



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

RESOLUTION 4 – 2010M

Human Health, Toxic Chemicals and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin
Submitted by the Georgian Bay Group of GLSLCI

WHEREAS, public health studies have long since established the causal linkage between toxic chemicals and adverse effects on human and aquatic health; and

WHEREAS, all Great Lakes and St. Lawrence citizens, including newborn infants, carry toxic chemicals, including pesticides, in their bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is home to the greatest concentration of industrial facilities in Canada and data collected by the Canadian federal government through the National Pollutant Release Inventory shows that these Canadian facilities:

- release 45% of Canada's air pollution in the Great Lakes basin;
- release and transfer more than 1 billion kilograms of pollutants into the air, water and land; and

WHEREAS, exposure to toxic chemicals, including pesticides, can have direct health effects, including increased risk of certain cancers, acute toxicity, neurological impairment, developmental effects, reproductive effects, organ damage, and interference with the human hormone system; and

WHEREAS, based on a study by the David Suzuki Foundation, 'The Food We Eat', there are 60 active ingredients in pesticide products registered in Canada that are banned in other western industrialized nations due to health and environmental concerns;

WHEREAS, municipalities are coming under increasing pressure to upgrade their wastewater treatment systems in order to remove toxic chemicals from sewage as a last resort to further reduce their introduction into the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence and other waterways; and

WHEREAS, the research on treatability and implementation costs of treatment upgrades is a necessary part of achieving the desired results in reducing harmful pollutants from sewage effluent;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the Canadian Federal Government to accelerate timelines under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* for virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxics; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the Canadian Government to prioritize the review under the *Pest Control Products Act* of 60 ingredients (attached) found in Canadian registered pesticides that are banned in other OECD countries, and in the interim place a moratorium on the sale of products with these ingredients until the review is completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on Canada and the US to provide assurances that current targets under *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* and *Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin and Ecosystem* are met and that these pollution prevention and elimination targets are reviewed and strengthened as part of the renegotiation of the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* and *Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin and Ecosystem*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the Governments of the US, Canada, Ontario, and Québec to develop targeted support for municipal infrastructure improvements to enable municipalities to make the necessary upgrades to more effectively remove toxic chemicals and emerging chemicals of concern in their wastewater systems as a last resort to reduce their introduction into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the Governments of Canada, the U.S., Ontario and Québec to provide greater support to research into the linkages between toxics chemicals found in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and human health, as well as research on the ability of sewage treatment systems to remove harmful chemicals and the associated costs, as part of their commitments under the renegotiated *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, *Canada Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin and Ecosystem* and St. Lawrence Plan.



Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

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