

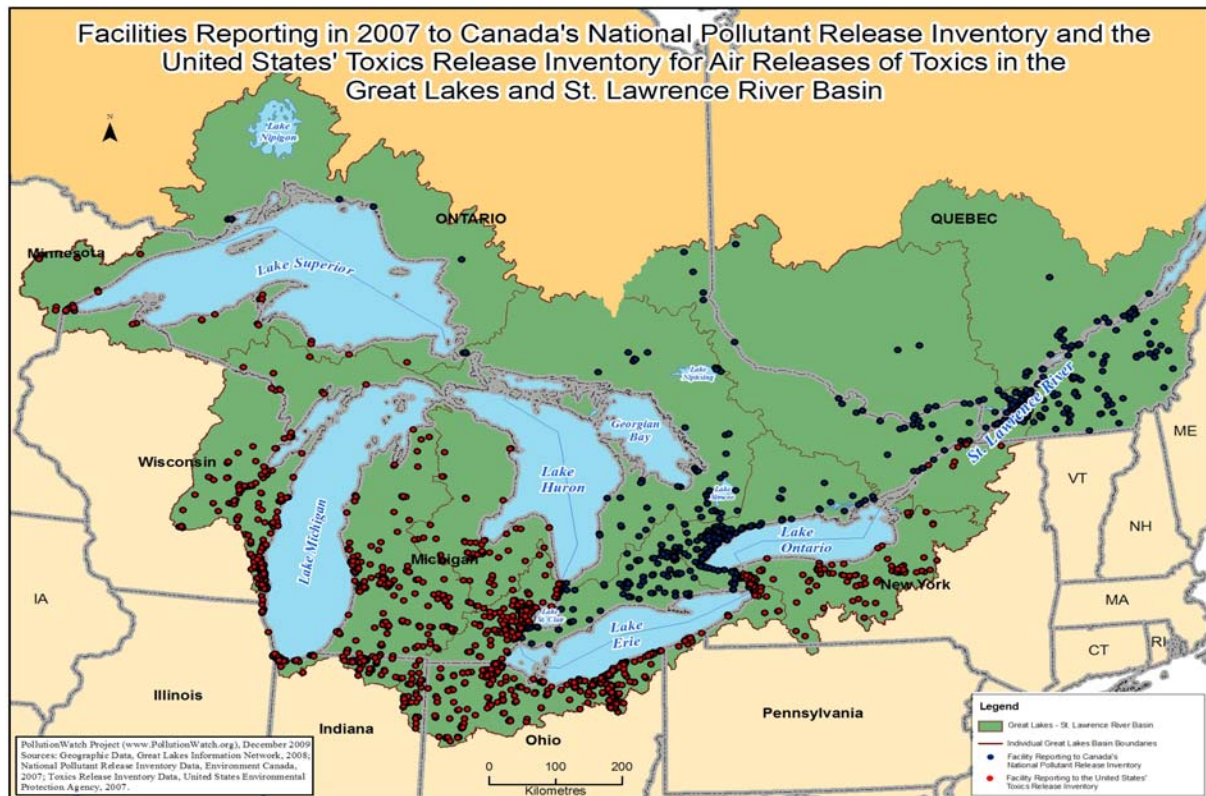
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ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW ASSOCIATION**

PollutionWatch

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Partners in Pollution 2:

*An Update on the Continuing Canadian and United States
Contributions to Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Ecosystem
Pollution*

Executive Summary

A project of PollutionWatch
March 2010

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and Environmental Defence under their joint project, PollutionWatch (www.PollutionWatch.org). Information in this report is based on pollution data for 2007 from the National Pollutant Release Inventory in Canada and the Toxics Release Inventory in the United States.

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Disclaimer

The data used in this report are based on the Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory, a publicly available database administered by Environment Canada, and the United States Toxics Release Inventory, a publicly available database administered by the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency.

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Executive Summary

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin is one of North America's great natural treasures, providing drinking water, recreation and livelihoods for millions of people. Yet, as has been the case for decades, the basin is under threat from a wide range of pollutants, many of which are harmful to wildlife and human health.

Partners in Pollution 2 is an update to the earlier report, *Partners in Pollution: An Assessment of Continuing Canadian and United States Contributions to Great Lakes Pollution* (released in February 2006), produced by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and Environmental Defence. PollutionWatch prepared this second report to:

- 1) Map the facilities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin ecosystem reporting to the Canadian National Pollutant Release Inventory and United States (U.S.) Toxics Release Inventory in 2007. See Figure 1.
- 2) Analyze the releases and transfer of pollutants in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin ecosystem for 2007. This report provides relevant data for the on-going binational discussions to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin, including the review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy. Other initiatives such as the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA), and the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will also find the report findings relevant.
- 3) Make recommendations to reduce pollution and eliminate the most hazardous chemicals in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.

Partners in Pollution 2 uses data provided to the governments of the United States (U.S.) and Canada by thousands of industrial facilities to examine the level of pollutant releases and transfers throughout the basin. Data from facilities in the United States are reported in the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), while data from Canadian facilities are reported in the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). The full report is available in English at www.PollutionWatch.org.

Key findings, examined in greater detail in the Section 2 of the report, include the following:

- There are 204 pollutants and 3,960 facilities in the matched datasets¹ used to determine pollutant releases and transfers in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.
- 285 million kg of pollutants were released and transferred (excluding recycling) from NPRI and TRI facilities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin in 2007

¹ The database used in this report consists of a matched data set of industries and chemicals common to both NPRI and TRI. See Methodology section for more information.

