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## **MAYOR MCMULLAN ADDRESSES STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE POLICY REGARDING SAFEGUARDING AND SUSTAINING ONTARIO'S WATER**

St. Catharines, May 9, 2007- Today Mayor Brian McMullan, on behalf of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, addressed the Government of Ontario Standing Committee on Justice Policy regarding Bill 198, *Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act*.

“Water conservation is tremendously important for municipal governments and has a significant impact on our bottom line,” explained McMullan. “There are immediate steps that the Government of Ontario can pursue to develop a water conservation program such as legislating water efficient appliances for all Ontarians. For example, switching to minimal-volume toilets means cities don't need to pump and purify as much water, or treat as much sewage, which consumes considerable energy.”

Mayor McMullan is the Ontario regional representative of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Participating cities from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin have pledged to reduce annual water consumption by 15 per cent from 2000 levels by 2015.

The City of St. Catharines has been a member of the coalition since its inception in 2002, and is on track to exceed targets for 2015. The City has been promoting water conservation practices for years, including water-metering, in-school presentations, water bill inserts, and subsidizing the sale of rain barrels to residents. As a result, the City's 2006 annual water consumption was 13.5 per cent below 2000 levels.

Mayor McMullan explains that municipal governments like St. Catharines are taking a leadership role when it comes to water conservation, “We encourage the provincial government to learn from municipal water conservation programs and proceed with some short-term measures immediately.”

A full version of the Mayor's remarks will be available at:  
[http://www.stcatharines.ca/cityservices/mayorcouncil/mayor\\_speeches.asp](http://www.stcatharines.ca/cityservices/mayorcouncil/mayor_speeches.asp). For more information on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, please visit:  
<http://www.nemw.org/glci/aboutus.htm>.

**For more information or to arrange an interview:**  
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