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# REPORT

## The People's Great Lakes Summit

A gathering of Ontario people who care about the Great Lakes to consider ideas for provincial advocacy

May 17, 2017

9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Room H1/H2,  
Canadian Environmental Law Association  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, 55 University Avenue, Toronto



We acknowledge the Mississaugas of the New Credit, on whose traditional territories the People's Great Lakes Summit was held.

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### Table of Contents

1. Introduction	Page 2
2. Reflections on Public Policy Advocacy	Page 4
3. Developing Potential Action Plans	Page 6
4. Next Steps	Page 9
5. Closing	Page 10

### Appendices:

A. Participant List	Page 11
B. Summit Agenda	Page 13
C. Ideas for Action Shared during the Summit	Page 14
D. Action Plans – Small Group Reports	Page 17
E. Participant Feedback	Page 30

# 1. Introduction

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## Context

As stated in the preamble to *Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015*, “three of Ontario’s four Great Lakes are in decline”. We all need to work together to reverse this trend.

The Ontario government has delineated the Canadian portion of the Great Lakes Basin into five watersheds: Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, Ontario and the St. Lawrence/Ottawa Rivers. We seek Ontario government action on water issues that are relevant for each of these watersheds. We need action across all the Great Lakes – St Lawrence/Ottawa Rivers watersheds in Ontario as the threats and issues differ across the region.

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) sees a need for and is working toward animating discussions that will spark new ideas and identify opportunities for collective action. CELA, through its foundation funded Healthy Great Lakes program, seeks to engage a broad network of individuals and organizations in shaping, implementing, and making use of laws and policies aimed at protecting and restoring the waters of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin. Within the Healthy Great Lakes program, CELA hosted the People’s Great Lakes Summit to bring together organizations and individuals with an interest in water protection to strategize about priorities and plan for outreach and communications that will further those priorities. The Healthy Great Lakes program is led by Dr. Anastasia Lintner, working closely with an Advisory Committee composed as follows:

- Lawrence Gunther (Blue Fish Canada)
- George Henry (Chippewas of the Thames FN)
- Samantha Restoule (Ontario Rivers Alliance)
- John Jackson (Great Lakes citizen activist)
- Allison Turner (University of Waterloo Master’s candidate)
- Natalija Fisher (AquaHacking 2017 Youth Delegate)
- Theresa McClenaghan (CELA)
- Fe de Leon (CELA)
- Rick Lindgren (CELA)
- Barbora Grochalova (CELA)

## Objective of this Summit

The objective of The People's Great Lakes Summit is to bring together from across the Ontario portion of the Great Lakes-St Lawrence/Ottawa Rivers Basin a broad range of individuals and organizations that are working to protect and restore our waters and wetlands in order to connect, share ideas, strategize about Ontario public policy priorities and set plans for collective action.

## **Note on the term “Great Lakes”**

At the Summit and throughout this report, the term “Great Lakes” is used as a short form that denotes the Great Lakes – St Lawrence/Ottawa Rivers Basin that fall within Ontario’s borders. The Basin include all waters (headwaters, rivers, lakes) not just the shoreline and waters of the lakes and major rivers.

## **Summit Participants**

CELA circulated invitations to the Summit through various networks, including the Great Lakes Protection Act Alliance, the Great Lakes Network, and to organizations known to CELA and the Healthy Great Lakes Advisory Committee members. CELA was seeking participation from across the Ontario portion of the Great Lakes -- both organizations that CELA works with regularly and those that CELA had not partnered with before. And, CELA sought a diverse representation of organization types, from grassroots to national, from those that regularly work on policy advocacy to those who are new to this activity. Summit recruitment was guided by the need for action across the Great Lakes in order to respond to the differing threats and issues across the region.

Forty people participated. The list of participants is presented in Appendix A.

Participants were diverse in the following ways:

- Experienced advocates and those new to advocacy; active and retired advocates, First Nation representation, Métis representation, ecologists, lawyers etc.
- Broad geographical representation from Thunder Bay to Ottawa
- Healthy number of both "youth" and "old guard"
- Diverse focus including policy wonks, capacity builders, fishers, and grassroots organizers.

## **Summit Process**

The process was highly participatory and designed to yield a number of short-term collaborative public policy advocacy projects. The process was designed to provide a welcoming, energizing space for the diverse participants. The Summit Agenda is presented in Appendix B. Consultant Christine Peringer facilitated the Summit and prepared this report.

## 2. Public Policy Advocacy – What we Love About it and What We Fear

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People working to protect and restore the Great Lakes have many ways of working, including ecological restoration, public awareness and education, and community organizing. This Summit focused specifically on advocacy in relation to the Ontario government. Within the Summit participants, some were long-time experienced public policy advocates; others have done little if any policy advocacy or are new to the issues. Early in the Summit, participants shared their differing experiences of public policy advocacy. Here follow what people love and fear about it (organized by theme).

