

FINAL AGENDA

CROWNE PLAZA, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

SEPTEMBER 27 – 29, 2022

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
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DAY ONE – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

8:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Registration
9:45 AM – 10:10 AM	Opening: First Nations Welcome <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Elder Tina Roundpoint</i> <i>Chief Stacey Laforme, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation</i> <i>Chief Mark Hill, Six Nations of the Grand River</i>
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Welcome from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Environmental Protection Agency <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Mike Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)</i> <i>Chris Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)</i>
10:20 AM – 10:30 AM	Welcome from Her Honour the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	Welcome from His Worship Jim Diodati, Mayor of Niagara Falls, Ontario



10:40 AM – 11:45 AM	<p><i>How are the Great Lakes Doing?</i></p> <p>The Great Lakes are a vast shared resource, fundamental to the wellbeing of tens of millions of Canadians and Americans who live along their shores. Despite their immense size, the Great Lakes are highly sensitive to stresses including the impacts of excess nutrients, invasive species, toxic contaminants and climate change. So how are the Great Lakes doing? This session will report on the state of the Great Lakes using nine science-based ecosystem indicators.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Beth Hinchey-Malloy, U.S. EPA</i> <i>Nancy Stadler-Salt, ECCC</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch & Networking
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	<p><i>Progress Towards Implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement & Binational Priorities for the Next Three Years</i></p> <p>Every three years, the Great Lakes Public Forum provides an opportunity to highlight actions being taken to restore and protect the Great Lakes and meet the commitments of the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This session will highlight key accomplishments documented in the 2022 Progress Report of the Parties, as well as future priorities for science and action.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Chris Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i> <i>Mike Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
1:45 PM – 3:00 PM	<p><i>Restoring water quality and ecosystem health in Great Lakes Areas of Concern</i></p> <p>Pursuant to the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 43 environmentally degraded sites within the Great Lakes were designated as “Areas of Concern” (AOCs) by Canada and United States. A panel of speakers will highlight past successes and lessons learned as well as</p>

	<p>discuss the paths forward for achieving restoration of water quality and ecosystem health in all remaining AOCs in the future.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Aimee Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe</i> <i>Rebecca Fedak, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</i> <i>Chris McLaughlin, Bay Area Restoration Council</i> <i>Abraham Francis, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne</i> <i>Carolyn O'Neill, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break & Networking
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	<p><i>Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on the Great Lakes</i> Understanding how climate change will affect ecological processes is essential to protecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. Impacts such as warming temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, decreased ice coverage, and alterations to water levels are being observed across the basin, in some cases exacerbating existing ecological stressors. This session will highlight past accomplishments, lessons learned, and projections for the next 50 years as well as explore future challenges resulting from expected climate impacts on Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Jennifer Day, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i> <i>Frank Seglenieks, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i> <i>Steve Galarneau, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</i> <i>Jen Vanator, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission</i> <i>Sandra Easton, Mayor of Lincoln and Canadian Co-Chair of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's Resilience Committee</i> <i>Ralph Toninger, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
4:30 PM	<i>Conclusion of Day 1 Proceedings</i>



DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM – 8:55 AM	Welcome from Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare
8:55 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcome from the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM	<p>Welcome to Day 2 from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Susan Humphrey, Environment and Climate Change Canada Chris Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</p>
9:05 AM – 9:45 AM	<p>Armchair Discussion</p> <p>Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, in conversation with Debra Shore, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare</p>
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	<p>Tackling Algal Blooms in the Great Lakes</p> <p>Excess phosphorus loadings in some areas of the Great Lakes contribute to harmful and nuisance algae blooms that threaten drinking water quality and human health, degrade fish and wildlife habitats and populations, adversely impact economic activities, and drive beach closures. This problem is most acutely felt in Lake Erie. This session will recognize key achievements, discuss lessons learned, and explore innovative approaches that will position ourselves for success in the future.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Sandra George, Environment and Climate Change Canada Colin Little, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority Joy Mulinex, Ohio Governor’s Office Chris Winslow, Ohio Sea Grant</p> <p>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</p>

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Break & Networking
11:15 AM – 11:55 AM	<p><i>Conversations with Binational Commissions of the Great Lakes Region: Protecting the Great Lakes and the ecosystems, economies, and way of life they support is a shared responsibility.</i> The International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and Great Lakes Commission (three Commissions) established through government action in the United States and Canada have complementary and mutually reinforcing interests in advancing progress towards a sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem, which is dependent on healthy Great Lakes water quality and directly affects the economic prosperity of our region and nations more broadly. The three commissions coordinate closely with each other and the Parties to identify, discuss, and take action on issues of mutual interest. This session will include a moderated dialogue with the three commissions who have responsibilities for managing Great Lakes resources.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Heather Stirratt, International Joint Commission</i> <i>Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission</i> <i>Bob Lambe, Great Lakes Fishery Commission</i> <i>Jon Allan, University of Michigan, School for Environment and Sustainability (moderator)</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
11:55 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch & Networking
1:00 PM – 1:05 PM	<i>Video Remarks from Métis Nation of Ontario President Margaret Froh</i>
1:05 PM – 1:30 PM	<i>Viewing of Chiefs of Ontario’s Water Documentary</i>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	<p><i>Indigenous-led restoration and protection of the Great Lakes</i> This session will spotlight and honour diverse initiatives and examples of First Nation, Métis and Tribal protection and restoration in the Great Lakes.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Naomi Williams, Walpole Island First Nation</i> <i>Ariel Berwick, The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians</i></p>

