



18 Fenwick Avenue.  
Toronto, ON M4K 3H3

22 November 2013

To Ministers Baird and Clement (via email)

It has been seven months since the International Joint Commission provided its advice to the Canadian and US governments on the Upper Great Lakes which in part recommended a "further investigation of structural options to restore water levels in Lakes Michigan-Huron..."

GBA supports this call for action. The sooner the two governments appoint and fund a third party organization (such as NOAA or the US Army Corps of Engineers) to conduct this investigation the better. This investigation should avoid duplication of past studies and instead build on existing analyses by government and non-government organizations, so as to not delay action. We would suggest that the objective of this investigation should be to identify a specific plan of action that can deliver a return to a healthy historic range of water levels in the Middle Lakes in a timely fashion.

While this past spring and summer brought significantly higher than average precipitation to the Great Lakes Basin, and some relief from the historic all-time low water levels recorded at the start of the year, the reality is that water levels in Lakes Michigan-Huron continue to be significantly (approximately 14 inches) below their long-term average, while the other Great Lakes are near or above their long-term average. This fact supports the IJC's call for action aimed at addressing levels in Michigan-Huron.

The Georgian Bay Association is primarily concerned with water levels in Michigan-Huron; however, we recognize that the interests of all stakeholders across the Great Lakes need to be considered when action is contemplated in any one part of the Great Lakes system. Therefore, with regard to various options that have been proposed, the GBA supports the IJC's further recommendation that "the Governments undertake a comprehensive benefit-cost analysis and a detailed environmental study that includes upstream and downstream impacts of potential structural restoration options as part of this more comprehensive investigation."

Moreover, we feel that there is a need for the governments to anticipate and prepare for further downward pressures on the Great Lakes as predicted by the IJC appointed Study Board's climate change models, and develop a plan to maintain water levels in all of the lakes.

We look forward to hearing the governments' plans to address the Great Lakes water levels issue.

Susan Grundy  
President, Georgian Bay Association

cc: Ministers Aglukkaq, Raitt (via email)