### Public Policy Advocacy – What We Love About It

#### The Impact

- Important for long term change (x 3)
- Watching it make a difference locally
- Helping shape the decisions that impact the environment and keep our water healthy
- When we have a success!
- This is where change happens
- It matters!
- Creates accountability
- Central to the role of civil society

#### The Teamwork

- Powerful in connecting people
- When done right it creates advocates overnight
- The enthusiasm once the switch is turned on
- Weird unorthodox allies you find
- Great context (e.g. involving environmental engineers)
- Coming together
- Diversity of the people doing it – old and young and in between

#### The Efficiency

- Knowing that others are working on other parts when I'm working on advocacy
- Prevents everyone from having to wage the same fight over and over throughout Ontario

#### The Process

- Getting in front of ministers and their aides to explain the confusing science
- The co-creative process of shaping decisions and influencing policy
- Pushing politicians to catch up with the curve of public opinion
- Comes naturally to me (lawyer)
- Having a good knowledgeable boss to guide my efforts
- It's a lifestyle!

#### The Learning

- New issues, new ways to do things
- The continuous learning ... working with different perspectives for the common good

#### In general

- Love it all!

## Public Policy Advocacy – What We Fear

### The Quantity and Complexity of the Issues and Information

- Complexity – a lot to know (x 3)
- Daunting (x 2)
- Translating the science and prioritizing what comes out of the “hose” of internet data
- Don’t know where to start
- Monitoring implementation difficult
- Overwhelming
- I’m young and new and lack experience, so it is intimidating
- I’m a capacity builder and feel a chill around advocacy
- The “we-need-to-get-it-right” barrier ... embrace chaos ... demystify it

### Getting Government to Act and Follow Through

- A big win and then no implementation (x 3)
- Blinkered ministers
- The changing political leadership (“on my 9<sup>th</sup> minister”) – we can become the institutional memory
- Maybe it won’t be enough e.g. nation-to-nation rhetoric
- Frustration with slow progress

### Can be disconnect between the advocates and the grassroots

- Disconnect sometimes with the grassroots (x 2)
- Advocacy is often seen as “something other people do”
- Not enough people doing it

### Can be slow to develop allies

- Lack of diversity among the advocates
- Lack of strong link yet to reconciliation with indigenous people
- Needless walls between us and potential allies e.g. Leaving out the 8 million people who buy fishing licences

### 3. Developing Potential Action Plans

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#### Potential Public Policy Priorities for Collaboration

Summit participants then put their minds to considering action ideas that met the following criteria:

- Public policy advocacy
- Focused on the Ontario Government
- To take place by May 2018
- That could involve some or all of the Summit participants

Participants identified action ideas and wrote them on sticky notes that they then affixed to the wall at the front of the room. Fifty-four notes emerged. (See Appendix C for the full list.) The ideas were grouped roughly by theme and reviewed by the room.

#### Open Space Process

The facilitator then led an Open Space process to develop potential action plans for ideas that met the above criteria. Participants were asked:

*What is a public policy advocacy project about which you feel some passion and regarding which you are willing to anchor a discussion today?*

People who were so moved identified topics that they explained/pitched to the other participants and chose a place in the room to have that discussion. Once all spots in the room were full, participants chose which groups to attend, mindful of the Open Space “Law of Two Feet” that if you are neither contributing nor receiving from a group, move on to another group. This pitching and self-organized small group process took place twice during the day.

As a result, the Summit developed potential action plans in relation to the thirteen topics listed below. See Appendix D for the text of the potential action plans.

After hearing all the plans presented, the participants responded to two questions:

- **What projects are the highest priority in your view?**  
Participants were each given three green dots to indicate their assessment.
- **In which projects would you/your organization participate?**  
Groups could indicate any number of projects.

The chart below shares the topics and the responses to the above questions.

## Potential Action Plan Topics

Here are the potential action plans presented in ranked order according to the number of people who saw this as a “top three” priority. These are preliminary action plans -- more work will be required to properly describe each project. The varying degree of detail may have influenced some peoples’ choice of “top three” projects. The full text of each potential action plan is presented in Appendix D.

Topic	Description	Location of Small Group Report	Number of people who saw this as a “top three” priority	Number of people/ groups Interested in being involved
<b>Plastics</b>	Advocate for provincial regulation/legislation creating a Deposit Return Program for all beverage containers.	Page 26	11	13
<b>Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)</b>	Advocate for provincial action to recognize the full range of EDCs, and set requirements for labelling and reduction.	Page 20	10	17
<b>Urban Storm Water Runoff</b>	Advocate for meaningful finalized government guidelines for runoff control.	Page 25	10	15
<b>Watershed Planning and Management</b>	Engage in development of Ontario Watershed Planning Guidelines, including effective public engagement, targets for protecting significant water and scalable, locally relevant plans.	Page 21	9	19
<b>Ontario Budget</b>	Celebrate accomplishments and identify the gaps between provincial commitments and funding of implementation and use the results in a “Great Lakes Day” at Queen’s Park.	Page 22	7	11
<b>Great Lakes Community Empowerment</b>	Pursue novel forms of engagement with unattached publics/potential allies including use of school curricula, Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations etc.	Page 27	7	7

