



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

**Resolution 9 – 2012M**

**Shale Gas Exploration, Extraction and Treatment Activities and the Role of Local Government**

**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 basin is a complex and fragile ecosystem, encompassing a wide range of human and natural habitat and activities; and

**WHEREAS**, shale gas activities, whether it be exploration, extraction or treatment, have increased significantly over the past few years across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin, representing potential local investments, jobs creation and additional revenues from royalties and taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, there are current uncertainties about the environmental risks to water, air and soil associated with shale gas exploration, extraction and treatment, as well as the financial impacts on municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, proper casing and cementing of oil and gas wells is very important to protect water supplies and improve public safety, as well as the fact that there is currently little or no consistency between jurisdictions (Federal, Provincial, State) in regard to casing and cementing standards; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns persistent over the impacts of hydrofracking fluids on aquifers and shale gas' contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, and the use of undisclosed chemical constituents in several jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the capability of municipal treatment plants to efficiently and safely process wastewater from the fracking process is questioned in some cases; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities have both the duty and obligation to protect the health, safety, and welfare of their residents, especially in providing safe drinking water;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial and federal governments to provide integrated, effective and responsible management



of the shale gas industry, which will ensure the protection of both the environment and residents, as well as respect the role and authority of municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls for utmost transparency and disclosure from both state, provincial and federal governments and the shale gas industry, as well as continued information exchange with municipalities throughout all development stages; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls for the conduct of independent studies on the environmental, social and economic impact of shale gas exploration, extraction and treatment activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls for consistency between any new legislation concerning shale gas exploration, extraction and treatment activities, and existing laws and regulations related to the environment, sustainable development and urban planning; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on state, provincial and federal governments to allow municipalities to require public hearings on the local impacts of shale gas industry, including public safety issues and risks, preventative measures and response plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative requests state, provincial and federal governments to require companies engaged in shale gas extraction to provide the list of chemicals used, as well as details of their storage, handling, and disposal; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative asks for the creation of mitigation and compensation funds for municipalities, financed by fees paid by the shale gas industry, in the event of negative impacts within their territory as a result of exploration, extraction or treatment activities.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian McMullan".

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