



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

June 2021



A Resolution Submitted by the Town of Ajax, Ontario

WHEREAS the nearshore of the Great Lakes continues to be threatened by nuisance algae overgrowth, which has significant, negative consequences on tourism, impacts resident enjoyment over the long-term, and also clogs water intake pipes and threatens fish habitat;

AND WHEREAS projected impacts of climate change, invasive species and urban growth, including increased wastewater effluent, are expected to make these nuisance algal blooms worse as lake water temperature increases and algal growth seasons are extended;

AND WHEREAS the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* sets out several guiding principles including the Precautionary Principle which states that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation;

AND WHEREAS several guiding documents including the Province of Ontario's Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan, Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, and Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement (COA) specifically identify the need for action to restore and protect the Great Lakes, which include phosphorus concentration and loading targets, as well as addressing both harmful and nuisance algae;

AND WHEREAS wastewater treatment facilities have been shown to be contributing to nuisance *Cladophora* blooms in the Lake Ontario nearshore due to increased phosphorus concentrations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the provincial and federal governments to collaborate with local governments, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders to investigate and provide funding to:

- a. Formally acknowledge the triggers of *Cladophora* and other nuisance algal blooms and how to prevent it;
- b. Develop and implement Phosphorus Reduction Action Plans/algae mitigation strategies for all Great Lakes, including Lake Ontario;
- c. Require and implement tertiary treatment (at a minimum) for all wastewater treatment plants to mitigate nutrient loading, protect habitat and enhance biodiversity; and
- d. Implement green infrastructure and prioritize conserving and restoring existing wetlands to improve water quality and mitigate impacts of stormwater discharge;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; the Premiers of Quebec and Ontario; Pres. Joe Biden, President of the United States of America; the Governors of the eight Great Lakes States, and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Executive Director and Board of Directors.