



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

August 13, 2012

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

Re: Implementation of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water
Resources Agreement

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is writing to request a meeting to discuss the pressing need for Ontario to implement the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement this year.

CELA has been involved since 1985 in Great Lakes water management when the Great Lakes Charter was created. We have made submissions on all large water diversion proposals since then. Our staff has been part of the Advisory Committee to the Council of Great Lakes Governors during the negotiations that led to the Agreement and have also been on the Province of Ontario's Agreement Advisory Panel since 2004 when that panel was instrumental in Ontario's efforts to strengthen the first draft of the Agreement considerably under your leadership as an associate member of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. We continue to support strong implementation which will be accomplished when Ontario regulates Intra-Basin Diversions and drafts a Great Lakes Specific Conservation Strategy

Ontario is now the only jurisdiction not to implement this historic agreement. We have included a chart done by the Council of Great Lakes Governors charting implementation dates in each jurisdiction. Should Ontario not implement by the end of this year there will be real restraints on the ability of all the Great Lakes States and Quebec to fully use the Agreement to prevent harmful withdrawals from the Great Lakes. The Agreement does not come into full force until one year after the last jurisdiction passes its implementing regulation. It is widely known that the Agreement will face its first test in 2013 when the Waukesha Wisconsin proposal for a diversion will be considered by the Regional Body.

If Ontario is still governed by the 1985 Great Lakes Charter at that time, the Regional Body procedures will be unnecessarily complicated as the other 9 jurisdictions will be using Agreement protocols for their review of proposals and Ontario the older Charter provisions. We urge you to do all you can to ensure there is a level playing field when this first precedent setting proposal is considered by the Regional Body.

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