



November 2, 2007

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario and
Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Legislative Bldg, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A1A1

Dear Premier,

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. 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, the Cities Initiative is asking the Ontario Government to:

- involve 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.
- work with Great Lakes municipalities on determining infrastructure funding priorities that would directly benefit the Great Lakes;
- commit to delist all Areas of Concern (AOCs) by 2015;
- work closely with the Federal Government, and the International Joint Commission to accelerate the assessment of the causes and impact of low lake levels in the Upper Lakes;
- urge 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);

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Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding Chair



- urge the President of the United States to support passage of a ballast water law 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;
- work directly with municipalities in the development of plans for an H2O highway.

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 second mandate.

Sincerely,

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

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

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cc. Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment
Hon., Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation
Hon. David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
Matthew Mendelsohn, Deputy Minister

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