



November 2, 2007

The Honourable Donna Cansfield
Minister of Natural Resources
Whitney Block
6th Flr Rm 6630
99 Wellesley St W
Toronto ON M7A1W3

Dear Minister Cansfield,

On behalf of the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we would like to congratulate you on your success in the 2007 Ontario election and on your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources. As you and your government chart out plans for the next four years, we urge you to treat action on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence as a high priority.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national association of mayors of 49 cities in 10 states and provinces, including Ontario, that are located in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin. The mayors share a commitment and passion for protecting the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, the source of drinking water, economic vitality, and recreational activity for over 40 million people.

The Cities Initiative applauds your government's commitment to the Great Lakes with your leadership on the Great Lakes Charter Annex, the 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and the *Clean Water Act*. We urge you to continue to build on these successes.

In particular, we recognize your role as a signatory to the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. This agreement will be renewed in 2010. In that context, the Cities Initiative is asking for your support in:

- involving local governments as full partners on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence matters, and secure municipalities a seat at the table for the renegotiation and implementation of COA 2010, and other provincial decisions related to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.
- working with Great Lakes municipalities on determining infrastructure funding priorities that would directly benefit the Great Lakes;
- in association with your Federal colleagues, committing to delist all Areas of Concern (AOCs) by 2015.

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www.glslcities.org

Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair



Given the ecological and economic importance of the Great Lakes region to the Province of Ontario, we know we share a common goal to protect this invaluable resource. The Cities Initiative would welcome a meeting at your convenience to discuss ways that we may support each other in reaching this common goal.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to continue your strong support for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in your government's second mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian McMullan".

Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines
Ontario Regional Director, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Peterson".

Lynn Peterson, Mayor of the City of Thunder Bay, and
Vice Chair, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miller".

David Miller, Mayor of the City of Toronto, and
Founding Canadian Chair, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

cc. Hon John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment
Charlie Lauer, Deputy Minister

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