



September 14, 2011

Please find attached questions from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, which are being sent to each provincial political party during this election campaign, concerning your party's position on issues of importance to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

Could you kindly return the completed questionnaire by no later than **4pm on Thursday, September 22nd 2011** to our Deputy Director, Nicola Crawhall at <nicola.crawhall@rogers.com>. The responses from the parties will be released publicly and posted on our website during the campaign.

The GLSLCI is a bi-national, non-partisan association of over eighty mayors and heads of council, representing over 14 million Great Lakes and St. Lawrence citizens. The mayors are collectively dedicated to the protection, restoration, and promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin. If you have any questions concerning this questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact Nicola Crawhall, Deputy Director, at 613-232-1336, or nicola.crawhall@rogers.com.

Thank you in advance for the time devoted to answering these questions and best of luck in your campaign.

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Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines, Chair

Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, Vice-Chair

Régis Labeaume, President of Québec Metropolitan Community, Secretary/Treasurer



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Campaign 2011 Questionnaire

Leadership

Over a number of years, action on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence protection has been delayed on several fronts. Negotiations on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement have been delayed and the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem has been extended several times rather than reviewed and renegotiated to reflect current conditions. A renewed political commitment to the Great Lakes is sorely needed.

1) If your party forms the next Government of Ontario, how would you demonstrate political leadership in the protection of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence?

Investment

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence system constitutes the largest source of fresh water in the world. It is plagued by a number of environmental challenges that require dedicated funding to be effectively addressed, including escalating nutrient levels resulting in algae build-up, chemical loadings from products and direct discharges; invasive species, the impacts of climate change, stressed habitat and species, the impact of agricultural and urban run-off on nearshore waters, contaminated sediment, to name a few.

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2) If your party forms the next Government of Ontario, after a review of government finances, would your government commit to increasing the provincial financial commitment to the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence (exclusive of infrastructure) next year?

Water Quality and Stormwater

As a result of climate change and urban intensification, the negative impact of stormwater runoff on nearshore water quality is worsening, becoming one of the primary sources of pollutants to the Lakes. At the same time, many communities are experiencing increasing stormy conditions, basement flooding and flash floods.

3) If your Party forms the next Government of Ontario, what is your plan to help Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities improve and expand their stormwater activities and floodwater conveyance to reducing flooding and reduce the impact of runoff on Great Lakes water quality?

Beach and Coastal Improvements

Many parts of Ontario are seeing increasing pressure on waterfront lands from increasing population, development pressures, increased erosion and changing water levels. Ontario is also fortunate to have some of the most beautiful beaches in the Great Lakes, and yet these receive little government support to provide a safe, enjoyable family day at the beach.

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4) If your party forms the next Government of Ontario, how would you work with Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities to improve lakefront and coastal planning and improved support for beaches?

Climate Change Prevention and Adaptation

Many parts of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are already feeling the effects of climate change with lowered water levels in the upper lakes, severe storms causing erosion, less ice cover over the winter months, and increased water temperatures causing increased growth of algae along the shorelines.

5) If your party forms the next Government of Ontario (or if your party is in opposition), how would you assist Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities to address or adapt to the effects of climate change?

Thank you for your response.

Please return to Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Deputy Director, Nicola Crawhall at nicola.crawhall@rogers.com by Thursday, September 22 at 4 pm.

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