



January 31, 2016

To whom it may concern,

Re: Groundwater Science Relevant to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: A Status Report

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the draft report entitled '*Groundwater Science Relevant to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement: A Status Report*' prepared by the Annex 8 subcommittee.

Conservation Ontario is submitting coordinated comments for this report based on the feedback we received from 3 Conservation Authorities and Conservation Ontario's own review of the report. Overall we feel that this report is well written and does a good job of outlining the current groundwater knowledge and the current science gaps in the Great Lakes Region.

Further to our review we have two minor comments with regards to the Report:

1. On page 1 in the first paragraph, 4th line, it states "...that the amount of fresh groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin is approximately equal to the amount of water in Lake Huron...". However, on page 6 in the first paragraph on lines 11/12 it states "...the total volume of groundwater stored in the aquifers on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes Basin is 984 cubic miles (4100 cubic kilometers), equivalent to the volume of surface water stored in Lake Huron..." The inconsistency lies in whether the comparison is to the whole of the Great Lakes Basin or just to the U.S. side of the Great Lakes Basin.
2. The report considers the Great Lakes only as a receiving body for groundwater however, in some circumstances the Great Lakes may also be the source for some groundwater affecting the water quality in some aquifers. We recognize however that this may be out of scope for the purposes of this report.

Overall we are very supportive of the report in its support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. We would also like to commend the Annex 8 subcommittee in its development. Should you have any further questions with regards to our comments please contact me at your earliest convenience (mmillar@conservationontario.ca, 905-895-0716 ext 234).

Regards,

Matthew Millar
Special Projects Coordinator
Conservation Ontario