



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

**RESOLUTION 1 - 2008M**

**MERCURY CONTAMINATION IN THE GREAT LAKES AND**  
**ST. LAWRENCE**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence serve as a source of drinking water, a place for recreation and enjoyment, such as sport fishing, and a means of livelihood for many commercial fishermen across the Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, widespread contamination of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from a wide variety of toxic pollutants has occurred over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, among the many toxic contaminants, some of the greatest concern is over mercury pollution because of the serious threats it poses to human and ecological health; and

**WHEREAS**, exposure to mercury is of special concern to children, women of child bearing age, and people who subsist on fish as a large part of their diet, such as Native American and First Nation peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, mercury contamination in fish is one of the major reasons for advisories against eating certain sizes, types, and numbers of fish in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canadian Binational Toxics Strategy of 1997 includes special emphasis on mercury reduction and a number of actions have been implemented to advance the goals of the strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy highlights mercury as one of the toxic pollutants of significant concern that requires priority consideration for action; and

**WHEREAS**, a workgroup with federal, state, local, and tribal representatives has completed a mercury phase down strategy that presents a series of recommendations and implementation actions for state and local governments as well as individuals to remove mercury in products and waste from the Great Lakes basin; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, provincial, local, and first nation governments in Canada have identified mercury as a priority pollutant of concern and have implemented a number of actions to reduce the release of mercury to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, community mercury collection programs are an effective way for local governments to help address the issue of mercury contamination of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River; and



**WHEREAS**, coal-powered electricity generation is a major source of mercury contamination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment endorsed the Canada-wide Standards in 2006 that set provincial caps on mercury emissions from existing coal-fired electric generation plants, setting a 60% national capture of mercury from coal burned by 2010 from 2003/04 mercury levels, but these standards are not binding; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States federally regulates mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants in the Clean Air Act and, in a U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruling in 2008 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was given until 2010 to develop mercury emissions standards for existing coal-fired power plants; and

**WHEREAS**, mercury continues to be present at unacceptable levels in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and further action is necessary to get additional reductions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that cities and other local units of government support the goals of the United States and Canadian Binational Toxics Strategy and will take actions wherever possible to help implement and accelerate the actions anticipated under the Strategy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will continue to work with the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy team to encourage the implementation of the “Mercury in Products Phase Down Strategy” by communities throughout the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region to reduce mercury in products and in waste disposal; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will work with its members and other participating local governments to implement those elements of the strategy that are appropriate for them; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will urge the United States Environmental Protection Agency to develop mercury emissions standards for coal-fired power plants within the two-year framework; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian provincial governments and United States federal government to require a 90% reduction in mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 2015 without a cap and trade program.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 2 – 2008M**

**PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND BALLAST  
WATER MANAGEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, well over 180 aquatic invasive species have already entered, caused damage, and continue to damage the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, harming the ecological integrity, biological diversity, and economic health of the bi-national Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region; and

**WHEREAS**, new aquatic invasive species are introduced into the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence ecosystem, including inland lakes and rivers, at a rate of more than one species per year and vessels entering the system from the Atlantic Ocean are the primary sources; and

**WHEREAS**, federal governments have been slow to take legislative or regulatory action and to provide the necessary funding to deal with the prevention and control of invasive species and the management of ballast water in a comprehensive and effective way, despite broad consensus in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region that such action and funding is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments are taking steps to prohibit the release of aquatic invasive species in the waters of their communities, but do not have the adequate authority, jurisdiction, or resources to effectively control and prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of comprehensive federal aquatic invasive species legislation in the U.S., some state governments are moving forward to enact their own state laws and regulations to control such species introduction; and the lack of U.S. federal standards or regulations with respect to ballast water has compelled states to enact ballast water treatment requirements in Michigan and California, and other states are currently considering similar legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) strongly supports local and state efforts to prevent and control invasive species and manage ballast water treatment, but the existence of different state laws and policies is not the most effective approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Ships Initiative was established as a collaborative effort to end the problem of ship-mediated invasive species through independent research and demonstrations of environmental technology, financial incentives and consistent basin-wide harbor monitoring; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Coast Guard, Transport Canada – Marine Safety, the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, and the Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation have established the Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Working Group to provide an interim response to calls for tougher ballast water regulations of ocean-going ships transiting the Great Lakes; and



