



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

Resolution 6 – 2012M

Development of Ontario's Great Lakes Protection Act

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the world's largest supply of freshwater, the source of drinking water to over 40 million people, and provide important economic, environmental and social benefits to communities; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are facing new challenges from increased urbanisation, population growth, climate change and invasive species, which add to the stress facing the Lakes; and Municipalities are on the front line of change, with increasing bills and complaints from basement flooding, erosion around critical roads and bridges, huge sudden volumes of stormwater, buildup of algae, new invasive plants taking over waterfronts, lower lake levels exposing water intake pipes and increasing dredging demands; and

WHEREAS, leadership, coordination and sustained, dedicated funding at all levels of government is needed to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, such as the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the US Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the St. Lawrence Plan and the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, municipalities and local governments invest over \$15 billion a year in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario is considering new legislation to protect the Great Lakes, and many Mayors have been involved in discussions and supportive of its early development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative endorse the principle that leadership, coordination and sustained and dedicated funding is needed at all levels of government to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, including direct municipal involvement and consultation in the development of commitments and in their implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative fully support the development and implementation of a Great Lakes Protection Act and associated regulations by the Government of Ontario, and that members call on the Government of Ontario to formally recognise municipalities as founding partners in the efforts to protect the nearshore and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative support increased funding for local projects as part of a Great Lakes Protection Act, including support for such initiatives as waterfront redevelopment, infrastructure (including green infrastructure), invasive species management, beaches, recreational trails and other waterfront improvements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative continues to work collaboratively with the Government of Ontario, through the Memorandum of Cooperation, to help improve waterfronts and shorelines, reduce nuisance and toxic algae, reduce stormwater to the lakes, increase public awareness and outreach, work in an integrated manner to improve nearshore water quality, and explore ways to further integrate water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure planning and operations where appropriate.

Signed this 27th day of June, 2012

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