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location of Small Group Report</b>	<b>Number of people who saw this as a “top three” priority</b>	<b>Number of people/groups interested in being involved</b>
<b>Lake Erie and Lake Ontario Nutrients Targets</b>	Advocate for implementation of Lake Erie targets/action plans for addressing algal blooms and that the lessons learned from Lake Erie are applied to Lake Ontario and elsewhere in the Great Lakes.	Page 29	6	10
<b>Sewage Bypass Alerts</b>	Advocate for provincially required alerts by municipalities and industry to inform residents about sewage system bypasses (location, type, risk, cascading impacts, etc.)	Page 23	5	12
<b>Fish Health</b>	Increase research/awareness of research on the impact of blue-green algae, plastics, sewage, invasive species, funding cuts, etc. on fish, anglers, water users and residents.	Page 17	4	12
<b>Road Salt/ Salinity</b>	Reduce use of road salt through changes in provincial regulation, insurance standards, promotion of leading municipalities, etc.	Page 19	4	13
<b>Freshwater Treaties</b>	Advocate for provincial accountability through several agreements based on Canada’s commitments with Indigenous Peoples.	Page 24	3	12
<b>Municipalities as Areas of Concern</b>	Assess status of Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) and extend some equivalent to large municipalities within the Basin to reanimate industrial and municipal action.	Page 28	3	7
<b>GL Portal</b>	Influence development and promote the Great Lakes online portal.	Page 18	2	10

## 4. Next Steps

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### Report

This report of the Summit will be sent to all participants and made public through CELA's website by June 30, 2017. Participants are encouraged to make use of this report in their work and networks.

### Moving Forward on Action Plans

The project ideas generated by the Summit participants belong to all of the participants. It is understood that a number of these project ideas are at different stages of development. All participants are encouraged to engage with any of the project ideas as they see fit. Specifically, if there's a project idea that a participant is working on or wishes to work on, they are encouraged to use portions or all of this report as part of a case for support in seeking funding. CELA would appreciate it if you let Anastasia Lintner know about any plans in order to keep the information sharing active.

CELA's Healthy Great Lakes Advisory Committee will decide which projects will move forward with current foundation funds. While CELA is not in a position to extend grants to any organizations, CELA will, however, be able to work with partners and/or lead on a small number of the project ideas. CELA will let the participants know with the issuing of this report which of the project ideas they will move forward. The criteria being used to determine which project ideas CELA will move forward upon include:

- fit with CELA priorities,
- fit with funding parameters,
- priority/interest of Summit participants,
- need for the project/opportunity to make progress, and
- likelihood that project idea will not move ahead without additional support (e.g., if there isn't already a champion/current capacity to move it ahead).

### Next Summit

The 2<sup>nd</sup> People's Great Lakes Summit will be held in October 2017. It will provide an opportunity to report on progress and set next steps.

## 5. Closing

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### Feedback

Twenty-four participants filled out the “Quick Response” survey. Twenty-one of 24 participants assessed the summit as a 4/5 or 5/5 regarding the extent to which the purpose was achieved. See Appendix E for the full text of the responses.

### Closing Round

In closing, participants were asked to share something they appreciated from the Summit.

Here are the comments that were shared:

- This was my first time using Open Space and it was lovely
- Enjoyed the facilitation
- Excited to see so many others interested in runoff volume targets
- Liked acknowledging our fears and loves – we’re all learning together
- Need to keep the conversation going – keep speaking with the heart to share our truths
- Enjoyed the process
- Loved the new young enthusiastic voices
- Valuable to take time with the introductions
- Great to be around people who are passionate about water and the environment
- Enjoyed the transparency and collaboration
- Liked the way we used our experience to develop action steps
- Concept of the meeting was good
- Collaboration is key – good idea to have teams to move forward
- Helpful to have the informal social Tuesday night (thanks Nancy!)
- Thinking about how rapids mean danger and they also mean exciting moments

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## Appendix A: The People's Great Lakes Summit – Participant List

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Name	Affiliation
Aly Alibhai	Ontario Metis Nation
Anastasia Kaschenko	Green Communities Canada
Anastasia Lintner	Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
Andrew McCammon	Ontario Headwaters institute
Annabel Westell	SOS Great Lakes
Anthony Merante	WWF-Canada
April Weppler	Freshwater Future Canada
Ashley Wallis	Environmental Defence
Bob Duncanson	Georgian Bay Association
Bonnie Fox	Conservation Ontario
Bonnie McElhinny	University of Toronto
Carolyn Day	Canadian Federation of University Women, Ontario Council
Clara Blakelock	Green Communities Canada
Elizabeth Hendriks	WWF-Canada
Ellen Mortfield	EcoSuperior
Erinn Lawrie	Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation
Fe de Leon	CELA
George Henry	Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Hasnain Khan	Environment Hamilton
Ian Borsuk	Environment Hamilton
Jill Taylor	SOS Great Lakes
John Jackson	Great Lakes Citizen Activist
Kevin Rich	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Kieran May	CELA
Kristina Lee	St. Clair River Area of Concern Bi-National Public Advisory Council
Lawrence Gunther	Blue Fish Canada
Linda Heron	Ontario Rivers Alliance
Lino Grima	Sierra Club Binational Great Lakes Committee
Lisa Harris	Ecologist

Name	Affiliation
Lord Rupert Kindersley	Georgian Bay Association
Miriam Diamond	University of Toronto
Nancy Goucher	Freshwater Future Canada
Narcis Bejtic	Environment Network
Natalija Fisher	Great Lakes Citizen
Paul Baines	Great Lakes Commons
Raj Gill	Canadian Freshwater Alliance
Rebecca Harrison	Lake Ontario Waterkeeper
Samantha Restoule	Ontario Rivers Alliance
Sarah Miller	Great Lakes Citizen Activist
Yvonne Ho	Sierra Club Ontario

