



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Faxed 416) 325-3745 (original mailed)

February 28, 2007

Dalton McGuinty,  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty,

**Support for Amending Legislation to Implement  
the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources  
Agreement**

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is writing to you today to urge you to pass the changes to the *Ontario Water Resources Act* necessary to implement the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement in the upcoming session of the legislature. It is imperative that Ontario continue to show the leadership on this issue particularly since you are the Chair of the Regional Body this year.

We were delighted to learn last week that Minnesota was the first jurisdiction to pass implementing legislation. We are however concerned that this important undertaking could lose momentum. There are a number of components of this Agreement that Ontario could commence work on immediately, such as a long overdue conservation strategy for Ontario. As well, planning the scientific framework to ensure that we are learning and acting on new information as it becomes available will be critical as stresses grow from climate change. Ontario could set the bar high for other jurisdictions on these issues. These initiatives are also going to be important and integral to the other law reform steps your government is taking to complete the water protections recommended by Justice O'Connor in the Walkerton Inquiry.

CELA has worked over the last five years with the negotiating team that represented Ontario so well during the international negotiations on the Great Lakes Charter Annex. CELA staff was one of the members of the Advisory Committee to the Council of Great

Lakes Governors and later on the Advisory Panel to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Prior to that, we have been involved since 1985 with the original Great Lakes Charter and in continuing efforts to strengthen protection for the waters of the Great Lakes Basin. We look forward to continuing the work of implementation of this precedent-setting agreement with Ontario's Advisory Panel. We would like to thank you for supporting the creation of this panel which has been one of the best examples of public participation and engagement we have ever experienced.

Yours truly,

**Canadian Environmental Law Association**

*Sarah Miller*

Sarah Miller  
Co-ordinator and Researcher