	<p><i>Kevin Rath, Métis Nation of Ontario Great Lakes Advisory Group</i> <i>Aimee Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe</i> <i>Evelyn Ravindran, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community</i> <i>Paul MacDonald, Environment and Climate Change Canada (moderator)</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
<p>2:30 PM – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Break & Networking</p>
<p>3:00 PM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p><i>International Joint Commission: Public Session 1</i> The International Joint Commission will host two interactive sessions to seek participants’ input on the Canadian and U.S. federal governments’ 2022 Progress Report of the Parties (PROP) as per the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The PROP outlines both federal governments’ actions over the past three years to achieve the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and protect the Great Lakes’ ecosystem health. The IJC asks participants to share their experiences and feedback on topics such as exemplary achievements that advanced Great Lakes water quality objectives, and opportunities for improving future activities and priorities.</p>
<p>4:00 PM – 4:50 PM</p>	<p><i>Reducing Risks from Harmful Chemicals</i> The Great Lakes basin is the industrial heartland of Canada and the United States. This fact, combined with long-range atmospheric transport and deposition of contaminants from outside the basin, make chemical pollution a longstanding problem. Chemicals in the Great Lakes environment can harm aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity and human health. Over the years, we have seen dramatic reductions in toxic substances in the environment that are harmful to fish and wildlife, some by more than 90 percent, through domestic regulations and binational strategies. This session will reflect on these past achievements and lessons learned, take stock of current progress, as well as look toward future challenges.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Ryan Lepak, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development</i> <i>Mike Milligan, State University of New York – Fredonia</i> <i>Sylvia Plain, Aamjiwnaang First Nation</i></p>

GREAT LAKES

PUBLIC FORUM

— 2022 —



	<p><i>Fe de Leon, Canadian Environmental Law Association</i> <i>Robert Letcher, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
4:50 PM	Conclusion of Day 2 Proceedings



DAY THREE – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	<i>Welcome from Bryan Printup, Beaver Clan, Tuscarora Nation</i>
8:45 AM – 8:50 AM	<p><i>Welcome to Day 3 from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Mike Goffin, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i> <i>Chris Korleski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</i></p>
8:50 AM – 9:40 AM	<p><i>Community Initiatives and Citizen Engagement</i></p> <p>This session will celebrate the important contributions of community initiatives and citizen engagement in the restoration and protection of Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health. A panel of speakers will reflect on challenges of the past, citizen and community efforts that have helped advance the yardstick in Great Lakes protection, and explore opportunities to enhance community-led efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Carolyn Dubois, DataStream</i> <i>John Jackson, Great Lakes EcoRegion Network</i> <i>Mark Mattson, Swim Drink Fish Canada</i> <i>Laura Rubin, Healing our Waters</i> <i>Marnetta Malcolm, Ralph Wilson Park Conservancy</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
9:40 AM – 10:40 AM	<p><i>Restoring Water Quality and Ecosystem Health around the Niagara River</i></p> <p>The region surrounding this meeting location in Niagara Falls includes incredible examples of restoration and protection activities. A panel of speakers will reflect on past challenges, progress achieved to date and lessons learned, as well as discuss efforts on the horizon that will bring nearby Areas of Concern closer to delisting.</p>

	<p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Don Zelazny, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation</i> <i>Margaux Valenti, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper</i> <i>Natalie Green, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority</i> <i>Jim Bradley, Regional Chair, Niagara Region</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
<p>10:40 AM – 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Break & Networking</p>
<p>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p><i>International Joint Commission: Public Session 2</i> The International Joint Commission will host two interactive sessions to seek participants’ input on the Canadian and U.S. federal governments’ 2022 Progress Report of the Parties (PROP) as per the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The PROP outlines both federal governments’ actions over the past three years to achieve the objectives of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and protect the Great Lakes’ ecosystem health. The IJC asks participants to share their experiences and feedback on topics such as exemplary achievements that advanced Great Lakes water quality objectives, and opportunities for improving future activities and priorities.</p>
<p>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch & Networking</p>
<p>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM</p>	<p><i>Addressing the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species to the Great Lakes</i> By competing with native species and altering the way nutrients and chemical contaminants move within the ecosystem, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can affect the integrity of the food web, productivity of the lakes and Great Lakes water quality. AIS are nearly impossible to eradicate once established, and efforts to control them are costly. Potential new invaders could prove devastating to the Great Lakes ecosystem. This session will focus on past successes, lessons learned as well as actions being taken to minimize the current and future risk of AIS to the Great Lakes.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Colin Henein, Transport Canada</i> <i>Andrew Drake, Fisheries and Oceans Canada</i></p>



	<p><i>Jeff Zuercher, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> <i>Erika Jensen, Great Lakes Commission</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Break & Networking
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	<p><i>Protecting and Restoring Native Species and their Habitats</i></p> <p>The diverse and often unique landscapes in the Great Lakes region are home to expansive habitats and numerous native species, including several globally rare species. This session will highlight past successes, lessons learned as well as actions being taken to protect native species and restore degraded habitats in the Great Lakes basin.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> <i>Dimitry Gorsky, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> <i>Mary Mertz, Ohio Department of Natural Resources</i> <i>Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation</i> <i>Scott Parker, Parks Canada</i> <i>Dan Kraus, Wildlife Conservation Society</i></p> <p><i>Opportunity for discussion / Q&A</i></p>
3:15 PM – 3:25 PM	<i>Closing Remarks from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Environmental Protection Agency</i>
3:25 PM – 3:30 PM	<p><i>Indigenous closing</i></p> <p><i>Elder Tina Roundpoint</i></p>
3:30 PM	Conclusion of Day 3 Proceedings

