

Summary of Party Response to Cities Initiative 2011 Elections Questionnaire

Background

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a bi-national coalition of over 75 mayors, working together to protect, rehabilitate, and promote the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin.
- The Cities Initiative sent a questionnaire to Canadian federal political party leaders during the 2011 federal election campaign to solicit their responses to questions regarding:
 - investment in the Great Lakes
 - Support to municipalities to meet new federal wastewater standards
 - Support for local initiatives to protect and improve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
 - Improvement to spills preparedness and response
 - Support to local communities associated with impacts of climate change, particularly along the St. Lawrence
- Four of five political parties responded to the questionnaire. The Conservative Party of Canada did not reply.

Summary of Party Responses

Question	NDP	Liberal	Bloc	Green
1. Would your party increase the federal financial commitment to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes (exclusive of infrastructure) next year, and if so, by how much?	The NDP believes that Canada's investment in maintaining the health of the Great Lakes should be at least proportional to that of its southern neighbour.	A Liberal government will develop a new <i>Canadian Freshwater Strategy</i> . The strategy will aim to address the broad range of issues threatening our most precious resource including pollution, inefficient use, nutrient over-loading, drought, flooding, and invasive species, among others. The objective of the	Nous croyons qu'il est nécessaire que le gouvernement fédéral augmente le financement pour la protection du St-Laurent. Mesures proposées pour "L'avenir du Saint-Laurent" 2011-2012 \$964M 2012-2013 \$564M Fonds contre l'érosion des	We are proud to support aggressive initiatives to reduce the pollution levels in the Great lakes. We would establish a CEPA taskforce to focus on pollution reduction in the Great Lakes – Saint Lawrence Basin. Moreover we would strengthen the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to ensure it deals with emerging issues

		<p>Strategy will be to preserve Canada's freshwater heritage for the generations to come. That will include protecting our water resources from being subject to bulk exports. A Liberal government's focus on freshwater will also bolster efforts to clean up key water basins by investing \$100 million, rising to \$125 million annually, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore degraded and threatened areas across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence regions; • Advance research and improve efforts to protect freshwater ecosystems from invasive species such as Asian carp. 	<p>berges : 500 M\$ pour la création du Fonds et 100 M\$/an durant 25 ans.</p> <p>Programme de protection des rives : 4 M\$/an</p> <p>Financement des ZIP : 2 M\$/an</p> <p>Gestion des pêches : 227 M\$/an</p> <p>Position concurrentielle du Saint-Laurent : 230 M\$/an</p> <p>Crédit d'impôt pour réparation des dommages subis lors des grandes inondations : 1 M\$/an</p>	<p>such as endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals.</p>
<p>2. Would your party create a Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Sustainability Fund for locally-directed nearshore protection measures?</p>	<p>The NDP has allocated \$200 million per year over four years for clean water projects, and would consider endowing a fund for local initiatives.</p>	<p>A Canadian Freshwater Strategy will seek to provide the leadership and tools to enable local actors to implement the most effective solutions.</p>	<p>Selon le Bloc Québécois, la création d'un tel fonds doit donner lieu à une approche intégrant l'ensemble du bassin Saint-Laurent/Grands Lacs</p>	<p>A Green Government would restore ecosystem health to Canada's inland watersheds by funding improvements to municipal wastewater</p>