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## Appendix B: The People's Great Lakes Summit – Agenda

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8:30 - 9:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Breakfast</li><li>▪ Registration</li></ul>
9:30 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Welcome</b> <i>History and goal of the summit. Introductions.</i></li><li><b>2. Why Advocate for Policy Change?</b> <i>Considering the purpose and the potential opportunities</i></li><li><b>3. Who are We?</b> <i>Getting a sense of the organizations and networks working in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin</i></li></ol>
10:45	<i>Break</i>
11 am	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>4. What are the public policy priorities we want to collaborate upon?</b> <i>Identifying potential initiatives for government action and citizen engagement to protect and restore the water and wetlands of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin</i></li></ol>
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
1:30 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>5. What actions will we take together in the next year?</b> <i>Exploring potential initiatives and fleshing out possible activities</i></li><li><b>6. Next Steps</b></li><li><b>7. Closing</b></li></ol>
4:30 pm	<i>Summit adjourned</i>

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## Appendix C: Ideas for Action Shared during the Summit

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The following ideas were shared at the Summit. They were grouped by theme by the participants. Theme numbers 1 – 13 were explored in small groups. For action plans related to each of these themes, see Appendix D. Some of the ideas were not explored in small groups. These are listed in #14 below.

### 1. Fish Health

- Awareness of impact of blue green algae, angler safety and fish health
- Traditional angler fishing rights and aquatic protection zones – balance interests
- Fish consumption guideline research and transparency – can we trust the research?

### 2. Online database/Great Lakes Portal

- Online database – collaborative between multiple groups

### 3. Salinity

- Winter road salt -- Best Management Practice (BMP)

### 4. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

- Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

### 5. Watershed Planning and Management

- Integrate the basin to the lakes
- Support wetland restoration ...with your time, voice, money etc.
- Target *Great Lakes Protection Act* (GLPA) for wetland conservation and restoration
- Establish regional water quality boards
- Protect 30% of every watershed
- Engage Ontario watershed planning guidelines

### 6. Ontario Government Budget

- Great Lakes Protection Act (Status; follow-up; coordination; advocacy)
- Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements (Status; follow-up; coordination; advocacy)
- Triple budgets for Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Hold public agencies accountable for breaking the law

### 7. Sewage bypass alerts

- Sewage bypass alerts (x 2)

## **8. Freshwater Treaties**

- Hold the provincial government accountable for the highest level of binational legislation

## **9. Urban Storm Water Runoff**

- Urban runoff volume control
- Storm water management upgrades
- Require green structure management plan (natural capital) of all local levels of government
- Advocate for release of Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines re Storm Water Guidelines (Great Lakes Strategy – Dec. 2017 Deadline!)
- Upgrades to Storm Water management and low impact development
- Toronto storm water utility fee
- Green storm water infrastructure (managing rain where it falls)

## **10. Plastics**

- Deposit return program for non-alcoholic beverage containers
- Microplastic impacts on fish health
- Plastics ban

## **11. Great Lakes Education, Outreach and Community Empowerment**

- Great Lakes Education and Outreach
- Support provincial education on calls for action in federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (especially as they affect land and water)
- Support funding to build capacity in under-represented groups linked to land/water initiatives
- Great Lakes Watershed festival (for public engagement)
- School children curriculum development re Adaptation to Natural Change
- Support/fund water pedagogy engagement for all youth in Grade 8 (one key site for watershed education)
- Increase awareness and support for the Greatness Project
- Georgian Bay Guardians concept/movement has Great Lakes-wide application
- Social Equity ...Diversity in all culture...Engagement for sustainable and regenerative societies and culture
- Working across silos – with anglers, tech start-ups, organic farmers -- to build consensus for policy action and implementation

## **12. Declare all Municipalities Areas of Concern (AOCs)**

- Declare all municipalities AOCs

## **13. Lakes Erie and Ontario Nutrients Targets**

- Improve the Lake Erie Phosphorous draft Action Plan
- Public Reports on all nutrient loads into Lakes
- Create nutrient targets for Lake Erie – eastern basin (x 2)
- Lake Ontario nutrient targets

#### **14. Other sticky-note ideas not explored in small groups:**

- Establish triggers for action for Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQOs)
- Municipal water sustainability plans
- Stop the deep geological repository now
- Public investment in natural infrastructure e.g. wetlands, forests, riparian buffers
- Phase in water charges for all water permit holders
- Use case study models to create a template on how to build successful policies.  
(Example > Template > Future)
- Family Water Testing kits for communities and individuals
- Encourage citizen science and monitoring
- Examine dredging and lake-filling – are they necessary?
- Emergency measures and mitigation: impose risk communication by regulation (as in Alberta for oil refineries)

