

Liberal Party of Canada
81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6M8

September 28, 2008

David Ullrich
Executive Director
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Ullrich,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our platform online at www.liberal.ca. This document provides details on Liberal goals and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Stéphane Dion, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson, President
Liberal Party of Canada



A Liberal Response to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

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?

A new Liberal government will work with all partners, provincial, national and international, for the protection of our environment. We have also pledged to invest \$400 million in a Canada Water Fund. This new initiative will:

- increase monitoring and reporting of the quantity and quality of Canadian water;
- clean up our waterways, including “hot spots” in the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and Lake Winnipeg;
- research the impact of emerging pollutants in water on human and aquatic ecosystem health;
- fight invasive species, such as the sea lamprey or zebra mussel;
- map Canada’s underground aquifers that supply our drinking water, so we know where our groundwater comes from and how it is affected by human activities; and,
- support the on-farm and community-based fresh water development programs of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

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?

A Liberal government will dedicate at least \$10 billion of strategic infrastructure, particularly green infrastructure such as water and sewage treatment, and clean energy grids. In addition, we have also promised at least \$3 billion for a dedicated Small Communities Fund, to ensure that all Canadians are able to use strengthened and more resilient infrastructure.

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

Yes. See question one.

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?

Yes. See questions one and two.