

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JAN 22 2003

The Honourable Chris Stockwell, M.P.P.
Minister of the Environment
Government of Ontario
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 15th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Dear Minister:

As you know, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has recently completed its review of the Stage 3 Remedial Action Plan for the Severn Sound Area of Concern, in accordance with its role under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The IJC's review comments were formally transmitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on October 10. I have enclosed a copy for your information.

The Commission concurred with the Government of Canada's and the Government of Ontario's joint assessment that beneficial uses in Severn Sound have been restored and that the area no longer has the attributes of an Area of Concern as defined by Annex 2 of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Restoration of environmental quality and beneficial uses in Severn Sound is a major accomplishment, and fulfills in part one of our joint goals under the Areas of Concern Annex of the recently signed Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

I am therefore very pleased to advise you that Severn Sound has been removed from the list of Areas of Concern, as defined by Annex 2 of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

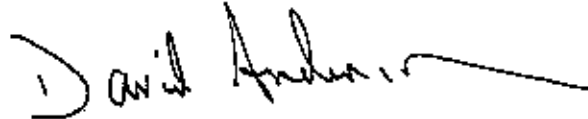
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I have enclosed a copy of my letter to the Right Honourable Herb Gray, Chair of the Canadian Section of the International Joint Commission, informing him of this important milestone in our continued work to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Anderson" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

Enclosures

c.c. Mr. Doug Barnes
Mr. Michael Williams

Minister of the Environment



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JAN 22 2003

The Right Honourable Herb Gray, P.C.
Chair, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6K6

Dear Mr. Gray:

Herb

Thank you for your letter of October 10, concerning the completion of the International Joint Commission's review of the Stage 3 Remedial Action Plan for the Severn Sound Area of Concern. I appreciate your thorough and timely review.

I am pleased that the IJC concurs with the Government of Canada's and Government of Ontario's joint assessment that the beneficial uses in the Severn Sound Area of Concern have been restored to the extent possible at the local level and that the area no longer has the attributes of an Area of Concern as defined by Annex 2 of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

After conferring with my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I am very pleased to advise you that Canada has formally removed Severn Sound from the list of Areas of Concern. This achieves, in part, one of the goals we committed to under the Canada-Ontario Agreement respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

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I am delighted that we have reached this significant milestone in our ongoing work to restore and protect the Great Lakes, and look forward to continued progress in restoration of all Canadian Areas of Concern.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

c.c: The Honourable Chris Stockwell, M.P.P., Ontario Minister of the Environment

Ms. Christine Whitman, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Dennis Shornack, Chair, U.S. Section, International Joint Commission

The Honourable Bill Graham, P.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Bill Thompson, Chair, Severn Sound Environmental Association

Mr. Rob Coulas, Chair, Severn Sound RAP Public Advisory Committee