

September 6, 2011

Dear Councillor Minnan-Wong and members of the City of Toronto Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

Re: Don River and Central Waterfront Project

On behalf of the departments and ministries represented on the *Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem*, we, the co-chairs of the COA Annex Implementation Committee, are writing in support of the City of Toronto's *Don River and Central Waterfront Project* and submission of its environmental assessment to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

The Don River and Central Waterfront suffer from significantly impaired water quality. This is due to a combined sewer system that allows raw sewage to mix with stormwater during higher rain events and flush into the mouth of the Don River and Toronto's north shore through numerous outfalls.

With the implementation of the *Don River and Central Waterfront Project* the City of Toronto will be in compliance with provincial Procedure F-5-5 (Determination of Treatment Requirements for Municipal and Private Combined and Partially Separated Sewer Systems). Controlling stormwater and combined sewer overflow discharges along the Inner Harbour and lower reaches of the Don River would reduce excessive nutrient, bacteria and pathogen loading to the waterfront. The City of Toronto will benefit from improved water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and recreational use of the waterfront.


Under the *Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA), Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem*, we are committed to addressing the continuing sources of pollution to Toronto's waterfront by reducing pollutant discharges from municipal sewage treatment plants, combined sewer overflows and urban stormwater.

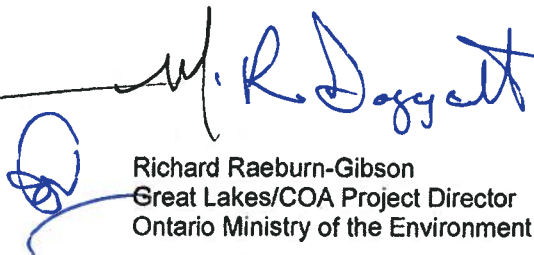
The *Don River and Central Waterfront Project's* virtual elimination of combined sewer overflows will be a major step towards delisting Toronto as an Area of Concern under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (IJC 1987).

Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment have supported the development of the City's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan, have contributed technical and financial assistance and will continue to work with the City to ensure integration and optimization of Toronto's wastewater treatment system.

We look forward to working with the City to implement this important project.

Sincerely,


Sandra Weston
Director, Great Lakes Division
Environment Canada


Richard Raeburn-Gibson
Great Lakes/COA Project Director
Ontario Ministry of the Environment