**WHEREAS**, a new Seaway regulation implemented in 2008 requires all NOBOB (no ballast on board) ships headed for U.S. ports to engage in saltwater flushing of ballast water tanks before entering the Seaway, thus harmonizing current U.S. ballast water management practices with those of the 2006 Canadian regulations which require all ships entering Canadian waters to comply with the International Marine Organization's ballast water exchange standards; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. and Canadian advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes United, and Healing Our Water Coalition have called for a moratorium on entrance of oceangoing vessels into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence until effective methods of ballast water treatment are implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act, Bill S.725, was introduced in the U.S. Senate in March 2007 to amend the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 and the bill currently sits in committee, and the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2008 that contains ballast water management requirements that the region supports and that bill currently sits with the Senate.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on both the Canadian and U.S. federal governments to pass comprehensive federal legislation and/or regulations to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species and implement and enforce uniform ballast water regulations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian and U.S. federal governments to adopt a target of zero new introductions of aquatic invasive species; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges that federal legislation regarding ballast water management include a requirement to meet an environmentally protective standard within five years following enactment, and a requirement to review technology on a periodic basis both before and after the five-year period to define the best performing technology and to require application of discharge standards based on the performance of the best technology; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the options investigated to control the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes should not result in the transfer of the problem to the St. Lawrence River region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to support the mission and efforts of the Great Ships Initiative and the Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Working Group, in the absence of comprehensive federal legislation and/or regulations to deal with ballast water management and aquatic invasive species; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian and U.S. governments to provide maximum funding and enforcement for existing aquatic invasive species control and prevention programs and ballast water management, even in the absence of new legislation; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that because the introduction of aquatic invasive species and ballast water management is a binational matter, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada to authorize the development of an annual report by the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada – Marine Safety, on ballast water management progress within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and U.S. governments to harmonize to the highest level of protection their approaches to invasive species prevention and ballast water control.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 3 – 2008M**

**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE BEACHES**

**WHEREAS**, improving and protecting the quality of water is fundamental to maintaining healthy lakes, rivers, beaches, and waterfronts as well as the economic well-being and the quality of life for our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, under current federal and provincial recreational water quality standards and guidelines, *E. coli* bacteria is used as the indicator organisms, though this may not be the most appropriate organism, and current standard laboratory procedures typically provide results 24 to 48 hours after sample collection and therefore are unable to provide “day of sampling” results; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of a reliable indicator organism and the untimely testing process may lead to unnecessary beach closures or beaches remaining open when they should be closed; and

**WHEREAS**, recreational water quality criteria and sampling protocols are not standardized across the bi-national Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin and are in need of revision in both the United States and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, a federal district court found U.S. EPA in violation of the BEACH Act 2000 and required them to complete reporting to assess pathogens in recreational water and to adopt new or revised recreational water quality criteria; and U.S. EPA has committed to adopting revised criteria by 2012; and the Canadian federal government water safety guidelines are in the process of revision without a set release date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), through the Clean Beaches Initiative, encourages the use of standardized beach sanitary surveys throughout the region which were developed by US EPA and federal, state, and local beach partners in response to the GLRC Strategy and data from Great Lakes States that found that 90% of beach closings were from unknown sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Beach Protection Act of 2008, which amends the Clean Water Act to authorize states or local governments to carry out coastal recreational water quality monitoring and notification programs, passed the U.S. House of Representatives and currently sits in committee in the U.S. Senate, and is supported throughout the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the use of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration standardized beach sanitary survey forms throughout the region so that beach managers become knowledgeable about the sources of contamination at their beaches and explore remediation efforts; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative also encourages the U.S. EPA, Canadian government, and provincial and state governments to establish as a high priority, work together, and harmonize to the highest level of protection recreational water quality criteria and standards; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the inclusion of tools like standardized beach sanitary survey forms in federal, state, and provincial revised recreational water quality standards and guidelines; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages reauthorization of U.S. federal legislation to continue funding for coastal monitoring and notification programs and to include flexibility for funding to be used for implementation of sanitary surveys as well as contamination remediation efforts; and flexibility in the term “rapid test method” to include laboratory-based test methods as well as predictive modeling; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative also encourages the Canadian federal and provincial governments to dedicate funding for local health departments and communities to implement and maintain coastal monitoring, notification and contamination remediation programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges federal, state, provincial, tribal, first nation, and local governments across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin as well as research and academic institutions and public health agencies in the United States and Canada to work together as necessary within a timely manner to:

1. Establish and implement a common and safe *E. coli* standard or other indicator for application at all Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin beaches;
2. Standardize water quality sampling protocols and beach posting protocols;
3. Develop and standardize accurate and timely rapid bio-detection methods to assess beach water quality conditions on the day of sampling; and
4. Identify effective beach management programs that will improve recreational water quality.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 4 - 2008M**

**THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN WATER RESOURCES**  
**COMPACT AND THE GREAT LAKES – ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN**  
**SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin are precious public natural resources shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the world's largest source of surface freshwater and are essential to the quality of life and economic vitality of the cities, villages, townships, and counties along the shores and in the surrounding watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence support countless recreational, commercial, tourism, and cultural activities for basin residents and visitors; drive economic development and improve the economic value of shoreline communities; support critical aquatic and coastal ecosystems; provide fresh drinking water for millions of people; and support agricultural and industrial activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent about twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and drinking water for more than 40 million people throughout the Great Lakes basin; and

**WHEREAS**, despite their size, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are finite and vulnerable to depletion and degradation with only one percent of the water in the Great Lakes being recharged each year; and

**WHEREAS**, future diversions and consumptive uses of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin water resources have the potential to significantly impact the environment, economy and welfare of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces have a shared duty to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage the renewable but finite Waters of the Basin for the use, benefit and enjoyment of all their citizens, including generations yet to come. The most effective means of protecting, conserving, restoring, improving and managing the Basin Waters is through the joint pursuit of unified and cooperative principles, policies and programs mutually agreed upon, enacted and adhered to by all of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces; and

**WHEREAS**, the states of Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have ratified the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers have signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement—agreements



to conserve, protect and improve the Great Lakes and its sustaining waters—but, Congress must give consent to make the Compact federal law; and the Province of Ontario has passed legislation to implement the Agreement while the Province of Québec has approved the Agreement and has recently introduced legislation to provide a framework for the full implementation of the Agreement, which is supported throughout the region; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Province of Québec to adopt the recently introduced legislation to fully implement the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States Congress to give its consent to the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact so that it may become a binding interstate compact on the Great Lakes states; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution will be sent to: the Council of Great Lakes Governors, each of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers, and the Great Lakes Delegation in the United States Congress; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon the eight Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces to continue to move forward with the development and implementation of the Compact and Agreement, and specifically with water conservation objectives to meet aggressive targets and timeframes.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 5 – 2008M**

**ACCELERATION OF THE RESTORATION OF AREAS OF CONCERN (AOC)**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are resources of tremendous value to the people of the United States and Canada and add greatly to the economic well-being and quality of life for the citizens who live there and the visitors who travel there; and

**WHEREAS**, contamination from industrial, commercial, agricultural, and domestic sources have caused a wide variety of problems and impairments to the resource over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada formally designated 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) with especially significant problems in the Great Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, to date, only three of the AOCs have been restored to the point of being removed from the list of contaminated areas in almost 20 years, while another four are being prioritized by the Canadian Government for clean up by 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, these areas continue to present threats to human health and the environment, and are often viewed as a stigma for the cities and surrounding communities in the vicinity; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and provincial authorities have the primary responsibility for the remediation and restoration work that needs to be done in these contaminated areas under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Canada Ontario Agreement, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and the St. Lawrence Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, local government may be in a position to help accelerate the cleanup of these areas; and

**WHEREAS**, study released by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in February of 2008 shows that local governments are investing billions in water quality management programs to help advance the cleanup of AOCs and other nearshore areas; and

**WHEREAS**, a Brookings Institution report recently concluded that the cleanup of AOCs and other investments in the Great Lakes would be expected to reap a 200-300% return on investment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and member cities located in AOCs engage state, provincial and federal governments to determine ways and means to accelerate the clean up and delisting of AOCs, with local government cooperation and involvement; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that where cities determine that local involvement is appropriate and could serve to advance the cleanup process, mayors and their staff look for opportunities to lead and participate in projects to help restore the areas; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that cities look for opportunities to partner with tribes and first nations in these remediation and restoration efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that cities call on the federal, state, and provincial authorities to prepare and implement a plan to accelerate the cleanup and delisting of AOCs, and that Congress, the Canadian Parliament, and provincial and state legislatures, appropriate or budget the necessary funding to allow for this accelerated remediation process.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 6 – 2008M**

