



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2013M

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE MAYORS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are a global freshwater treasure that provides drinking water to 40 million Canadian and U.S. citizens, supports critical habitats and ecosystems and is home to numerous plant, animal and marine species, supports shipping, fishing, tourism, recreation, energy and numerous other industries, and provides the foundation, livelihood, and identity for countless communities along its shores; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region has a \$5 Trillion Gross Domestic Product and represents the 4th largest economy in the world; and

WHEREAS, municipalities along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are on the front lines of this vast resource, interacting with it on a daily basis through municipal operations for drinking water treatment and distribution, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, waterfront access, beach monitoring and management, and much more; and

WHEREAS, despite this critical role that municipalities play in the management of the Lakes and River, for many years they were not given an official voice in policy and decision making arenas in both Canada and the United States regarding the Lakes and River; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago founded the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, and in 2005, under the guidance and leadership of Mayor Daley, Mayor David Miller of Toronto, Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier of Quebec City, Mayor Timothy Rigby of St. Catharines, Mayor Denis LaPointe of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Mayor Scott King of Gary, and Mayor Terry Geddes of Collingwood the Great Lakes Cities Initiative merged with the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors to form the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has been: 1). To ensure local government has a voice on important policy and decision making around the Lakes and River; 2). To share best practices among cities with respect to protection and restoration efforts; and 3). To make sure Washington, D.C. and Ottawa give the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River the proper attention and resources; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative over the last 10 years has been on water quality, water quantity and waterfront vitality; and recently more



broadly to include how cities can help the region move forward with economic, social, and environmental sustainability, particularly with respect to protecting water resources and coastal areas, promoting energy efficiency and low-carbon energy generation and consumption, adopting green land use and building design, and encouraging green economic development, through the Cities Initiative Green CiTTS (Cities Transforming Towards Sustainability) program; and

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative mayors have worked on a number of critical issues including water conservation, storm water management, live-fire weapons training on the Lakes, sustainable municipal water management, the threat of the Asian carp and other invasive species, beach monitoring and management, proper pharmaceutical disposal, and they have been vocal and active in key national, international, state and provincial policy making arenas including the Canada Ontario Agreement, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the St. Lawrence Action Plan, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and Agreement, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative agree that while much work has been done to advance protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River over the last ten years, challenges and threats persist and the need for strong, municipal leadership remains.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative renew their commitment to work to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the over 100 members of the Cities Initiative look back on the first ten years of the organization with pride and look forward to engaging more municipalities from around the region in this critical work; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the members of the Cities Initiative look forward to continued partnerships and relationships with federal, state, provincial governments, tribes and first nations, other environmental organizations, businesses, and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence stakeholders to ensure we continue to protect, restore and sustainably maintain the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for future generations.

Signed this 19th day of June, 2013

Tom Barrett, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Milwaukee