



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

**RESOLUTION 13 – 2010M**

**Moving Towards a Green Economic Strategy for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin has traditionally been an economic powerhouse. As a stand- alone region, it would have the world’s second highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Great Lakes basin supports over 50% of Canada’s manufacturing output, 25% of Canada’s Agriculture and over \$350 billion annually in Ontario–U.S. Trade. In the U.S. the basin supports \$430.7 billion in manufacturing GDP and \$72 billion in agricultural GDP; and

**WHEREAS**, investment in the ecological health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin is pivotal to the long-term economic success of the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are an underappreciated and undervalued resource; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence makes good business sense, and provides returns on investments of 2:1. A recent U.S. study concluded that total returns on a \$26 billion investment in the Great Lakes could be in the \$95 to \$119 billion range; and

**WHEREAS**, currently many communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and across North America are facing a triple challenge from three inter related factors: economic, environmental and social. The solution to these three challenges may lie in making a transition to a new green economy in the Great Lakes that supports healthy, sustainable jobs, lifestyles and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for greener practices are especially pressing to protect and restore the Great Lakes, the source of drinking water for 40 million people. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin also provides recreation supporting a \$7 billion sports fishery, \$2 billion in recreational boating and \$2 billion in commercial shipping. The ecological services of flood protection, nutrient cycling and climate regulation provided by wetlands and other areas are estimated in the billions; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities, provincial/state and federal governments, industry and community groups have started on the path of green economy in the Great Lakes and



St. Lawrence by beginning to make changes towards more sustainable green energy, green buildings and greener land development planning; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members call on the provincial, state and federal governments and other groups to collaborate with municipal governments on the creation of a new green economic strategy, including carbon trading for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and this plan contains measures to support green buildings, green energy, job training in green industries, clean manufacturing practices, water conservation and increased tourism promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis Lapointe', written over a horizontal line.

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