"... boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property ..." (Article IV)

Both Governments have also supported Principle 21 of the 1972 Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, which proclaims that

"... States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction."

A number of cooperative steps have been taken to deal with transboundary air pollution. In the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, both Governments committed themselves to develop and implement

"programs to identify pollutant sources and relative source contributions ... for those substances which may have significant adverse effects on environmental quality including indirect effects of impairment of tributary water quality through atmospheric deposition in drainage basins. In cases where significant contributions to Great Lakes pollution from atmospheric sources are identified, the Parties agree to consult on remedial measures."

Both Governments have sought to implement the principles of notification and consultation on activities and projects with potential transboundary impact, and to promote exchanges of scientific and technical information. In 1978 the two Governments established a Bilateral Research Consultation Group on the Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants to coordinate research efforts in both countries. Both Governments have also engaged the International Joint Commission in some aspects of transboundary air pollution. This has been done through References under the Boundary Waters Treaty establishing the Michigan/Ontario Air Pollution Board and the International Air Pollution Advisory Board and through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978.