**NATIONAL CLEAN WATER TRUST FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are the largest surface freshwater formation in the world serving the United States and Canada with water for aquatic life, drinking water, recreation and other vital uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the environmental health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is a major element of efforts to maintain and sustain vibrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long recognized that the Great Lakes are essential to the continued vitality of the cities, townships, villages and counties along the shores and in the tributary watersheds, the environment and the economy of the region and the nation as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and operation of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure provide vital public health, environmental benefits, and economic benefits to Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities and contribute to the national economy; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and provincial requirements govern the provision of wastewater and stormwater infrastructure services by local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, wastewater and stormwater facilities are vital to protecting source drinking waters; and

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and provincial requirements continue to increase by further controlling wastewater system overflows, removal of ammonia toxicity, control of excessive nutrients, and removal of exotic pollutants; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. EPA's 2000 *Progress in Water Quality Report* found that if existing infrastructure is not rehabilitated and further improvements not made to remove conventional pollutants, the U.S. could experience by 2016 levels of water body impairments that existed prior to the achievement of secondary wastewater treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Infrastructure Network, the U.S. EPA and other government agencies have reported that the cost of presently known water and wastewater infrastructure construction needs range between \$300 billion and \$550 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, similar studies in Canada have show multi-billion dollar deficits in funding for wastewater infrastructure; and



**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence local governments and their wastewater utilities have significantly increased wastewater user rates in past decades and have widely adopted methods of improving planning, construction, capacity, management, operation and maintenance of wastewater infrastructure at great cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Conference of Mayors has reported that of those surveyed “Roughly 75 percent of treatment plants providing drinking water and cleaning wastewater (sewage) employ comprehensive or partial asset management practices”; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study completed by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative shows that local governments in the U.S. and Canada on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are investing over \$15 billion annually to protect and restore the resource, a majority of the funding going to wastewater and stormwater management; and

**WHEREAS**, the great majority of funds for meeting local and national clean water needs will continue to be provided by local governments, but new sources of public capital from the national economy are needed to assist in meeting the gap in capital expenditures to further control pollutants and replace aging infrastructure emblematic of the national importance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and clean water; and

**WHEREAS**, leadership from the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and other Members of Congress have requested the Government Accountability Office to review and report on options for dedicated revenue to finance a National Clean Water Trust Fund and have indicated an intent to introduce such legislation for consideration by Congress.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports significantly increased United States Federal Government funding for clean water and urges Congress to establish a dedicated revenue source to help close the clean water funding gap. This federal funding will be used to establish a matching grants program, continue the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, and for other assistance to advance the achievement of clean water goals at the local, statewide and national levels and for the Great Lakes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian government to establish a dedicated funding program for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence clean water to help overcome the legacy infrastructure deficit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative urges state and provincial governments to establish dedicated sources of funding for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence clean water to help close the current funding gap; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the U.S. and Canadian governments, the state and provincial governments, to at least match the \$15 billion invested by local governments annually in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 7 – 2008M**

**GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes are the largest source of surface fresh water in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada, their cities, states, provinces, tribes, and first nations, have shared the waters peacefully for almost 200 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 has guided the relations between the two countries relative to the shared waters for almost 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was established between the two countries in 1972, and has been amended twice since then; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement has provided direction to both countries in their efforts to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, much progress has been made in the protection and restoration efforts in both countries; and

**WHEREAS**, with growing populations and new industrial, agricultural, and urban stresses on the resource, along with the challenges of climate change and more invasive species, the number, complexity, and severity of the challenges faced on the Great Lakes continue to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Water Quality agreement has not been amended since 1987 and in many respects is seriously outdated and not designed to deal with many of the current problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the ecological relationship between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is better understood and more appreciated than before; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Joint Commission, the Water Quality Agreement Review Committee, and other groups have engaged in extensive outreach on the Agreement and have provided extensive analysis on what changes would be appropriate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly urges the federal governments of the United States and Canada to move forward quickly with negotiation of a new agreement; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal governments of the United States and Canada should consult closely with their state, provincial, local, tribal, and first nations governmental partners throughout the negotiation process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal governments of the United States and Canada should reach out to the environmental, industrial, and agricultural communities and other stakeholder groups throughout the negotiation process; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any final agreement recognize the critical role that local governments play in the protection and restoration of the resource; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any final agreement recognize the linkage between the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in such areas as invasive species, water quality, and water levels; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any final agreement address the fundamental need for a clear vision for the resource, much better accountability for results, stronger management structures and systems, an ecosystem approach to problem solving; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a new agreement be in place no later than 2010.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 8 – 2008M**

