



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

**RESOLUTION 03 – 2014M**

**MICROBEADS**

**WHEREAS**, many personal care products contain small plastic beads 50 to 500 microns in size that separate during use and wind up going down the drain and leaving homes in the wastewater; and

**WHEREAS**, these microbeads do not decompose and most are so small they pass through wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, and other receiving waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the microbeads are a hazard to fish and wildlife in that they attract and have toxic chemicals adhere to them and appear as food; and

**WHEREAS**, once ingested, the toxic microbeads can cause health problems for the fish and wildlife, and for people who might ingest them; and

**WHEREAS**, there are natural substitutes for the microbeads available at this time, and many personal care products are already using them; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the threats to the environment from microbeads, the state legislatures in New York and Illinois recently introduced bills to ban microbeads in personal care products.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Personal Care Products Council (“PCPC”) and its member companies to agree not to develop any new products containing microbeads; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the PCPC and its member companies to phase out the use of all existing products containing microbeads no later than December 31, 2015; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon provincial, state, and federal orders of government to work together to establish legislation to prohibit the use of microbeads in personal care products;



**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative formally commends those companies that offer exclusively microplastics-free products such as Aveda, Hain Celestial Group, Juice Beauty, MSC Skin Care, NUDE Skincare and Pangea Organics. We applaud these companies that conduct themselves in an environmentally responsible way and we urge others businesses to follow this lead to reach our goal by 2015.

Signed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014

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Keith Hobbs, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Thunder Bay