



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

**Resolution 8 – 2012M**

**Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian and U.S. federal governments are nearing the end of their renegotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (WQA), the principal agreement guiding Canadian and US collaboration for Great Lakes protection; and

**WHEREAS**, signing of the agreement by the two Parties could occur as early as mid-April. It is expected no later than the end of June, as that is when all attention on the US side will be directed to their fall Federal election; and

**WHEREAS**, a Cities Initiative representative participated on an Environment Canada WQA Advisory Panel over the last two years, and has provided comment on confidential information presented to the panel by Environment Canada staff throughout the negotiations; and

**WHEREAS**, based on public consultations to date, it is known that the agreement covers similar issues as previous versions, through its annexes on toxics, areas of concern, lake-wide areas management plans, nutrients, habitat and species, groundwater, and maritime shipping pollution from vessels, research and science. In addition, several new annexes are expected, including ones on aquatic invasive species, and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities Initiative has pushed hard for a formal role for municipalities within the governance structure for the implementation of the agreement. Currently, the Cities Initiative is invited as an observer to the Canada-US Binational Executive Committee that oversees the implementation of the agreement for the two Parties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of the Cities Initiative welcome the impending signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative continue to seek a direct, formal role in the governance of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, to provide cities with a strong voice at the WQA table, and is ready to meet with the Parties to discuss how to achieve this objective; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that both parties to the agreement, cooperating state, provincial, tribal, first nation, and local governments, along with the stakeholder community, put



strong emphasis and effort on full, effective, appropriately resourced and timely implementation of the WQA.

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian McMullan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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