**CONTROL OF UPPER GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS**

**WHEREAS**, the decline in water levels in Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan and Georgian Bay (the Upper Lakes) have caused concern amongst property owners, municipalities, recreation enthusiasts, and shippers; and

**WHEREAS**, Upper lake levels have risen recently due to the winter melt and spring precipitation, but they remain below long term average levels; and

**WHEREAS**, declining lake levels in the Upper Lakes are economically affecting recreational boating, fisheries habitat, shipping and boating; and

**WHEREAS**, accelerated evaporation and drought due to climate change, ‘glacial rebound’, and erosion are some of the factors that scientists believe are contributing to declining lake levels; and

**WHEREAS**, unlike Lake Ontario and Lake Superior, there are no flow controls managing water levels between Lakes Huron/ Michigan and Lake Erie; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a scientific debate over whether erosion in the St. Clair River has stabilized or continues to contribute to dropping lake levels; and

**WHEREAS**, an International Joint Commission (IJC) study group on the Upper Great Lakes and a Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) (including Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative representation) have been established to explore the question of increased flow through the St. Clair River, as well as to review flow controls on the St. Mary’s River; and

**WHEREAS**, the IJC would like to see if its study concludes that erosion in the St. Clair River is the primary factor in declining lake levels before recommending mitigation measures, and the U.S. and Canadian governments are awaiting the IJC recommendations before considering any action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has sent a letter to the IJC dated December 19, 2007 underscoring the importance to municipalities of the issue of water levels in the Upper Lakes and the need to move forward expeditiously on the IJC Upper Lakes Study.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to call on the IJC to move forward expeditiously on the IJC Upper Lakes Study, and requests regular, publicly available updates on the progress of the study; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that once finalized, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Governments of Canada and the United States to implement the recommendations of the IJC Upper Lakes Study expeditiously; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will keep its members informed of developments related to water level controls, including holding a meeting in the fall for members in the Upper Lakes region.

**CARRIED**



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
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**RESOLUTION 9 – 2008M**

**SHORT SEA SHIPPING**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have served the United States and Canada as a major route for shipping goods and materials in and out of both countries for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have the capacity to handle significantly more commercial shipping than currently uses the transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing congestion on highways and train routes, especially at border crossings, is detrimental from an energy and economic standpoint; and

**WHEREAS**, moving goods and materials by ship is one of the most energy efficient means of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of energy, especially petroleum related products, continues to rise significantly; and

**WHEREAS**, the concept of short sea shipping, where goods and materials are shipped from one location within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to another, is utilized to a certain degree now, but has the potential for much expansion in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada released the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Study in 2007, which included a discussion on the potential for short sea shipping in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a number of potential advantages in terms of reduced transport time, less energy consumption, and less congestion, but there are also potential impediments, including the need for harbor modifications, border security, and the Harbor Maintenance Tax; and

**WHEREAS**, shipping is important to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region as a whole, and to a number of its port cities specifically.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative strongly encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to do further study as to the feasibility of short sea shipping in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to examine the full range of advantages and disadvantages of short sea shipping from an economic, environmental, energy, and other key standpoints in any such study; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages the governments of Canada and the United States to fully engage the local governments, port authorities, states, provinces, and other key stakeholders in any such study; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will formulate a working group to examine short sea shipping from the above perspectives that will include all forms of transportation in a multi-modal approach and will include a focus on preventing the further invasion of aquatic invasive species.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 10 – 2008M**

**WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River are national and international treasures vital to the region; and

**WHEREAS**, these treasures are shared common resources between the citizens of Canada and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the premier freshwater system in the world, containing almost twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and providing drinking water to over thirty-five million Canadian and United States citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are also vital to the region in terms of industry, recreation, and their value as natural habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, only one percent of this resource is renewed each year; and

**WHEREAS**, improper water management could cause irreversible damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, water is needlessly wasted through the use of inefficient appliances throughout the Great Lake and St. Lawrence River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is accelerating the year-round evaporation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence surface waters; and