			afin de répondre équitablement aux besoins de chacun selon les impacts particuliers dont ils font les frais.	treatment systems, with particular emphasis on ensuring shoreline communities and industries stop dumping untreated waste into rivers, lakes and oceans. We will work with the coastal communities of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence basin to ensure that local-directed nearshore initiatives are well funded and supported at the national level.
3. What is your party's plan to help cities meet federal wastewater standards?	We have committed an initial \$200 million per year to help municipalities comply with the new federal standards. The NDP believes that working with the provinces and territories to develop a pan-Canadian infrastructure strategy, with reliable long-term funding for local priorities, is an important objective that will provide certainty to municipal leaders and allow for effective planning and replacement of aging infrastructure.	In addition to maintaining the Gas Tax Fund transfer to fund community infrastructure projects, a Liberal government will provide leadership, working with other levels of government to put in place a Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy that targets long-term economic benefits.	D'une part, le Bloc Québécois fera pression sur le gouvernement fédéral pour que les investissements en infrastructures soient modifiés de façon à tenir compte de la capacité de chacun: le gouvernement fédéral assumerait 50 % des dépenses, le Québec et les provinces 35 % et les municipalités 15 %, ce qui représenterait un juste reflet des capacités financières de chacun des paliers de gouvernement. D'autre part, le Bloc	The Green Party of Canada has pledged to create six municipal superfunds that cities can tap into to better maintain and develop their infrastructure. One of these funds will allocate 1.8 billion dollars over the next three years for water and waste treatment facilities in municipalities. The fund will allow cities to upgrade water treatment, sewage treatment and recycling facilities to make them efficient, safe and sustainable. This will allow

	We have consistently advocated for a ban of bulk fresh water exports, and to specifically exclude water from NAFTA.		Québécois demande que le gouvernement fédéral, plutôt que de multiplier les programmes, les regroupe sous la forme d'un fonds de transfert unique, inconditionnel et récurrent, afin que le gouvernement fédéral respecte les compétences du Québec et des provinces; que le Québec et les provinces obtiennent leur juste part ; et que les investissements en infrastructures municipales et stratégiques soient prévisibles, récurrents et adaptés aux besoins locaux.	communities to develop the necessary capacity and infrastructure to meet federal water standards.
3. Would your party commit to demonstrating political leadership in the protection of water resources in Canada, including the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and if so, how would you do this?	New Democrats take seriously our responsibility to protect and use our water resources wisely. We have consistently advocated for a ban of bulk fresh water exports, and to specifically exclude water from NAFTA. A New Democrat government would work with provincial and territorial partners to enhance	See 'investment', above.	Le 7 septembre 2010, le Bloc Québécois a entrepris sa seconde tournée du Saint-Laurent, intitulée <i>Le Saint-Laurent, ça nous appartient!</i> Au cours des jours qui ont suivi, l'équipe de la tournée, les 19 députées et députés des circonscriptions riveraines ainsi que 2 candidats officiels du Bloc Québécois ont parcouru 20	Firstly we would protect the fundamental right to clean freshwater for all Canadians today and in future generations by amending the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to enshrine the right of future Canadians to an ecological heritage that includes breathable air and drinkable water. Green MPs would also

	<p>Canada's water management practices.</p>		<p>circonscriptions où ils ont consulté 167 intervenants et intervenantes qui ont à coeur l'avenir du Saint-Laurent.</p> <p>Au début de 2011, le Bloc Québécois a publié un rapport dressant un portrait global de la consultation afin de faire connaître les préoccupations des riverains et des groupes d'intérêts attachés au patrimoine exceptionnel que constitue le Saint-Laurent. C'est par ses actions que le Bloc Québécois témoigne de son leadership face à ces enjeux et d'une réflexion de tous les instants qui traverse et transcende notre parti.</p>	<p>push government to strategically implement the 1987 Federal Water Policy to meet the requirements of sustainable water management - equity, efficiency and ecological integrity - by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Passing federal legislation to prohibit bulk water exports and immediately remove water from the scope of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) currently being negotiated. ☐ Take action to prevent radioactive waste shipments such as the highly radioactive worn out steam generators from nuclear reactors approved to be shipped out the Owen Sound harbour, through the St. Lawrence seaway and to Sweden. ☐ Establishing regulations and product standards to promote water-efficient
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<p>4. Would your party update Canada's spills prevention and preparedness regime?</p>	<p>These measures will include protection of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region, introducing a formal framework for responding to chemical spills. We will implement a plan to address new and changing products in maritime cargo on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, including light petroleum products, new chemicals, radioactive waste and other new cargo materials</p>	<p>A Liberal government will work together with provincial and territorial counterparts to conduct an independent review of Canada's oil spill prevention and response capability, including the legislative and regulatory regimes, and capacities and practices in place across the country for prevention and remediation of oil spills. Drawing on this review, a Liberal government will create a world-leading oil spill contingency plan for Canada to ensure the very best emergency and safety measures are part of the cost of doing business.</p>	<p>Le Bloc Québécois exige du gouvernement fédéral qu'il mette à jour son système de préparation et d'intervention d'urgence et de tout mettre en œuvre afin d'être prêt à intervenir efficacement en cas de déversement, aussi mineur soit-il.</p> <p>D'autre part, les rejets toxiques présents dans le Saint-Laurent sont actuellement évalués à la pièce. Le Bloc Québécois estime nécessaire de consolider les acquis en la matière, d'élargir les horizons et d'agir en concordance avec les</p>	<p>Yes. The Green Party will work with communities along the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to develop a spill prevention and preparedness regime that would protect both the local environment and Canadians.</p>

