

1. Will your government call on the U.S. to renegotiate with Canada a new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by 2010 to effectively address such key issues as climate change, invasive species, toxic chemicals, habitat protection, and others necessary to improve the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River?

Freshwater is the lifeblood of Earth. Protecting and conserving freshwater is a major political challenge for the 21st century, and nowhere is this challenge illustrated better than the Great Lakes. The Green Party has already acted to preserve the water quality of the Great Lakes, as it was the only major Canadian political party to push for the cessation of the American Coast Guard's use of live ammunition (and thus lead contamination) in the Great Lakes.

A Green government would move to address invasive species in the Great Lakes by developing stringent, science-based protocols for ballast water flushing prior to entering the St. Lawrence waterway, and funding for monitoring and enforcement of these protocols. Moreover, we would strengthen the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to ensure it deals with emerging issues such as endocrine disrupters and pharmaceuticals.

2. How much new federal funding will your government allocate each year to support Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River protection programs and essential wastewater infrastructure?

The Green Party is committed to providing stable and dependable funding for fresh water protection. We would restore ecosystem health to the Great Lakes by funding improvements to municipal wastewater treatment systems, with particular emphasis on ensuring shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste into rivers, lakes and oceans. We would place an emphasis on innovative research by reviving the InfraGuide program (quietly eliminated by Environment Minister John Baird) that supported graduate internships in leading edge municipal infrastructure projects. Furthermore, we would link research spending in the natural and social sciences to water policy goals to ensure our higher education institutions create the knowledge for 21st century water management (i.e. emerging issues such as endocrine disrupters, pharmaceuticals and toxics, instream flows and sustainable groundwater yield, climate change adaptation).

3. What support will your government offer municipalities to address climate change mitigation and adaptation for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region?

A Green government would provide funding to municipalities through a new "Water and Waste Treatment Facilities Municipal Superfund" to enable replacement of chlorination

systems with ozonation, ultraviolet sterilization, sand filtration and other safe water purification systems. These Superfunds would also allow communities bordering the Great Lakes to directly address their pressing water concerns. Moreover, we would make federal funding for urban water infrastructure contingent on water efficiency plans that include measurable and enforceable goals and objectives.

4. Is your government willing to work with the municipal governments in Ontario and Quebec to develop and implement Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River agreements, programs and to set infrastructure funding priorities?

The Green Party of Canada is committed to ensuring, through cooperation with the provinces, that the Great Lakes are protected, maintained, and revitalized.