

Since the signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States on April 15, 1972, Canada and the United States have been developing and implementing programmes and other measures designed to meet the specific water quality objectives set out in the Agreement. The International Joint Commission, charged with the responsibility to report on progress toward meeting these objectives, observed in its Second Annual Report on Great Lakes Water Quality that substantial overall progress is in fact taking place despite the increase in population and economic activity in the Great Lakes Basin since 1972. The Commission also concluded that there is reason to believe that the increasing rate of degradation of the most polluted lakes, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, may have been halted.

The Government of Canada, in close consultation and co-operation with the Government of Ontario, recently completed a comprehensive review of Great Lakes water quality matters, and conveyed to the I.J.C. a combined Canadian response to the recommendations to governments contained in the Commission's valuable report. The Canadian response sets out the specific status of Canadian programmes, both federal and provincial, which relate to the Commission's recommendations. In addition to its examination of existing programmes and those expected to be implemented over the 1975-79 period, the response reaffirms that the Governments of Canada and Ontario continue to give high priority to Great Lakes programmes and to encourage co-operation at all levels of government in order to reach the water quality objectives of the Agreement between Canada and the United States.

Copies of the I.J.C. report and the Canadian response may be obtained through the I.J.C. Office, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa.