

Canadian Environmental Law Association L'Association canadienne du droit de l'environnement

243 Queen Street W., 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1Z4, telephone (416) 977-2410

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Miller, Board of Great Lakes United

FROM: Anne Wordsworth, Toby Vigod

DATE: April 24, 1986

RE: Proposed Great Lakes Lobby Week in Canada

In general we think the Proposed Great Lakes Lobby Week should be modelled along the lines of the proposal developed by Jane Elder for the trip to Washington. The goals are essentially the same. We have rewritten her proposal to make it apply to Canada. (see Attached).

Additional Background:

In Canada, there are two levels of government responsible for the Great Lakes -- Federal and Provincial. Their responsibilities are somewhat different, with the Federal government having responsibility over international waters, navigation and shipping, and fisheries, while the Provincial government controls all the industrial and sewage treatment plant discharges. Ontario borders on four of the five Great Lakes and obviously bears the major responsibility for the state of the Lakes on the Canadian side.

Issues and approaches would differ for the two levels of government. Diversions and the role of the International Joint Commission would be issues for the federal government, while control of industrial discharges into the Great Lakes would be aimed at the provincial government.

Our suggestion would be to spend two days in Ottawa, a day of travel and two days in Toronto. A press conference can be arranged at Queen's Park in the Media Studio. Another suggestion would be to try and arrange government-sponsored receptions in Ottawa and perhaps Toronto, or perhaps a reception could be arranged through one of the Ottawa-based environmental groups. The following are the list of people that you should try to see. In the case of leaders of the various parties, you will have to decide whether to focus on the leader or to try and get a general audience with other caucus members who are interested. You might try to have cauous meetings that include all the members who have ridings on the Great Lakes shoreline.

Ottawa

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At the Federal Level (in order of strategic importance): * indicates members whose riding borders on the Great Lakes.

- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (Progressive Conservative) 1.
- Environment Minister Tom MacMillan (PC) 2.
- Environment Critic Charles Caccia (Liberal) *3.
- Environment Critic Bill Blaikie (New Democratic Party) 4.
- Leader of the Opposition John Turner (L) 5.
- Leader of the Third Party Ed Broadbent (NDP) *6.
- Other Members of the Conservative Cabinet, such as 7. Deputy Leader, Minister of Health and Welfare, etc.
- Members of Parliament with Ridings on the Great Lakes 8. from all parties (especially those who have been active on Great Lakes issues) eg. Stephen Langdon (NDP)
- Senior Environment Canada officials eg. Bob Slater, 9. Assistant Deputy Minister.
- 10. IJC Officials.

Toronto

At the Provincial Level

- 1. Premier David Peterson (Liberal)
- Environment Minister Jim Bradley (L) *2.
- Leader of the Official Opposition Larry Grossman *3. (Progressive Conservative)
- Leader of the Third Party Bob Rae (New Democratic Party) 4.
- Environment Critic Susan Fish (PC) *5.
- Environment Critic Ruth Grier (NDP) *6.
- Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Vince Kerrio (L) *7.
- Members of the Ontario Legislature whose ridings border the 8. Great Lakes (see attached list)

- 9. Members of Select Committee on the Environment (not yet functional) eg. Jean Poirier (L)
- 10. Senior Ministry of the Environment Officials eg. Jim Bishop, Director of Water Resources Branch.

NOTE: The U.S. Embassy is right across the street from the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa so you might want to set up a meeting with Embassy officials. There is also a U.S. Consulate in Toronto right down the street from Queen's Park if that were desirable.

Given the limited amount of time that you will have, we think you have to make decisions about who to target. Because of the political system here, lobbying Cabinet Ministers and key members of the Opposition parties is the most effective way to lobby. however, we might look at a list of all the federal and provincial members of Parliament whose ridings are on the Great Lakes and who are also Cabinet Ministers or important critics and try to meet with them too.

Biographies of members can be obtained before lobbying is done. A similar list of federal Members of Parliament around the Great Lakes could also be supplied if you need it.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Miller, Board of Great Lakes UnitedFROM: Ann Wordsworth, Toby VigodRE: Proposed Great Lakes Lobby Week

PROPOSED GREAT LAKES LOBBY WEEK: to bring 15 to 30 volunteer and/or regional and local staff lobbyists from Great Lakes states and provinces to Ottawa and Toronto for a week to lobby the federal and provincial governments and legislatures on Great Lakes issues. Possible activities might include a press conference inviting national media from both Toronto and Ottawa, meetings with high level government officials, a meeting with staffs of major environmental groups, a meeting with representatives of the American embassy -- the possibilities are endless.

BACKGROUND: Federal and Provincial governments deal with legislation that affects the Great Lakes every session and yet very few individuals lobby on behalf of the Great Lakes. While numerous organizations are involved with legislation that affects the Great Lakes on issues such as the federal toxics legislation and upcoming provincial air and water regulations no one is out there specifically looking out for the environmental needs of the Great Lakes. As a result, members of the Ontario Legislature and federal Parliament know little about legislation and its relationship to the Great Lakes. When they do hear from Great Lakes constituents, it is often at a point when the issue has reached a crisis stage, and bringing staff and members up to speed is a difficult and sometimes futile task.

A Great Lakes Lobby Week would serve many purposes. It would:

- focus the Great Lakes Environmental Agenda at the federal and provincial level;
- (2) demonstrate constituent support for Great Lakes issues;
- (3) educate Parliament and the Ontario Legislature on current Great Lakes issues;
- (4) develop lobbying skills and contacts for constituency group representatives;

In order to conserve energy and resources, this paper contains post-consumer fibre.

- (5) provide national media opportunities for publicizing Great Lakes issues; and
- (6) prompt action on legislation.

TIMING: A full week of activity is probably desireable, sometime during the 1986 calendar year. Proposed dates are:

(perhaps mid October, 1987)

Lobbying would only work while the federal and provincial legislatures are in sessions. The federal House sits for most of the year, but the provincial Legislature has a recess from approximately June to September. The week shosen for lobbying should be after mid-October.

FUNDING: We have no brilliant ideas for funding such a project. Foundation money would be difficult to get for anything loosely associated with lobbying. Any suggestions are welcome. In the meantime we would encourage individuals and organizations to fund their own participants.

LOGISTICS: For organizational purposes, it would be desireable to have all participants housed in the same hotel. (This guarantees a much high percentage turnout at briefings, saves local transportation problems, and provides a central location for meetings. There are inexpensive hotels in downtown Ottawa and Toronto. You have Toronto hotels evaluated since other GLU meetings have been held here. A contact in Ottawa from the environmental groups could help you there. The Lord Elgin might be a possibility; or billeting could be arranged. Organizers of the Fate of the Earth conference in Ottawa such as Andrea Howard (Pollution Probe) may have some ideas.

We would suggest two days in Ottawa: one day for travelling back to Toronto, followed by two days in Toronto.

Depending on the size of the group, several (at least four) group leaders will be needed. These individuals would be responsible for running the briefing sessions, scheduling group meetings, de-briefing participants, and basically running the show.

THE MESSAGE: I think that for our first round on the Hill, we need to keep our lobbying message relatively simple. We need to look at pieces of legislation and develop a few key points on each one for lobbyists to make during their visits. We anticipate that we would print up a lobbying packet to leave with visited offices which states our positions on those key points. Individuals would be free to pursue their own individual issues, but the basic message should be delivered across the board if we are going to have any impact.

Please let us know your reactions and suggestions.

The Members in capitals we Cabinet Ministers & should be considered

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

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