## Appendix D: Action Plans - Small Group Reports from the Great Lake Summit

### Group 1: Fish Health

<p><b>Idea:</b> Impacts on fish health and downstream impacts of indigenous, traditional and commercial fisheries ...Science and its transparency</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b> Lawrence Gunther, Blue Fish Canada (anchor) Nancy Goucher, Freshwater Future Canada Rupert Kindersley, Georgian Bay Association</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b></p> <p>Improve awareness of research (e.g. conduct a workshop, create online database of research on impact on fish), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ottawa research on impacts of algae, microcystin</li> <li>- McGill research re impact of plastics</li> <li>- impact of pharmaceuticals in sewage</li> <li>- impact of aquaculture especially on native fish species e.g. in Lake Huron/North Channel</li> <li>- impact of blue-green algae on health of anglers, fishers, water users and residents (e.g. Lake Erie)</li> <li>- invasive species and disease through lake-to-lake transport</li> <li>- impact of Asian carp</li> <li>- impact of U.S. funding cuts (e.g. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA))</li> </ul> <p>May 31, 2017 River Symposium on Fish Health organized by Blue Fish Canada, St. Lawrence River Institute and the University of Ottawa, opportunity to build solidarity among commercial, recreational and indigenous fishers around the long term sustainability of the fish stocks upon which they depend.</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	
<p>1. Approach researchers to identify gaps e.g. DNA analysis to show impacts on fish.</p>	
<p>2. Build on/replicate the work done on Georgian Bay and Lake Huron e.g. Promote protocols for lakes as done by Georgian Bay Forever.</p>	
<p>3. Promote sharing of research and data between Canada and US.</p>	
<p>4. Join Georgian Bay Association (GBA) campaign to move aquaculture to closed containment. Consider connecting to US campaign.</p>	
<p>5. Bring anglers and commercial fishers to meetings with MPPs/MPs to lobby Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Ministry of the Environment and Culture Change (MOECC) and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).</p>	
<p>6. Advocate for strengthened and enforced ballast water regulations to reduce lake-to-lake transportation of disease.</p>	
<p>7. Advocate for Ontario adherence to Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) by no longer allowing open-cage aquaculture.</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b> Find funding to support research.</p>	

## Group 2: Online Database/Great Lakes Portal

<p><b>Idea:</b> Clear Case/must haves for a Great Lakes Portal</p> <p>Base this on Inhale Project (citizen science monitoring on air quality); open data (State of Georgia); swim guide; Great Lakes portal interactivity with the USA; Seamless waterfront/interaction; Connectivity; helping people find their freshwater; push alert; use of virtual reality (VR).</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b></p> <p>Annabel Westell, SOS Great Lakes (anchor)</p> <p>Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton</p> <p>Rebecca Harrison, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper (anchor)</p> <p>Samantha Restoule, Ontario Rivers Alliance</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b></p> <p>Submitted “must haves” for the portal to the Ontario government</p> <p>Generated public support, including municipal buy-in</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Influence and Promote Great Lakes Portal.</p>	<p>After public request for proposal</p>
<p>2. Bring ideas to contracted organization.</p>	<p>After portal is open</p>
<p>3. Discuss and promote with municipalities and First Nations.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>4. Submit “must haves” to the Ontario government.</p>	<p>By May 2018</p>
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of communications</li> <li>• Gathering information from the province</li> </ul>	

**Group 3: Road Salt/Salinity**

<p><b>Idea: Reducing use of road salt through changes in insurance and provincial regulation</b></p> <p>Beet juice is effective, but leaves a stain. (Niagara Falls stopped using it because it stained the marble lobbies of the hotels and the City received complaints.)          Conservation Authorities are doing good work on this – they are the leads under Source Water Protection.          Orangeville is a good example. This needs to spread.</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b></p> <p>Ashley Wallis, Environmental Defence          Anthony Merante, WWF-Canada (anchor)          Clara Blakelock, Green Communities Canada          Narcis Bejtic, Environment Network          Hasnain Khan, Environment Hamilton</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b></p> <p>Proposal for provincial legislation to reduce chloride levels in three years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- certification</li> <li>- environmental organizational support</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Educational outreach especially for industry, homeowners, contractor certification programs, insurance (level of salt needed to reduce incidence of people falling based on best practice). E.g. State of New Hampshire has regime where a property owner is free of liability if someone falls if they have applied the recommended level of salt.</p>	<p>Over the next 3 years</p>
<p>2. Educational outreach to public and private property owners on relationship between salinity and care of water.</p>	<p>Over 2017-2018</p>
<p>3. Reopen placement of road salt on toxics list.</p>	
<p>4. Conduct case studies.</p>	
<p>5. Hold forum to convene stakeholders.</p>	
<p>6. Pursue through Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p> <p>Resource educational outreach          Legal analysis?</p>	

## Group 4: Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)

<p><b>Idea:</b>          Reproductive health is threatened in the Great Lakes Basin (e.g. trend of more female babies than males were born in Sarnia in Aamjiwnaang First Nation and the connection was to EDCs in the environment.)          Doesn't fit the standard evaluation for chemicals. Adverse effect is under-examined. Endocrines are unique, so this is a challenge.          Ecosystem health affects human health, aquatic &amp; wildlife, the earth and air.</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b>          Fe de Leon (CELA) (anchor)          Kieran May (CELA)          Sarah Miller, Great Lakes Citizen Activist          Ellen Mortfield, EcoSuperior          Lisa Harris, Ecologist          Linda Heron, Ontario Rivers Alliance          George Henry, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation          Anastasia Kaschenko, Green Communities Canada          Jill Taylor, SOS Great Lakes</p>
<p><b>Outcomes by May 2018:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced exposure from Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) to both human health and the environment (which should include aquatic, wildlife and terrestrial species). Governments proceeding in a precautionary way. Consumers aware. Labelling required.</li> <li>• Reduced burden/reversed burden</li> <li>• Full range recognized and requirements identified for different approaches</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Identify pathways of harm and human activities that produce these effects (use it; release it/produce it ... the whole life cycle).          Identify ...          - chemicals of concern (chemical testing)          - vulnerable populations (gender, age etc.)          - hot spots          - multiple exposures; do cumulative effect analysis</p>	
<p>2. Identify international standards/best practices that we should hold ourselves against</p>	
<p>3. Define an issue that can be understood at the policy level</p>	
<p>4. Publish and disseminate information to mobilize and engage</p>	
<p>5. Make linkages to groups that are talking about water and health; connect with local health authorities</p>	
<p>6. Make Sarnia an example ... use all nation approach</p>	
<p>7. Have a "say" in an environmental assessment</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get funding from corporation and allied groups</li> <li>• Seek funds through Great Lakes Network for binational efforts.</li> </ul>	

