St. Catharines