



October 5, 2007

The Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we thank you for your government's support of the Great Lakes in the recently signed Canada-Ontario Agreement respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA) and for your ongoing commitment to the Canada-Québec Agreement on the St. Lawrence 2005-2010 (the St. Lawrence Plan). We look forward to your continued commitment to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in the upcoming Speech from the Throne.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national association of mayors of 49 cities in 10 states and provinces, including Quebec and 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 42 million people.

The Cities Initiative urges the Government of Canada to build on the success of COA 2007 and the St. Lawrence Plan and requests this commitment to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence be further strengthened in the upcoming Speech from the Throne. In particular, the Cities Initiative is asking the federal government to:

- accept and act on the recommendations of the Binational Executive Committee's Agreement Review Committee, and engage the United States to renegotiate the 20-year old Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA);
- involve local governments as full partners in the renegotiation and implementation of the St-Lawrence Plan, the COA, and the GLWQA and other federal decisions related to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.
- engage the Province of Quebec in discussions to include the St. Lawrence in the GLWQA;
- commit to continue with the delisting of Areas of Concern (AOCs), with all AOCs delisted by 2015;
- urge the President of the United States to support passage of a ballast water regulation before the US Congress, and ensure that an equally strong level of protection and enforcement from invasive species exists on both the American and Canadian sides of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin.

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[www.glslcities.org](http://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*



Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to continue your support for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in the upcoming Throne Speech.

Sincerely,

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

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

Gerald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, and  
Director, Great Lake and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

- cc. Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario  
Hon. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec  
Hon. Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
Hon. Tony Clement, Minister of Health  
Hon. John Baird, Minister of Environment  
Hon. Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Hon. Laurel Broten, Ontario Minister of Environment  
Hon. Line Beauchamp, Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks

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