



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

RESOLUTION 6 – 2010M

Lake Ontario Water Quality Action Plan for West Durham Waterfront
Submitted by the Town of Ajax

WHEREAS, the freshwater resources of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are the largest source of fresh water in the world and the primary source of drinking water for about 40 million people currently living within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

WHEREAS, these resources are also essential for boating, fishing, swimming, and other activities important to the quality of life and economic well being of the people; and

WHEREAS, there are many point sources of contaminants (industrial outfalls, sewage treatment plants) within and beyond the Basin creating threats to water quality that are conceptually easier to monitor and control than non-point sources (shipping, agriculture, large-scale urban runoff, historically contaminated sediments); and

WHEREAS, some sewage treatment plant outfalls are located near drinking water intakes and beaches, and in certain areas, lake circulation patterns can trap discharged effluent in nearshore waters and contaminate sediments that can act as persistent risks, also presenting a threat to municipal water supplies and to swimmers; and

WHEREAS, the ecological community of the Great Lakes is changing in response to these increasing levels of environmental stress; and

WHEREAS, as population growth continues and wastewater treatment service areas expand or communities intensify, the volume of discharged treated effluent will continue to increase, introducing more nutrients and contaminants daily into nearshore waters; and

WHEREAS, wastewater composition is becoming more and more complex due to inputs of an increasing array of chemicals from industrial and commercial processes and pharmaceuticals and personal care products; and



WHEREAS, there is great need for the installation and continual upgrading of clean-water technologies in water supply plants and wastewater treatment plants throughout the Great Lakes Basin, and, more specifically, in the vicinity of the Town of Ajax, Ontario, however, plant owners and operators indicate there are no Provincial standards compelling them to do so nor do they have sufficient funding to acquire such technologies and utilize them; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Clean Water Act enables establishment of water quality related effluent limitations in localized areas where the condition of the receiving water body and size of discharging facilities are such that generally applicable requirements do not provide adequate protection to water quality, and there is no such legislation in Canada; and

WHEREAS, water supply plant intakes are often interspersed among sewage treatment plant outfalls on the shorelines of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

WHEREAS, nuclear plants are also located on these shorelines, sometimes close to water supply plants, as they also depend on the Great Lakes to provide cooling waters for reactors and to receive warmed water outputs; and

WHEREAS, better protection and improvement of the quality of freshwater resources in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River Basin are necessary to sustain the millions of people living within the Basin today and in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Ontario and Québec governments to adopt provisions similar to those in the U.S. Clean Water Act in a new provincial wastewater regulation that would allow the province to establish water quality related effluent limitations in localized areas where the condition of the receiving water body and size of discharging facilities are such that generally applicable requirements do not provide adequate protection to water quality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this new provincial authority be applied to shoreline areas in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin in Ontario and Québec that are experiencing acute adverse effects as a result of major or multiple effluent discharges, including the area along the West Durham Waterfront, and that the province, in consultation with relevant municipalities, develop, fund and implement Action Plans, including continued study of accumulating environmental impacts on human and aquatic health, to address the adverse effects of these effluent discharges in such a way as to restore the ambient water quality as well as protect drinking water quality, and restore beach quality and lake-based recreational activities.



Signed this 17th day of June, 2010

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