**WHEREAS**, water treatment and distribution is one of the highest energy consumption activities within municipal operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need to conserve water actively and use it efficiently and agree that growth, conservation, and efficiency can occur simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 which urges cities to work towards achieving a fifteen

percent reduction below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015 and encourages more cities to implement water conservation programs by fostering a best practices network; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the Governors and Premiers of the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces for their work in developing the



regional water conservation and efficiency objectives called for in Article 304(1) of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and looks forward the development of focused, harmonized and aggressive water conservation objectives by the Great Lakes States and the two Canadian Provinces.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members reiterate the need for cities to continue leading water conservation and efficiency efforts for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and to lead by example with respect to water conservation, and encourages further municipal involvement in the GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to promote its Water Conservation Framework amongst its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities through promotional materials and presentations to municipal councils; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages municipalities to include water conservation and efficiency measures in their energy efficiency and climate change plans; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages other orders of government to work closely with municipalities to explore how they can introduce measures that would directly help municipalities reach their water conservation goals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal and state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States to adopt measures to ban the sale of water-inefficient toilets and other water inefficient household appliances, as well as to require the installation of water efficient household appliances in new and retro-fitted residential dwellings.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 11 – 2008M**

**COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. EPA recognizes that pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), such as medication residues that pass out of the body and into sewer lines, externally-applied drugs and personal care products that are washed down the shower drain, and unused or expired medications that are placed in the trash or flushed down toilets, and being found in trace amounts in drinking water systems in the U.S. and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, research suggests that certain drugs may cause ecological harm and more research is needed to determine the extent of ecological harm and any role it may have in potential human health effects; and

**WHEREAS**, the disposal of household PPCPs are not regulated; and

**WHEREAS**, there is growing recognition of the need for updated and standardized regulations and for consumer education to reduce the discharge of PPCPs into drinking water sources and other waterways; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of mandatory collection of PPCPs, many municipalities and pharmacies have established voluntary pharmaceutical take-back programs or household hazardous waste collection programs that accept pharmaceuticals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will conduct a survey of members' PPCP take back or collection programs to determine the extent and cost of these programs in the Great Lakes –St. Lawrence region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages its members and other cities to initiate, continue, and expand PPCP take back or collection programs;



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal, state and provincial governments to review and update their regulations with respect to the collection and disposal of PPCPs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal, state, and provincial governments to ensure that appropriate and adequate funding be made available to municipalities to implement updated regulations with respect to the collection and disposal of PPCPs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative will explore and work to form partnerships between member cities and pharmaceutical companies, corporations and related industries to develop take-back programs to safely dispose of PPCPs.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 13 – 2008M**

**SUPPORTING THE CITY OF CHICAGO'S BID FOR THE**  
**2016 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago has been selected by the United States Olympic Committee as the U.S. Applicant City for the international competition to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2008 the International Olympic Committee named Chicago as one of four global Candidate Cities, moving the City into the final round of competition for the 2016 Games; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is a dynamic, bi-national area surrounding one of the world's greatest natural resources and the City of Chicago is just one of the many municipalities throughout the region that is eager and anxious to serve the Olympic Movement by embracing and celebrating the Olympic Games; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will allow mayors from the U.S. and Canada to showcase the region to the international community and highlight the natural beauty and significance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Games will not only attract hundreds of thousands of visitors but also place our region – through the media – in the homes of millions of people all around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Games present the opportunity for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region to portray itself as it truly is: a place where people from different backgrounds, nationalities, and ethnicities can come together to pursue their dreams; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Chicago is working to set higher standards for green building and sustainable development and the plan for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will showcase the best of sustainable practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games would attract new visitors from around the globe, generate international goodwill, and create new businesses and jobs for the hard-working people of our city and region; and



**WHEREAS**, the Games will provide a catalyst for the type of re-investment in the region that is crucial to its continued vitality and prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the City of Chicago and Chicago 2016 as they compete for the privilege to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its member municipalities pledge their assistance to enhance the efforts of the City and Chicago 2016 however they are able.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 14 – 2008M**

**DREDGING SMALL HARBORS**

**WHEREAS**, there are 87 federally authorized small harbors on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin and many within the Province of Ontario and along the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Québec; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S., the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as maintenance); and

**WHEREAS**, small harbors perform other valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for Coast Guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence research vessels and ferry terminals; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the small harbors require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, in the U.S., longstanding federal policy prevents the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or “earmarks” to secure funds for maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, this inefficient, inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered, or in some cases totally blocked, access to small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system in the U.S. and Canada to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes and St. Lawrence harbors and supports similar efforts around the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 17 – 2008M**

**POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY OF QUEBEC - ST. LAWRENCE AREA FROM THE PROPOSED REGULATION OF LAKE ONTARIO AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER WATER LEVELS**

**WHEREAS**, the International Joint Commission (IJC) is dedicated to helping the Canadian and American governments in their efforts to find solutions to issues regarding their shared waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the IJC implemented, in 2000, research efforts to revise the flow regulation criteria for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River; and

**WHEREAS**, these efforts, at a cost of \$20 million (US\$), have included solely tide-free zones for the St. Lawrence River, approximately to Trois-Rivières; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 28, 2008, the IJC presented its newly proposed Order of Approval and regulation plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and is currently soliciting public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the region covered by the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec (CMQ) covers both shores of the St. Lawrence River approximately 100 kilometres downstream from Trois-Rivières; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 730,000 inhabitants live and play along this part of the Saint Lawrence River, as well as draw their drinking water from it; and

**WHEREAS**, almost half of the flow into the St. Lawrence River, in the region of the CMQ, originates from Lake Ontario; and

**WHEREAS**, a decrease of the quantity of water coming in from Lake Ontario, be it caused by the anticipated regulation brought forward by the IJC or by climate change, combined with the anticipated increase in oceanic water levels, could, in the near future, impact the composition and the water level in the St. Lawrence River in the CMQ region; and

**WHEREAS**, certain regional drinking water intakes in the St. Lawrence River could be exposed to risks, caused namely by a possible mixing of saline waters; and

**WHEREAS**, a potential decrease of fresh water levels could affect the many wetlands along the St. Lawrence Rivers in the territory of the CMQ.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative make appropriate representations to the International Joint Commission so that the



Commission recognizes that the regulation of water levels of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, especially in the context of climate change, could have an impact in the CMQ region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative make appropriate representations to the International Joint Commission so that the Commission documents those impacts, and ensures that all stakeholders in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence system, more specifically those in the CMQ region, be informed of such impacts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative remain aware of the official opinions voiced by various organisations and governments around the Great Lakes and intervenes as needed to remind such organisations and governments of the impacts of their positions on the municipalities in the CMQ region.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 19 – 2008M**

**NOMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION FOR**  
**STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE**

**WHEREAS**, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has existed to oversee the implementation of the Boundary Waters Treaty (1909) between Canada and the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Boundary Waters Treaty will celebrate 100 years of continuous force and effect governing water resource management along the Canada-U.S. border; and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of that 100 years, the IJC has played a key role in preventing and resolving disputes between the United States and Canada, and has helped ensure sound water management of the shared waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stockholm Water Prize suitably recognizes institutions (among others) for outstanding water-related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the IJC represents a model of governance for international water stewardship goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the environment of Great Lakes Basin and St. Lawrence River represents a significant component of the IJC's responsibilities under the Boundary Waters Treaty; and

**WHEREAS**, the IJC has recognized the important role of municipalities in managing the shared waters by appointing a representative to the Water Quality Board, and by highlighting municipal participation in the development of a new Water Quality Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, an active member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, has begun the process of nominating the IJC for the Stockholm Water Prize and is seeking support from the larger municipal sector in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River as part of the nomination process.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports the Regional Municipality of Niagara's nomination of the IJC for the Stockholm Water Prize.

**CARRIED**



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

**RESOLUTION 1 – 2008B**

**ADOPTION OF THE CANADA-ONTARIO AGREEMENT MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION (COA MOC) BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO AND THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has advocated consistently for a ‘seat at the table’ with respect to Great Lakes and St. Lawrence decision making bodies and agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, as attention turns to near shore impacts on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the effects of climate change, and drinking water source protection, the federal and Ontario governments are increasingly interested in ways to collaborate with municipalities to address these issues’; and

**WHEREAS**, a review initiated by the Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment to determine effective ways to engage stakeholders on Great Lakes issues provides an opportunity for discussion of a formal role for municipalities within the Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem Basin (COA) framework; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ontario Government and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have negotiated a Memorandum of Cooperation to facilitate municipal engagement and cooperation with the Ontario Government with respect to COA; and

**WHEREAS**, such an agreement may serve as a precedent for similar side agreements to other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence agreements such as the St. Lawrence Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Board of Directors adopt and commit to implement the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ontario Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

**CARRIED**