



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River  
Water Resources Regional Body  
Conseil régional des ressources en eau des  
Grands Lacs et du fleuve Saint-Laurent

# Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement

On December 13, 2005, the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, and the Governors endorsed the companion Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The Agreement and Compact detail how the States and Provinces will manage and protect the Basin.

The Agreement includes the following points:

- Economic development will be fostered through sustainable use and responsible management of Basin waters.
- In general, there is a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin but limited exceptions could be allowed in communities near the Basin when rigorous standards are met.
- Communities that apply for an exception have a clear, predictable decision making process; standards to be met; and, opportunities to appeal decisions.
- The States and Provinces will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Basin water. The States and Provinces have flexibility regarding their water management programs and how to apply this standard.
- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency have been developed, and they will be reviewed every five years. Each State and Province will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program that may be voluntary or mandatory.
- There is a strong commitment to continued public involvement in the implementation of the Agreement.

The Agreement created the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body) to coordinate follow-through. The Regional Body includes the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers who continue to work with one another and the Governors' Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

The Governors and Premiers are working aggressively to put the Agreement and Compact into action. Following approval by each of the Great Lakes States' legislatures and the U.S. Congress, the Compact became State and federal law on December 8, 2008. In order to put the Agreement into law in Ontario and Québec, the Provinces are amending their statutes and regulations as appropriate. No Canadian federal legislation is required.

## For More Information

The Council of Great Lakes Governors that serves as the Secretariat to the Regional Body is located at 35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850, Chicago, Illinois 60601. The phone number is (312) 407-0177. For additional information, please visit the Regional Body website at [www.glsregionalbody.org](http://www.glsregionalbody.org).