- Approximately 75 million kg of pollutants were released into the air from matched NPRI and TRI facilities.
- About 5 million kg of pollutants under Canada's NPRI and U.S. TRI were released to water. However, this is a large underestimation of the pollutants released to water because wastewater treatment plants do not report to TRI and, therefore, are not included in the matched dataset.
- The Lake Erie basin had the largest number of matched facilities and half of the total reported releases in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin. This is of concern as Lake Erie is the smallest and shallowest of all the Lakes.
- Canadian NPRI facilities emitted more known carcinogens and reproductive/developmental toxicants to the air than U.S. TRI facilities. (This finding is not due to the different numbers of facilities.)
- On a per facility basis, Canadian NPRI facilities emitted to the air, on average, almost three times more known carcinogens and more than twice the reproductive/developmental toxins than U.S. TRI facilities.

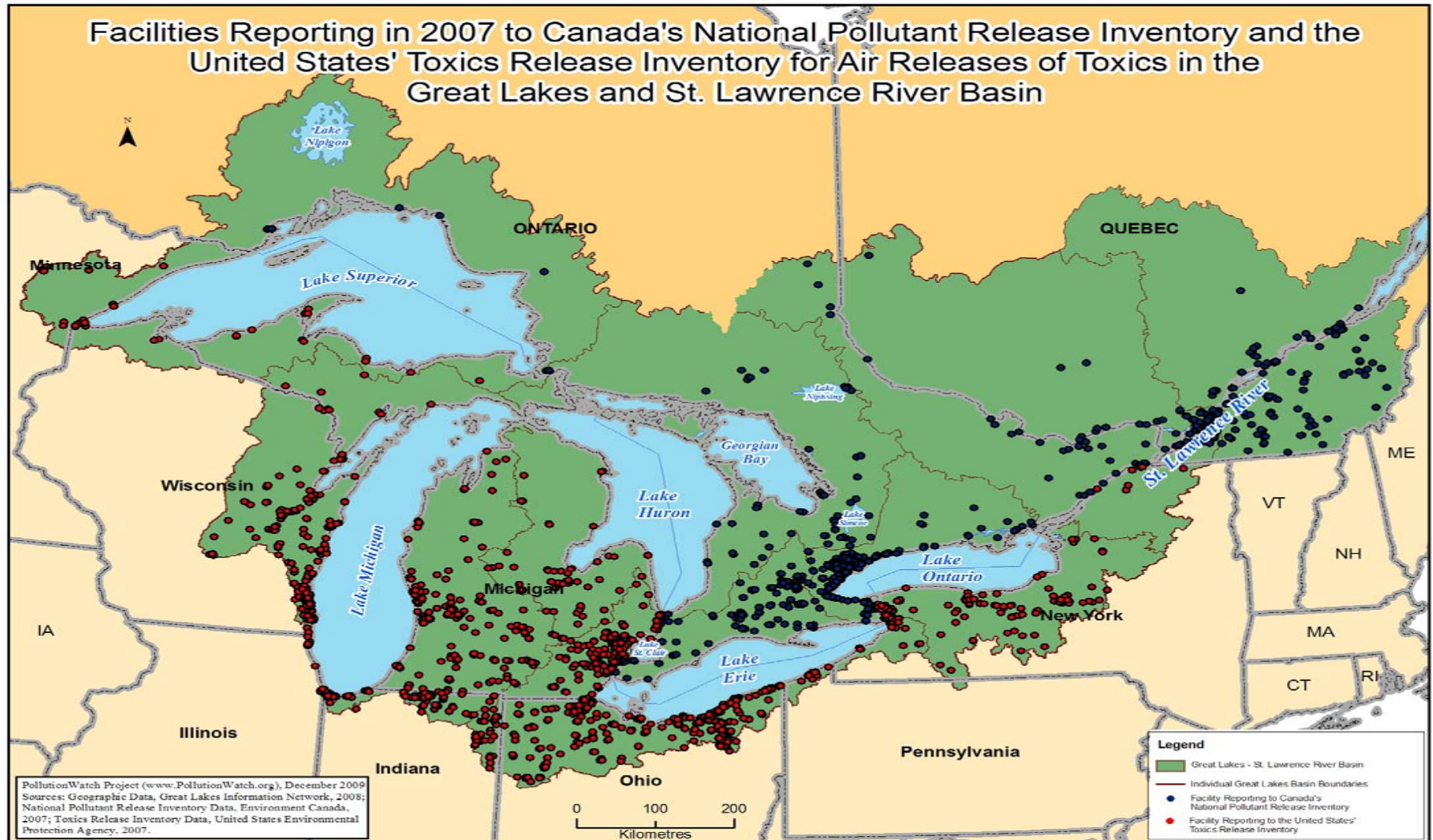
The Canadian Environmental Law Association and Environmental Defence have several recommendations for governments on both sides of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin to help clean up and restore the ecosystem from toxic chemicals and other chemicals of emerging concern.

Key recommendations include:

- *Quantify and report annually the pollution loading to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.*
- *Develop and implement a binational strategy for elimination and reductions of persistent toxic chemicals and other chemicals of concern, principally through a strengthened Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.*
- *Expand and strengthen Canada's NPRI and U.S. TRI programs.*
- *Expand and strengthen the role of the IJC for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River protection.*

The complete list of recommendations for each government is included in section 3 of the full report (www.PollutionWatch.org).

Figure 1. Locations of Matched Canadian NPRI and U.S. TRI Facilities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin in 2007





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