



## Communiqué

### Actions adopted at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Board Meeting

**Québec City, December 10, 2010** –At their Board meeting in Quebec City, mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative agreed to take action on pressing issues facing communities along the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes.

1. **St. Lawrence Summit** : Mayors made an official request to the Québec Environment Minister, Pierre Arcand, to hold a joint Mayors' and Ministers' summit on the St. Lawrence this Spring to launch a municipal-provincial collaborative approach to protecting the St. Lawrence.
2. **Shale gas** : The mayors adopted ten recommendations to respond to the emerging challenges associated with the growth of the shale gas industry on the St. Lawrence, including the creation of a commission to fairly evaluate shale gas exploration and development project proposals.
3. **St. Lawrence Plan** : The Mayors underlined the importance of a distinct municipal role in the discussions and implementation of the next five year St. Lawrence Plan, which is currently under renegotiation by the Quebec and federal governments.
4. **Renewable energy**: The mayors agreed to forward to the membership a resolution calling for a meaningful role for cities as renewable energy development moves forward in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin.
5. **Spill Preparedness and Response**: The Mayors adopted recommendations concerning (1) the need for a study on the change in materials and increased volumes being transported on the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes and the implications for spills preparedness and response; (2) the need for greater communication and collaboration with the municipal sector in spills preparedness and response, and (3) a call for a municipal representative on both the Ontario and Quebec Oil Spill Regional Advisory Councils.
6. **Proposed Bruce Power Radioactive Waste Shipment** : The mayors remain steadfast in their opposition to the proposed shipment of sixteen radioactive steam generators through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin to Sweden, because (1) the proposed shipment exceeds international allowable safety limits for total amount of radioactivity allowed on a single ship; (2) the proposal consistently underestimates environmental risk; and (3) insufficient information is available for decisionmaking by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.
7. **Invasive Species** : The Cities Initiative is co-leading a breakthrough study to help prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes. Options to separate the Great Lakes and the Mississippi watersheds are under review. The Mayors also made a renewed call to US



- authorities to adopt strict, uniform, protective ballast water regulations to further reduce the risk of new introductions of invasive species into the Great Lakes.
8. **Green Marine** : The mayors adopted a resolution in support of the Green Marine environmental program of the Canadian and US maritime shipping industry.
  9. **GreenCITTS** : The mayors discussed progress on the implementation of the Cities Transforming Towards Sustainability, and this year’s priority area, stormwater management.
  10. **Annual General Meeting 2012** : The Quebec Metropolitan Community was selected to host the 2012 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference.

*The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national coalition of over seventy mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, tribal and First Nation and provincial governments and other stakeholders to advance the protection, restoration and promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. The full text of resolutions adopted by the board at its mid-year meeting, as well as photographs of the event, may be found at [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org).*

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