



RESOLUTION

Adopted March 6, 2024

Support for Recommendations in the Third Triennial Assessment of Progress on Great Lakes Water Quality

Whereas, the Great Lakes are a resource under the shared stewardship of the United States and Canada, in addition to the states, provinces, and Indigenous Nations throughout the region; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Agreement), first agreed to by the governments of Canada and the United States in 1972, is a bilateral commitment “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Waters of the Great Lakes”; and

Whereas, the Agreement is a model for international cooperation, providing an important structure to address pollution and other threats to water resources, and setting forth bilateral goals to ensure enduring restoration and preservation of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, the International Joint Commission (IJC) is responsible for providing the Canadian and U.S. governments (the Parties) with a report that assesses progress toward achieving the Agreement’s objectives; and

Whereas, the IJC released the Third Triennial Assessment of Progress on Great Lakes Water Quality in November 2023 and made three primary recommendations to the Parties:

- (1) Ensure that First Nations, Métis and Tribal governments are full, active partners in the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement review process to better empower Indigenous engagement and leadership on Great Lakes water quality issues.
- (2) Increase climate resiliency throughout the region by developing basinwide goals, adopting accountable and transparent performance metrics and working to achieve them with local, regional, and provincial governments, regional watershed authorities and other stakeholders.
- (3) Proactively support and actively participate in the continued development of a 10-year Great Lakes Science Plan that works toward managing, funding, governing and implementing a coordinated and comprehensive binational science initiative; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) recognizes and seeks to increase its engagement with the Indigenous Nations whose ancestral and contemporary homelands are a part of this region and are the original stewards of the Great Lakes basin; and

Whereas, the GLC is committed to advancing climate resiliency in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin through implementation of its *Action Plan for a Resilient Great Lakes Basin*; and

Whereas, the GLC identified in its strategic plan an action to “advance the development and implementation of an ecosystem-based, long-term science and monitoring program for the Great Lakes” in coordination with other partners.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the GLC supports the recommendations made by the IJC in the Third Triennial Assessment of Progress on Great Lakes Water Quality and encourages the Parties to act on the recommendations; and

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Parties should work with the GLC on defining and coordinating climate resiliency activities and establishing resilience indicators and metrics.

*Adopted at the 2024 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, March 5-6, 2024, held in Washington, D.C.
The resolution was passed unanimously.*