



Government of Ontario Overview of Recent Activities

2009 Great Lakes Commission Semiannual Meeting

Washington D.C., February 24th, 2009

Bill Carr, Intergovernmental Affairs

Sharon Bailey, Ministry of the Environment





Annex Agreement Implementation

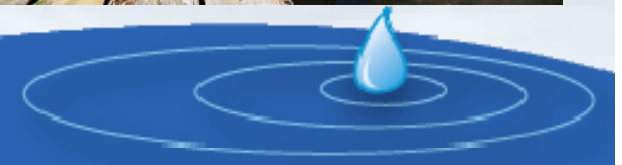
- In June 2007, the *Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act* (SSOWA) was passed, enabling implementation of Ontario's commitments under the Great Lakes Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.
- Implementation measures are underway. Public discussion paper being developed on:
 - **Water Conservation & Efficiency**
 - Ontario is in the process of developing its water conservation and efficiency strategy (goals, objectives and a program)
 - **Intra-Basin Transfer Regulations**
 - Will prohibit new or increased transfers of water of 379,000 litres per day or greater from one Great Lakes watershed to another
 - **Information and Science**
 - Water Use Initiative, Consumptive Use Study, Watershed Mapping, Regional Science Strategy, Co-host of 2009 International Association of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference
- Related Initiative - Water Charges
 - Ontario is taking a phased approach to water charges to recover the costs of water quantity management programs
 - Charges for highly consumptive water users took effect January 1, 2009





Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA)

- COA sets out Canada and Ontario's commitments to work together and with others to restore and sustain the health of the Great Lakes.
- COA contributes to meeting Canada's obligations under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- The current COA, signed in 2007, has an overarching framework agreement and four annexes outlining goals, results and commitments related to:
 - Areas of Concern
 - Harmful Pollutants
 - Lake and Basin Sustainability
 - Coordination of Monitoring, Research and Information
- Ontario working with Environment Canada to ensure COA is renegotiated prior to expiry of current agreement March 31, 2010.





Ontario Great Lakes Related Initiatives

- **Infrastructure Investments**

- Federal, provincial and municipal governments have recently committed \$300 each to fund a potential \$900 million worth of projects
- 58 wastewater-related applications were received and are being funded at a total cost of \$405.9 million
- These projects will contribute to the clean up of Great Lakes hot spots, including significant projects.

- **Aquaculture**

- Ontario is developing a policy has been developed for all types of cage aquaculture
- In the Ontario portion of the Great Lakes, cage aquaculture consists primarily of commercial scale cage aquaculture operations
 - There are currently 8 cage aquaculture facilities in Lake Huron / Georgian Bay
- Canada and Ontario have prepared a Coordinated Guide and Decision Support Tool to coordinate requirements and approvals for aquaculture operations
- Science and understanding on emerging technologies and cumulative impacts have been identified as key priorities
- Consultation is ongoing through to March 5, 2009





Ontario Great Lakes Related Initiatives

- **Climate Change Adaptation**

- Ontario's Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation was established in 2007 to provide advice to the province on adaptation strategies to help prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change in our communities and ecosystems, including the areas of health, environment and infrastructure
- The Panel's report is expected by Spring 2009

- **Growing Green Energy**

- Significant interest continues to be expressed in developing wind power projects on the Great Lakes. Ontario currently co-chairs the GLC's Great Lakes Wind Collaborative
- Ontario's proposed *Green Energy Act* will help ensure Ontario's future by:
 - Supporting and expanding economic investment, thus building a stronger, greener economy, with an estimated 50,000+ direct and indirect jobs over the next three years
 - Expanding Ontario's use of clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, biomass and biogas
 - Better protecting our environment, combating climate change and creating a healthier future for generations to come





Ontario Great Lakes Related Initiatives

- **Toxics Reduction Strategy**

- Ontario is proposing a Toxics Reduction Strategy that will focus on reducing the use of toxic chemicals at the front end of industrial processes, and includes:
 - Proposed new legislation;
 - Ways to support industry in reducing toxics use; and
 - Ways to inform Ontarians about toxic substances.
- The strategy is designed to foster a green economy in Ontario. In the past, actions taken by leading Ontario manufacturers to reduce toxics have led to significant measurable economic benefits

- **Lake Simcoe**

- Lake Simcoe is the largest lake in Southern Ontario outside of the Great Lakes. It is located within the Lake Huron Watershed
- In December 2008 the government passed the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*, which requires the development of a Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
- This Plan will contain a comprehensive set of policies coordinating protection and restoration of the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed
- The proposed Plan can be found at <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>, registry number 010-4636