**Group 5: Watershed Planning and Management**

<p><b>Idea:</b>  <b>Engage in Development of Ontario Watershed Planning Guidelines</b></p> <p>International Joint Commission is doing Watershed Planning and Management for Lake Erie nutrients</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b></p> <p>Bob Duncanson, Georgian Bay Assoc.          Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario (anchor)          Bonnie McElhinny, U of T          Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton          Kevin Rich, Ducks Unlimited Canada          Kris Lee, St. Clair River AOC BPAC          Linda Heron, Ontario Rivers Alliance</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Effective engagement in consultation</li> <li>B. Targets for protection of significant water (Natural Heritage)</li> <li>C. Different levels of watershed plans for different capacity – scalable, locally relevant, not cookie cutter</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Communicate why/how to engage and opportunities for engagement.</p>	
<p>2. Secure The <i>Great Lakes Protection Act</i> Alliance representation at the table and act as liaison affiliated to Great Lakes Network.</p>	
<p>3. Craft Terms of Reference for Request for Proposals to review scope (re targets in B above).</p>	
<p>4. Advocate to achieve the above outcomes.</p>	
<p>5. Promote the approach that any municipality can use the watershed planning/management approach – not just those required by regulation.</p>	
<p>6. Consider how this could be leveraged to lay foundation for rights to water(sheds)/nature.</p>	
<p>7. Influence engagement details (include youth, indigenous etc.; Develop tools to reinforce engagement (e.g. from lessons learned).</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b> Summer student projects</p>	

**Group 6: Ontario Budget**

<p><b>Idea:</b> Establish a dedicated Great Lakes/St. Lawrence provincial budget</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b> Anastasia Lintner, CELA Carolyn Day, CFUW Ontario Council Lino Grima, Sierra Club Binational GL Committee Natalija Fisher (anchor)</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b> Adequate funding to implement existing commitments (binational, legislative etc.)</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Identify the commitments          - List the gaps in funding (where funds need to go re 8th <i>Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA)</i>, <i>Great Lakes Protection Act (GLPA)</i>, <i>Water Opportunities Act (WOA)</i>)          - Identify gaps between commitments and funding of implementation          - Celebrate the success of money well invested          - Compare Canadian and US government investment</p>	
<p>2. Engage a “forensic accountant” to evaluate current budget (MOECC; MNRF)</p>	
<p>3. Hold a Great Lakes Day at Queen’s Park</p>	
<p>4. Identify unusual alliances and leverage points e.g. Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA); link to health, trade etc.</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b>          Green budget coalition          Tony Maas (doing federal Great Lakes Day)          Great Lakes St Lawrence Cities Initiative          Greatness (facilitated by Waterlution)</p>	

**Group 7: Sewage Bypass Alerts**

<p><b>Idea:</b> Mandate bypass alerts for municipalities and industry</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b> Linda Heron, Ontario Rivers Alliance Kris Lee, St. Clair River AOC BPAC Rebecca Harrison, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper (anchor) Ellen Mortfield, EcoSuperior</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b> Province implements a management system to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inform residents about bypasses (location, type, risk, cascading impacts) with standardized language, marking the sites of the bypass</li> <li>- Monitor the waterways used for recreation (beyond just swimming)</li> <li>- Real-time bypass reporting by MOECC, publicly accessible</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Increase public awareness, continuous</p>	
<p>2. Conduct outreach to public officials (municipal and provincial)</p>	
<p>3. Make a formal environmental NGOs group appeal to the province.</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b> Collaboration support and data</p>	

**Group 8: Freshwater Treaties**

<p><b>Idea:</b>  <b>Freshwater Treaties</b></p> <p>EAs now require indigenous knowledge keepers          That CAs should include Elders is part of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommendations</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b>          Paul Baines, Great Lakes Commons (anchor)          Jill Taylor, SOS Great Lakes</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b>          A document naming provincial accountability through several agreements based on Canada’s commitments with Indigenous Peoples</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Find key contacts to learn more regarding existing and new leadership representing multi-nation players</p>	
<p>2. Compile, summarize and evaluate the various agreements to name key responsibilities</p>	
<p>3. Gather popular support by consulting best practices</p>	
<p>4. Gain acknowledgement from provincial government</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p>	

