

July 14, 2005

PROVINCE PROVIDING MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMENT ON
GREAT LAKES AGREEMENTS
Holding Three More Meetings; Accepting Comments By Mail Or E-
mail Until August 29

TORONTO - The Ontario government is providing further opportunities for Ontarians to comment on the strengthened draft Great Lakes Charter Annex agreements by holding three additional public information meetings, Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay announced today.

"Ontarians said they wanted greater protection for the Great Lakes and that's what the Ontario government negotiated," said Ramsay. "The additional meetings will provide even more opportunity for public input on these strengthened agreements."

Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lakes states - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin - released the revised draft agreements on June 30 for a 60-day period of public comment. The agreements would implement the 2001 Great Lakes Charter Annex, in which the 10 jurisdictions committed to protect and manage Great Lakes Basin waters through agreements that set an environmental standard for decisions about proposed water uses across the basin.

The revised draft agreements are stronger than those previously released for comment and would provide a virtual ban on diversions of water from the basin with very limited exceptions that would be strictly regulated.

Three additional meetings will be held in:

Niagara Falls - July 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel

Sarnia - August 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Best Western Guildwood Inn

Windsor - August 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cleary International Centre.

The province has already held public information meetings in Windsor, St. Catharines, London, Kitchener, Kingston, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie and will hold a meeting in Toronto tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Metro Hall Council Chambers at 55 John Street.

The revised agreements can be viewed at www.ene.gov.on.ca/samples/search/Ebrquery_REG.htm by entering EBR Registry Number PB04E6018.