

Annex 2001 and the new PTTW regulation 20/05/2003

Staff of the Canadian Environmental Law Association has been serving on an Advisory Committee to the Great Lakes Water Initiative of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec. This initiative announced in June 18, 2001 is an undertaking to implement a Supplementary Agreement to the Great Lakes Charter by June 2004. This means that this regulation will need to be amended considerably a year from now. The scope of this agreement goes well beyond provisions set out in this regulation and will involve considerable new staffing and resources to implement. It will be important for the MOE and MNR to plan for these new responsibilities in their budgeting for 2004. The Agreement, known as Annex 2001 is an undertaking to:

Develop a new set of binding agreements with in three years to protect, conserve, restore, improve and manage use and of the waters and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin,

Develop a broad-based public participation programme, and
Establish a new decision-making standard that will prevent or minimize water loss through return flow and water conservation measures, result in no individual or **cumulative** impacts and result in **improvements** to the quantity or quality of the waters and water-dependent resources of the Basin, while complying with existing laws and treaties. The Agreement also sets up a system to review withdrawal and diversion proposals, develop a decision-support system and systems for monitoring, dispute resolution and will define trigger levels for international review.