**Group 9: Urban Storm Water Runoff**

<p><b>Idea:</b> MOECC Guidelines for Runoff Control</p> <p>Guidelines coming this summer. Great Lakes Network storm water fees campaigns are ongoing efforts</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b></p> <p>Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario          Clara Blakelock, Green Communities Canada (anchor)          Lino Grima, Sierra Club Binational GL Committee          Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton          Kevin Rich, Ducks Unlimited          Kieran May, Canadian Environmental Law Assoc.          Narcis Bejtac, Environment Network</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b>          Meaningful finalized guidelines for runoff control (publicly supported)</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Apply pressure for initial release of guidelines “Runoff Volume Control Target”</p>	
<p>2. Publicize the guidelines and assist public feedback.</p>	<p>Depends on release of guidelines</p>
<p>3. Promote with municipalities (Hamilton, Toronto, Mississauga etc. – at least 10)</p>	
<p>4. Coordinate response.</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p> <p>Technical support          Communication between groups          Funding for municipal outreach/events</p>	

**Group 10: Plastics**

<p><b>Idea:</b> Tackle Plastics in the Great Lakes</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b> Yvonne Ho, Sierra Club Ontario Fe de Leon, CELA John Jackson Ashley Wallis, Environmental Defence (anchor)</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b> Provincial regulation/legislation mandating Deposit Return Program (<i>DRP</i>) for all beverage containers</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Ashley to share euro-refill model</p>	
<p>2. Set high targets for packaging recovery</p>	
<p>3. Consider toxic substances that attach to plastics (drive regulation through EPA -- already proof that it impacts lakes!)</p>	
<p>4. Ashley share legal analysis</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b> Blue print of what system would look like Understand international applications policy (Fe)</p>	

## Group 11: Great Lakes Education and Outreach

<b>Idea:</b> Great Lakes Community Empowerment	
<b>Discussion Participants:</b>	Hasnain Khan, Environment Hamilton
Anastasia Kaschenko, Green Communities Canada	Lawrence Gunther, Blue Fish Canada
Annabel Westell, SOS Great Lakes	Lisa Harris, Ecologist
Anthony Merante, WWF-Canada	Rupert Kindersley, Georgian Bay Association
Bonny McElhinny, U of T	Sam Restoule, Ontario Rivers Alliance
George Henry, Chippewas of the Thames FN (anchor)	Sarah Miller, Great Lakes Citizen Activist
<b>Outcome by May 2018:</b> Novel forms of engagement with unattached publics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working across silos – with anglers, tech start-ups, organic farmers, students ....) to build consensus for policy action and implementation</li> <li>• “We thought we were saving the lakes, but the lakes are saving us” e.g. by providing a common cause around which to make alliances between Settlers and First Nations/Metis</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	
1. Build diversity in the advocacy community	
a. Advocate for funding to build capacity in under-represented groups linked to land/water	
b. Social Equity ...Diversity in all culture...Engagement for sustainable and regenerative societies and culture	
c. Inclusive of gender and age: Focus on women, youth, children, seniors, men’s groups	
2. Advocate for calls for action in federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report (especially as they affect land and water)	
3. Advocate for updates to Grade School Curriculum:	
a. Curriculum for teachers; school board interaction	
b. Curriculum development re the state of the environment including Listening to the Earth and acknowledging the truth about the degradation of nature	
c. Support/fund water pedagogy engagement for all youth in Grade 8 (one key site for watershed education with focus e.g. Stewardship, clean energy, land-based teachings, etc.)	
4. Hold Great Lakes Watershed festival to engage the public (e.g. Chatham Kent Children’s Water Festival)	
5. Apply the model of the Georgian Bay Guardians to other Great Lakes Increase awareness and support for the Greatness Project	
6. Consider Place and location ... what mediation is possible?	
7. Water treatment knowledge; different language; fishing knowledge; In depth treatment; science investigation	
8. Create a tool kit -- containing resources for groups or individuals to use to create their own workshops, something that works for their demographic → empowerment	
9. Clean water: pulling groups to promote clean water; group water walk in a good way	
10. Social media campaign: short (e.g. 2 minute) documentaries	
11. Develop an engagement document – like the Standing Rock Syllabus	

**Group 12: Declare All Municipalities AOCs**

<p><b>Idea:</b>          Declare all Municipalities Areas of Concern (AOCs)          Evaluate status of AOCs and extend something similar to large municipalities within the Basin</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b>          Andrew McCammon,          Ontario Headwaters Institute (anchor)          Carolyn Day,          CFUW Ontario Council</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b>          Assess status of Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) and reanimate industrial and municipal action</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Research with International Joint Commission (ICJ) on AOC</p>	<p>June</p>
<p>2. Contact MOECC on (MISA)</p>	
<p>3. Develop draft charter for reanimation</p>	<p>July</p>
<p>4. Solicit input (e.g. Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; CELA, Freshwater Future)</p>	<p>Fall</p>
<p>5. Find allies</p>	<p>Fall/winter</p>
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b>          Project grant          Contact lists          Quantify gaps and new program funds needed</p>	

