

**Ministry of  
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de  
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The Honourable Peter Kent  
Minister of the Environment  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Kent:

Re: Extension of Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the  
Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem

I am writing to confirm our mutual agreement to extend the term of the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem* to June 24, 2012, the maximum extension permitted under federal law, and to add new commitments to the Agreement in support of our efforts to protect the Great Lakes.

The current Canada-Ontario Agreement is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2011. Article XI permits Canada and Ontario to amend the Agreement by an exchange of letters. On behalf of our respective governments, we have agreed to amend the Agreement by extending its term to June 24, 2012, and to add new commitments to the Agreement in support of our efforts for the protection of the Great Lakes during the extension. The amendments are set out in the Appendix attached to this letter. We have agreed that the effective date of the amendments will be March 31, 2011.

Since 1971, Canada and Ontario have worked together under a series of Great Lakes agreements that have guided our efforts to improve the water quality and aquatic ecosystem health of the Great Lakes Basin and contributed to meeting Canada's obligations under the Canada-United States *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* ("GLWQA"). Canada and the United States are currently negotiating amendments to the GLWQA to strengthen and modernize the agreement to address existing and emerging threats. It is now evident that the GLWQA amendment process will not be completed prior to the scheduled expiry of the Canada-Ontario Agreement. We recognize that our respective governments must continue to work together under the Canada-Ontario Agreement framework and that our efforts to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem continue without interruption. Accordingly, we have agreed to the extension of the current Canada-Ontario Agreement and to the new commitments set out in the attached Appendix.

The Government of Ontario pledges to work together with the Government of Canada under the existing Canada-Ontario Agreement, and to negotiate a new Canada-Ontario Agreement expeditiously so that a new Canada-Ontario Agreement will be in effect on or before June 25, 2012. In our view, there should be no gap between the expiry of the existing Canada-Ontario Agreement and the commencement of a new Canada-Ontario Agreement.

The Great Lakes are vital in supporting our environment, our economy, and our society. Ontario appreciates Canada's continued commitment to protect and improve our shared Great Lakes.

Sincerely,



John Wilkinson  
Minister

And on behalf of:

Linda Jeffrey, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources  
Carol Mitchell, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

**Appendix to Exchange of Letters between  
Canada and Ontario concerning the  
Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the  
Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem**

**WHEREAS** Article XI of the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem* (the “Agreement”) allows Canada and Ontario to amend the Agreement after conducting public consultations;

**AND WHEREAS** Canada and Ontario have conducted public consultations concerning proposed amendments to the Agreement, and have agreed to amend the Agreement by extending the term to June 24, 2012 and by adding six new commitments to the Annexes, namely commitments related to:

Harmful Pollutants;  
Spills Prevention and Response;  
Nearshore Framework;  
Implement Binational Cooperative Monitoring Programs;  
Stewardship Activities; and  
Implement the Aquatic Invasive Species Complete Prevention Plan;

**AND WHEREAS** Canada and Ontario have therefore agreed as follows:

1. Canada and Ontario agree to amend the Agreement by deleting “March 31, 2011” from Article XIII and inserting in its place “June 24, 2012”.
2. Canada and Ontario agree to further amend the Agreement by the addition of the following:

*Under Annex 2, Goal 2, Result 2.3*

“(a.1) Share information from their respective chemical management programs to improve joint coordination of efforts in reducing harmful pollutants in the Great Lakes Basin;”

*Under Annex 2, Goal 2, Result 2.3*

“(d.1) Strengthen their combined effectiveness for spill prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, including reviewing capabilities, roles and responsibilities. This will include assessing opportunities for enhancements to capabilities to respond to significant incidents or spills to air, land or water that could potentially impact the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem;”

*Under Annex 3, Goal 1, Result 1.3*

“(e.1) Develop options and engage stakeholders and Aboriginal communities on a Canadian framework to assess and protect the aquatic and ecosystem health of Great Lakes’ nearshore.”

*Under Annex 3, Goal 1, Result 1.4*

“(f.1) Undertake an intensive monitoring year for Lake Superior; and coordinate Canadian, and U.S. federal, Ontario, and state monitoring and research initiatives based on research and monitoring priorities.”

*Under Annex 3, Goal 2, Result 2.2*

“(d) Undertake an evaluation of the environmental and economic effectiveness of agricultural non-point source best management practices, including an assessment of action at the farm and watershed scale.”

*Under Annex 3, Goal 4, Result 4.1*

“(d.1) Initiate the implementation of the “Aquatic Invasive Species Complete Prevention Plan” to address aquatic invasive species issues in Lake Superior.”

3. Canada and Ontario agree that the amendments set out above shall have an effective date of March 31, 2011 and that the other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.