



communiqué

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FIFTH YEAR REVIEW OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

The Department of External Affairs announced today that senior Canadian and United States officials met in Washington on April 13 to begin the joint review of progress made since 1972 under the terms of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Agreement was designed to enable the two countries to undertake a coordinated effort to clean up and preserve the Great Lakes. Article IX of the Agreement stipulates that the two countries jointly review effectiveness of programmes carried out under terms of the accord during the first five years of its operation. The Canadian delegation consisted of representatives of the Federal Government and the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Since 1972 substantial progress has been made under the Agreement. Many of the remedial programmes are working well, but much remains to be done. The review will entail an in-depth assessment of all of the measures undertaken by the two countries to restore the Lakes and keep them healthy. It is anticipated that the review will be completed before the end of the year.

Over the next several months, meetings with the public in Great Lakes communities will be held on both sides of the border. Those meetings, the results of the comprehensive review by the Governments, and the work already undertaken by the International Joint Commission, will enable the two countries to determine how they may reaffirm their continuing commitment to the objectives of the Agreement and respond to various proposals to strengthen the Agreement to meet new water quality issues.

President Carter and Prime Minister Trudeau in their meeting last February emphasized the importance they attach to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.