**Group 13: Lake Erie and Lake Ontario Nutrients Targets**

<p><b>Idea:</b> Lake Erie and Ontario targets and action plans for algae – applying lessons learned</p>	<p><b>Discussion Participants:</b> Bob Duncanson, Georgian Bay Association Bonnie Fox, Conservation Ontario Lino Grima, Sierra Club Binational GL Ctte Nancy Goucher, Freshwater Future Canada (anchor) Natalija Fisher</p>
<p><b>Outcome by May 2018:</b> Lessons learned from Lake Erie are applied to Lake Ontario and elsewhere in the Great Lakes</p>	
<p><b>Action Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Timing:</b></p>
<p>1. Develop “pie charts” of nutrient sources for priority water bodies (and eventually all water bodies).</p>	
<p>2. Restore and protect wetlands.</p>	
<p>3. Increase advocacy to end open cage aquaculture. (Aquaculture in Georgian Bay is allowed to release 55 metric tonnes of phosphorous each year.)</p>	
<p>4. Evaluate other polluting industries – how much phosphorous?</p>	
<p>5. Decentralize waste water treatment.</p>	
<p>6. Formalize sharing of best practices across Lakewide Management Plans (LAMPS) or use Conservation Authorities (CAs) as a way to share approaches. (Noted: Most of Georgian Bay has no conservation authority)</p>	
<p><b>Resourcing Needs:</b></p>	



### **Diversity of participant age and expertise**

- Good age diversity. Broad range of concerns and levels of expertise. Diverse knowledge of public policy
- Different perspectives from folks with varying backgrounds and levels of expertise.
- Nice that there were other “youth” present; despite being less experienced in public policy, it is crucial for us to be involved and to learn the ropes so that we can carry the torch in the future.

### **Full participation and collaborative spirit**

- The transparent and collaborative spirit of this event
- Collaboration and grouping of ideas
- Everyone participated
- Friendly, open conversation; well run
- Giving participants opportunity to create the workshop that pertains to most of the audience
- It was great to work with others, face to face, and brainstorm on issues that really matter to me.
- Lots of great ideas raised; everyone could participate

### **The format and facilitation**

- The format (open space) was very effective and great at encouraging participation (x 4)
- Great facilitation! (x 2) Christine should come back in October
- The focus on tangible outcomes!
- We got a lot done/a lot of good feedback
- Strategy for facilitation + discussion! Well organized 100%
- Lots of opportunity to talk about specific issues + actions
- The ‘focus group’ format, which allowed us to have more intimate conversations and connect with other participants who share similar ideas and concerns.
- Expert organizations created the agenda and identified priorities
- Good methodology for activation. Opportunity to show case projects. Thanks!!
- The organizers did a fantastic job with the format – we accomplished a lot in a very small amount of time!

### **The Food**

- FOOD WAS GREAT THANKS!!!
- Thanks for providing a good vegan option for lunch!!!

### **The Party**

- The Party was excellent (x 2)

### 3. To improve our gathering in October 2017, I would ...

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#### **Make changes in the timing**

- Have more breaks – connect with outdoors! Especially on a hot day ☺
- Longer lunch, guest speaker successful project
- Less time on the go-around
- I don't know why, but the day dragged a bit. Perhaps it would be better to do this kind of intense collaboration over 2 days (afternoon day 1; morning of day 2)
- Reduce the time spent on introductions to get more time with smaller group discussions
- Set presentation time limits

#### **Get a larger, quieter venue**

- Rent a larger space (x 6)
- Have more organized setup and workshop space
- Provide a larger space for folks to move around, hold conversations without the distraction of neighbouring tables
- Better venue – noise, heat
- I think the format was perfect, but the room was too small and too noisy – I was really struggling near the end of the day – some fresh air and a few more breaks might have helped, but I blame the room as it got very warm and stuffy.
- Overall I think it was an excellent day. My only suggestion would be to book a bigger space, as it got pretty hot and stuffy by the end of the day.

#### **Fill gaps in spectrum of participants**

- More diversity in stakeholder representation – indigenous, outdoor community, science  
Solicit more people working from enviro justice/diversity perspective to [EQ?] which issues are added (e.g., Jay Pitter, Mariko Uda), more local First Nations, especially Six Nations, New Credit
- Encourage/facilitate more diverse participation by inviting students/interns
- How can we reach out to unusual suspects?

#### **Keep/increase action focus**

- Key to moving forward is collaboration we are going to have to share resources and expertise
- Summarize projects underway, provide premade templates for group discussion to keep discussion on topic
- More focus in terms of “what we are trying to accomplish”
- Focus on the specific projects and determine realistic action plans, etc. having done some research and refined the projects as much as possible in advance
- Focus on building tangible outcomes (don't redo anything)
- Outline current pressing issues + deadline for participation/action.

### **More Pre-meeting Preparation**

- Organize handouts + information well prior to the meeting; describe what the attendees will be asked to do so that they can be prepared; ask groups or people to provide bios or links before the session so that contacts can be set up for meetings or collaborations before/after
- It's hard to move quickly & efficiently with people we don't know but maybe in October, we can do some prep work so we walk into the meeting all ready

### **4. Any other comments?**

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- Great job! (x 3)
- Thank you (x 2)
- Appreciated joining forces with new + established contributors; interesting to see which questions get added/changed with diverse perspective (e.g., Black/Latino actors in Detroit/Chicago range different question and also have novel ideas on enlisting new publics/constituencies)
- Thanks for organizing!
- Thanks to Ana, Natalija, Nancy, Ashley, Fe, and all who made this happen
- It's good.
- Thank you for facilitating the space for people to come together.
- Miigwetch for all your hard work!
- Had a blast!