



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

RESOLUTION 11 – 2010M

St. Lawrence Plan

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes are an integral part of the St. Lawrence Hydrographic Basin which contains 20 percent of the world surface freshwater, is a driving force for economic and social development and a vital ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, over 60 percent of the population of the Province of Québec lives along the St. Lawrence River and over 43 percent of the Province's drinking water is supplied by the St. Lawrence River; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous significant threats to the integrity of the St. Lawrence River ecosystem that could cause long-term, irreparable damage to water; and

WHEREAS, Canada and Québec governments collaborate, since 1988, for the conservation, protection and the restoration of the St. Lawrence River through the agreements St. Lawrence Action Plan (1988-1993), St. Lawrence Vision 2000 (1993-2003) and St. Lawrence Plan (2005-2010); and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Plan has the objective to manage the St. Lawrence River in a concerted and integrated way with an ecosystemic, sustainable development, and precautionary approach through Priority Intervention Zones (ZIP); and

WHEREAS, significant and tangible progress has been accomplished in addressing efforts in several spheres as community implications, agriculture, conservation, biodiversity, urban and industrial impact reductions, navigation and human health ; and

WHEREAS, extensive work remains to be done by cities, the Province, the Federal government, industry, agriculture, environmental organizations, and other groups before fully effective conservation, protection and restoration of the St. Lawrence River will be achieved; and

WHEREAS, the province of Québec enacted the new *Act to Affirm the Collective Nature of Water Resources and Provide for increased Water Resource Protection* which



declares that the St. Lawrence, as an hydrologic unit, must be managed under a concerted, integrated strategy; and

WHEREAS, this new law mentions that every person has the right to have access to water that is safe for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (s.2) and that municipalities have to assure the quality of their water (s. 45 Environment Quality Act); and

WHEREAS, under principles of transparency and participation of this new law, every person has a right to participate in public decision-making that affects water resources (s. 7); and

WHEREAS, cities want to work with Canadian and Québec governments to ensure the most effective integrated and concerted water management system is put in place for the long term protection, conservation and restoration of the St. Lawrence and well-being of the population in the region; and

WHEREAS, cities have extensive experience in issues apprehended both in the St. Lawrence Plan and the new law; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Plan expired on March 31th, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Ontario municipalities have the opportunity to work with the Ontario government in its efforts to achieve the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement since 2008 through the COA and the COA/MOC; and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Plan is closely patterned after the COA regarding their goals and their governance ways to implement them; and

WHEREAS, the renewal and/or the renegotiation of the St. Lawrence Plan is an outstanding opportunity for all stakeholders in the St. Lawrence River, including federal, provincial and municipal governments, to work together and share their extensive experience to achieve the goal of the COA, the St. Lawrence Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the renegotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement is an outstanding opportunity for all stakeholders in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin, including Canada, United States, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, the Provinces of Ontario and Québec, and municipalities within those states and provinces, to work together and share their extensive experience to achieve an effective protection and restoration of the Basin;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commend the Federal and Provincial governments for their work under St. Lawrence Plan to conserve, protect and restore the St. Lawrence River, for more than 20 years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges all stakeholders in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin to recognize those waters as a whole, unique and of primary importance hydrographic basin, and act consistently with this recognition;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the Canadian and Québec governments to initiate and proceed with the review of the St. Lawrence Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and Québec governments to fully include local governments in the review as full and equal partners, address the critical issues facing the resource, and help shape the review of the St. Lawrence Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on Canadian and Québec governments to build collaboration in the next St. Lawrence Plan with Québec municipalities in the protection and conservation of the St. Lawrence Basin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian and Québec governments to establish mechanisms in the next St. Lawrence Plan to discuss and pursue common objectives and address issues of concern to municipalities and Québec related to the protection and conservation of St. Lawrence Basin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian government to fully involve local governments in the review as full and equal partners, address the critical issues facing the resource, and help shape the review of the Water Quality Agreement; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative cities will make every effort to ensure municipal representation in decision-making regarding St. Lawrence River.



Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

Denis Lapointe, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield