

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

REPORT NO. 63
of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)
of its meeting held
March 29, 2012
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.
Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway Parkway

Members Present at the March 29, 2012 meeting:

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair
Councillor Hilary Payne
Shahbaz Ahmed
Matthew Child
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Roger Dzugan (alternate for Mark Bartlett)
Karen Fallon
Paul Henshaw
Phil Roberts
Tamara Stomp

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by M. Child, seconded by P. Henshaw,

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are the world's largest surface freshwater resource, support one of the world's largest economies and are a fundamental part of the cultural and social fabric of millions of Canadians and Americans; and

WHEREAS the lower Great Lakes, and Lake Erie in particular, have experienced worsening water quality in recent years, especially harmful algal blooms which impair water quality, fish and wildlife populations and aesthetic values; and,

WHEREAS a key driver of these impairments is nutrient loadings from non-point sources throughout the watersheds draining to the lower Great Lakes, and nutrient cycling within the lakes which is influenced by a variety of factors including aquatic invasive species and climate variability; and,

WHEREAS improving water quality in the lower Great Lakes will require extensive and coordinated action of governments, commerce, communities and residents; and,

WHEREAS the binational *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* renegotiation is currently nearing completion, and the renewed Agreement is expected to compel the governments of Canada and the United States to effectively address non-point sources of nutrients to the lower Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem* is a principal mechanism for cooperative environmental progress on the Great Lakes in Canada, and the current Agreement will expire in June, 2012;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Windsor Essex County Environment Committee urges the governments of Canada and Ontario to renew and increase their investment in the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem* prior to June, 2012 and ensure the Agreement has an effective and substantial emphasis on mitigation of nutrient loadings to Lake Erie and factors influencing nutrient cycling within the Lake.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Councils of the City of Windsor and the County of Essex for their endorsement.

NOTIFICATION:		
Mary Brennan, Director of Council Service/Clerk, County of Essex	mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca	
WECEC members including resource		