

Memorandum of Cooperation

Regarding Collaboration in Support of the
Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting
The Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

BETWEEN:

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE, incorporated under the *Canada Corporations Act*, hereinafter referred to as "GLSLCI",

AND

THE HONOURABLE JOHN GERRETSEN, MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR ONTARIO, hereinafter referred to as "Ontario"

AND

THE HONOURABLE DONNA CANSFIELD, MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ONTARIO, hereinafter referred to as "Ontario"

AND

THE HONOURABLE LEONA DOMBROWSKY, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS FOR ONTARIO, hereinafter referred to as "Ontario"

WHEREAS these Parties share the vision of a healthy, prosperous and sustainable Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario provincial and municipal governments each play an important role in protecting and conserving the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Parties recognize that 98% of Ontarians live in the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and depend upon it for influencing climate, drinking water, food production, power generation, culture and recreation, and social well-being;

AND WHEREAS Canada and Ontario have entered into the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem for a term of 2007 to 2010 to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the GLSLCI is a binational organization of mayors and other local officials interested in protecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem and whose membership includes Ontario municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Ontario values the contributions municipalities have made in managing water resources and our natural heritage effectively and recognizes the

importance of municipal government programs, policies and investments in restoring, conserving and protecting the health of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

AND WHEREAS the Parties wish to engage and communicate with each other on various matters that relate to the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem;

NOW THEREFORE the Parties have agreed as follows:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is to outline the areas of cooperation among the Parties in communications and engagement in support of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA), and consider ongoing communications and engagement beyond 2010.

2. GOALS

- To build collaboration between Ontario and Ontario municipalities in the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.
- To establish mechanisms to discuss and pursue common objectives and address issues of concern to municipalities and Ontario related to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

3. COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTIES

Commitments of Ontario

- Ontario will work with the GLSLCI to develop appropriate mechanisms for engaging with the Ontario members of the GLSLCI, as well as the broader Ontario municipal sector, on issues pertaining to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and more specifically COA and/or successor agreements, particularly on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.
- When appropriate, Ontario will involve and inform the GLSLCI on future plans and approaches to protecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem through COA.
- Ontario will receive, and take into consideration, information, advice and recommendations from the Ontario members of GLSLCI and the broader municipal sector on the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem under COA on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.
- Ontario will explore additional areas of cooperation with GLSLCI that are of interest to the Parties.

Commitments of GLSLCI

- GLSLCI will work with Ontario to develop appropriate mechanisms for engaging with the Ontario members of the GLSLCI, as well as the broader Ontario municipal sector, on issues pertaining to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, and more specifically COA and/or successor agreements, particularly on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.
- GLSLCI will accurately represent and voice the interests of its Ontario members to Ontario.
- GLSLCI will engage its members, and where possible the broader municipal sector, with Ontario in sharing information, advice and recommendations on the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem under COA on issues of municipal interest and responsibility.
- GLSLCI will explore additional areas of cooperation with Ontario that are of interest to the Parties.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF MOC

The GLSLCI will establish a working group made up of the Ontario members of the GLSLCI and the broader Ontario municipal sector to collaborate on the implementation of this MOC.

The Parties will work together to organize a meeting to discuss the implementation of the commitments under this MOC.

For certainty, nothing within this MOC creates any funding obligations for any of the Parties.

5. TERMS OF MOC

The MOC takes effect on the day that it is signed by all Parties and expires on March 31, 2010.

At the end of the term, the MOC may be renewed with the concurrence of all Parties.

6. MEASURES AND OBLIGATIONS

Nothing in this MOC precludes any of the Parties from exercising any measures and satisfying any obligations prescribed under the laws of their respective jurisdiction.

7. AMENDMENTS

The MOC may be amended in writing with the consent of all Parties.

8. TERMINATION

Any of the Parties can terminate their participation in this MOC upon 30 days written notice to all of the signatories.

9. NOT LEGALLY BINDING

This MOC does not create binding obligations among the Parties.

THIS MEMORANDUM IS EFFECTIVE THE 17TH DAY OF JULY, 2008

Signed on behalf of:

Great Lakes And St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Mayor Lynn Peterson of Thunder Bay
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Minister of the Environment for Ontario

The Honourable John Gerretsen,
Minister of the Environment

Minister of Natural Resources for Ontario

The Honourable Donna Cansfield,
Minister of Natural Resources

Minister of Agriculture, Food And Rural Affairs for Ontario

The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky,
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs