



GREAT LAKES UNITED

CANADA/UNITED STATES

GREAT LAKES WEEKS

A PROPOSAL

Submitted by Great Lakes United (Canada)
to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment

December 17, 1986.





GREAT LAKES UNITED

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Dr. George Arras
Policy and Planning Branch
Ministry of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

Dear Dr. Arras:

RE: Great Lakes United Application for Project Funding

Enclosed please find an application and background materials from Great Lakes United (Canada) for a project to carry out a Great Lakes Week in Canada and for Canadian participation in a U.S. Great Lakes Week. The Canadian Directors of Great Lakes United (GLU) are grateful for this opportunity to become more active in Canada.

We feel this project is designed to focus the attention of citizens groups, politicians and government agencies on the unique environment of the Great Lakes and on the water quality and quantity concerns that threaten them. We hope that it will help build a Great Lakes constituency and a better understanding of the opportunities available in the Canadian and U.S. governmental systems for citizen involvement in Great Lakes protection.

Should you have any further questions please contact either myself or John Jackson.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Miller

Sarah Miller
Lake Ontario Regional Director
Great Lakes United
243 Queen Street West
4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 1Z4

John Jackson
Vice-President
Great Lakes United
25 Glen Road
Kitchener, Ontario
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Great Lakes United

Canadians were active in the founding of Great Lakes United in 1982, and Canadian membership has since grown to over 25 groups and many individual members. Board members meet six times yearly in various locations throughout the Great Lakes. Every other year the organization holds its annual general meeting in Canada. Annual general meetings have been held in Windsor, Toronto, and this year will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario. At these meetings, the Canadian and U.S. membership form issue-oriented taskforces to develop resolutions which form the basis for GLU's work in the next year.

Last year GLU held citizen hearings in 19 areas of concern throughout the Great Lakes Basin on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Ontario hearings were held in Windsor, Sarnia, Sault St. Marie, Kingston, Cornwall and Toronto.

Great Lakes United has also been actively involved in the Niagara and St. Clair River concerns and has opposed the proposed Detroit incinerator because of its projected impacts on Canadians. GLU directors have held several press conferences in Canada and were instrumental in drawing attention to the adverse impacts of a winter navigation proposal on the Great Lakes ecosystem.

The decision was made to locate Great Lakes United's offices in Buffalo to ensure its accessibility to Canadians. As a result, Canadians, as the closest Board members, have been involved in all of the organization's activities.

Great Lakes United (Canada) is federally incorporated and is currently awaiting a reply to its application for charitable status.

We have enclosed a package of background materials with general information on GLU, a membership list, a summary of our resolutions and activities, a copy of our newsletter, and our by-laws.

Should you have any further questions regarding this application, please contact either:

Sarah Miller
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Lake Ontario Regional Director
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OR

C. Project Administration

Project Coordinator - 4 month contract	9,000.00
Support Staff - typist	3,000 00
Office Rental	1,500.00
Office supplies	900.00
Equipment Rental	500.00
Telephone	2000.00
Postage and delivery	750.00
General photocopying and printing of "The Great Lakes: A Canadian Agenda"	2,500.00
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Sub-Total	<u>20,150.00*</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$47,394.90</u>

* As our international office in Buffalo will be involved in the organization of this project's U.S. aspects we have allocated 20 per cent of this budget's administrative costs (\$4,030.00 Cdn.) for that office work.

Budget For Canadian U.S. Great Lakes WeeksA. Ottawa-Toronto Great Lakes Week, Spring 1987

based on thirty five participants U.S. and Canadian, five days and nights

Accommodation - hotel 5 nights (\$70./night)	
3 nights Toronto - 27 people	\$ 5,670.00
2 nights Ottawa - 35 people	4,900.00
Meal Allowance (\$25./day)	4,375.00
Local Travel (\$5./day)	875.00
Travel Toronto-Ottawa return train fare (discounted group rate \$62.00)	2,170.00
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Sub-total	17,990.00

B. Washington Great Lakes Week, March 2 - 6, 1987

based on ten Canadian participants, five days and nights

Accommodation - hotels (\$63.45 (Cdn.)/day)	3,172.50
Meal Allowance (\$35.45 (Cdn.)/day)	1,772.50
Local travel (\$7.05 (Cdn.)/day)	352.50
Airfare Toronto - Washington return (economy rate \$395.74)	3,957.40
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Sub-Total	9,254.90

Planning of the 1987 Washington visit is underway. Tentative plans include a Congressional Hearing on the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Several Canadians are scheduled to testify.

C. Project Administration

Since Canadian Board participation in Great Lakes United is strictly voluntary and all staff work out of the international office in Buffalo, it will be necessary to hire a project co-ordinator on a short-term contract. We anticipate it will take four months to organize and carry out the Canadian Great Lakes Week.

The duties of this project co-ordinator would be:

- to make all logistical arrangements for the scheduling of appointments for Toronto and Ottawa,
- to arrange for the accommodation and travel of participants,
- to organize two press conferences,
- to coordinate the design, writing and printing of "The Great Lakes: A Canadian Agenda" (Because this booklet would address both federal and provincial issues, we estimate that it will be about 20 pages.),
- to publicize Great Lakes Week and contact potential participants,
- to write a final project report,
- to administer and organize temporary office location in Ontario for the project duration,
- to supervise the support staff.

The Steering Committee will supervise the project coordinator and work with the coordinator to develop the issues agenda. Our permanent staff in Buffalo will also assist in the U.S. aspects of co-ordination.

Issues

Some of the issues which we anticipate might be addressed, and agencies that might be visited, are detailed below. Issues which may be discussed with federal officials are: the development of a federal water policy, funding for Great Lakes research and for municipal infra-structures, the role of the International Joint Commission (IJC), the review of the 1978 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the new revisions to the Environmental Protection Act, the threat of water diversion and sales, a Safe Drinking Water Act, airbourne toxics and public involvement in the development of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs).

Activities being considered for Ottawa are: a press conference; and meetings with the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of the Environment Mr. McMillan and senior members of his staff, opposition parties, the two environment critics, members of Parliament representing Great Lakes ridings, Health and Welfare Canada, IJC Ottawa staff, the Department of External Affairs, and the American Embassy.

The provincial agenda for the week will address the issues of the development of Remedial Action Plans (RAPs), a "Superfund", implementation of the Great Lakes Charter, the Great Lakes Toxics Agreement, additions to Air Regulation 308, recent MISA legislation, and pollution of the Niagara and the St. Clair Rivers.

Activities being considered for the Toronto agenda are: a press conference; meetings with Ontario environmental groups, the Ontario cabinet, Minister of the Environment Mr. Bradley and the members of his staff responsible for RAP coordination and other legislative and clean-up initiatives, Minister of Natural Resources Mr. Vince Kerrio and his staff involved with Charter implementation, opposition environment critics, members of the provincial parliament who represent Great Lakes ridings, the Canada-Ontario Agreement Review Board, Environment Canada's Great Lakes Programme, and members of the Select Committee on the Environment.

B. Washington Great Lakes Lobby Week, March 2 - 6, 1987

Rationale

In 1985, Environment Canada funded Canadian participation in GLU's first Great Lakes Week. This year we are asking that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment fund up to ten Canadians to participate in this project. We feel this is appropriate because of the scope of Ontario's jurisdiction bounding on four of the five Great Lakes.

Background

From September 30 to October 4, 1985, eighteen citizens from around the Great Lakes Basin spent a week in Washington, D.C. discussing Great Lakes issues with U.S. decision-makers. Three Canadians attended this week-long event, which was organized by Great Lakes United and the Sierra Club.

The issues focussed upon included: federal budgetary support for Great Lakes programmes, the Superfund, amendments to the Clean Water Act, airborne toxic fallout, water quantity, and navigational concerns and coastal zone management. A Great Lakes Congressional Agenda (attached) detailing these issues was widely distributed during the week. As well, participants testified at a Congressional Oversight Hearing, met with State Department lobbyists, briefed Capitol Hill staff, held a press conference and attended a reception sponsored by the United Auto Workers. A reception was also held at the Canadian Embassy, where participants and embassy staff discussed differences in Canadian and U.S. governmental systems, and opportunities offered by each for citizen involvement in Great Lakes decisions.

The week helped raise the profile of Great Lakes issues in decision-making circles in Washington, D.C. A unique aspect of that week was the perspective brought by the three Canadian participants to the Washington discussion. For instance, few politicians and government staff realized there were Canadians concerned about the impacts of the leaching New York State dump sites on Canadian drinking water supplies.

In the past several years Great Lakes jurisdictions have advocated an ecosystem approach to Great Lakes management. Citizen groups too are involved in transboundary resolutions of Great Lakes problems. One impediment to effective Canadian and U.S. citizen involvement has been the lack of understanding of each other's political and governmental systems. For this reason, Great Lakes United has planned two Great Lakes Weeks for 1987, a return visit to Washington and a Canadian week to be held in Ottawa and Toronto.

This proposal is for funds to ensure Canadian representation in the Washington week being organized again this year by Great Lakes United staff and the Sierra Club. As well, we are requesting funds to plan an Ottawa-Toronto Great Lakes Week.

Project Description

A. Toronto-Ottawa Great Lakes Week, Spring 1987

Rationale

The Canadian federal and provincial governments deal with legislation that affects the Great Lakes every session and yet

have little contact with advocates of Great Lakes protection. Members of the Ontario legislature and federal Parliament know little about the effects of their legislation on the Great Lakes. When they do hear from Great Lakes constituents, it is often at the point when an issue has reached a crisis stage; when bringing staff and members up to speed is a difficult task.

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

- focus the Great Lakes environmental agenda at the federal and provincial level,
- demonstrate basin-wide constituent support for Great Lakes issues,
- educate Parliament and the Ontario legislature about current Great Lakes issues,
- lead to a better understanding of the federal and provincial government systems for participants,
- provide national media opportunities for publicizing issues unique to the Great Lakes,
- prompt action on legislation.

Logistics

A Steering Committee made up of Canadian volunteer Board members of Great Lakes United (GLU) and GLU staff will oversee the organization of Canadian Great Lakes Week. These committee members will assume leadership responsibility for briefing other participants on Canadian issues during the week. As GLU has no Canadian staff, it will need to hire a Canadian project co-ordinator to plan the Canadian week. Some assistance can come from our Buffalo office to organize the U.S. components of this week.

While planning for the week is still evolving, it is hoped that it will last five days. Allowing one day for travel and preparatory meetings, two days would be spent in Ottawa and two days in Toronto. The timing of the week will be subject to the sittings of both governments and would occur during the spring of 1987.

We expect a group of no more than 35 Canadian and U.S. individuals will participate. Participants will be housed in the same hotels for convenience.

A booklet "The Great Lakes: A Canadian Agenda" will be developed by the Committee and staff to ensure that our concerns are documented. This will be widely distributed to legislators, citizen groups and government agencies, and will form the basis of the Ottawa-Toronto week.