		A Liberal government will put in place new liability limits to ensure taxpayers are not left to pay for the clean-up of a major spill.	réalités écosystémiques du Saint-Laurent et celles de ses tributaires. Pour ce faire, une analyse de l'interaction des polluants est cruciale. Nous avons maintenant les capacités techniques et scientifiques ainsi qu'une base de connaissances permettant d'envisager un portrait d'ensemble.	
5. Would your party create an assistance program for cities along the St. Lawrence to address or adapt to the effects of climate change?	New Democrats recognize the importance of the St. Lawrence to countless communities along its shores and inland. We are prepared to enter into discussions with the relevant provinces, states and municipalities over priorities for conservation and water protection and cost sharing of necessary corrective action.	For 20 years, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec have worked together to formulate and implement five-year St. Lawrence Plans to protect, conserve and enhance the St. Lawrence ecosystem, taking a sustainable development approach. Key to its implementation has been the 14 ZIP committees (Zones d'intervention prioritaire –areas of prime concern) that work at the local level to restore the shores of the St. Lawrence. However, by avoiding the formulation and	Il est profondément injuste que le gouvernement fédéral, qui ne s'investit pas dans la lutte aux émissions de GES, laisse supporter l'énorme fardeau financier des conséquences du réchauffement climatique aux provinces et au Québec. Le Bloc Québécois propose la création d'un Fonds de compensation pour les impacts négatifs des changements climatiques de 500 millions de dollars. Ce Fonds permettra d'une part d'indemniser le Québec et les provinces	Yes. A Green Government will take aggressive steps to combat climate change. Should Canadian communities be affected we will take the necessary steps to repair and restore damaged ecosystems and communities. Where necessary we will also pursue adaptation strategies to mitigate potential harms to Canadians.

		<p>implementation of a climate change plan and refusing to contribute new money to the <i>Fifth St. Lawrence Plan</i>, the Conservatives have left the communities up and down the shores of the St. Lawrence vulnerable to pollution, falling water levels, as well as severe storms.</p> <p>A Liberal government will support efforts in vulnerable and affected communities to reinforce their shorelines and protect their cities. Consistent with plans for a National Water Strategy, a Liberal government will commit, among other things, to collaborate in a serious and responsible way in the development of the next <i>St. Lawrence Plan</i>. In addition, a Liberal government will consider funding ecological projects aimed at protecting and strengthening riverbanks and shorelines as part of a "renaturalization" of banks aimed at significantly</p>	<p>pour les frais déjà encourus par les impacts des changements climatiques et, d'autre part, de leur donner les moyens de financer des mesures pour limiter l'accélération de l'érosion. Les sommes de ce Fonds seront à la disposition du Québec et des provinces côtières au prorata des besoins (recharge en sable, déplacement des résidences et agrandissement des zones non constructibles, brise-lames, enrochement, etc.). Dans un deuxième temps, le gouvernement fédéral doit s'engager à bonifier l'enveloppe initiale à raison de 100 millions de dollars par année sur 25 ans ou libérer l'espace fiscal nécessaire pour que le Québec et les provinces puissent protéger leurs rivages de l'érosion.</p> <p>D'autres mesures ponctuelles doivent également être examinées pour aider les sinistrés qui</p>	
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