

## **ENSURING SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR ONTARIANS**

WHEREAS, harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie threaten one of Ontario's most important natural and economic resources by negatively impacting the use of water for drinking, fishing, boating, and swimming; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 Lake Erie experienced the largest harmful algal bloom in its history; and

WHEREAS, toxins from algal blooms can damage the kidneys and liver, and can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, paralysis, and potentially death; and

WHEREAS, communities that depend on Lake Erie as a source for their drinking water have made significant investments to ensure it is free from dangerous levels of algal toxins and nuisance algae; and

WHEREAS, toxins from algal blooms threaten the health of anglers, boaters, and swimmers exposed to contaminated water; and

WHEREAS, algal blooms limit the enjoyment of Lake Erie beaches and other recreational activities on and in the water; and

WHEREAS, local tourism, commercial and residential property values may be negatively impacted if algal blooms continue to increase in intensity and frequency; and

WHEREAS, algal blooms may negatively impact Lake Erie's commercial and recreational fishing industry.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ontario and federal governments be requested to be leaders in the development and implementation of action plans that will protect drinking water and effectively address algal blooms and protect and restore the health of Lake Erie.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the:

- Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change; and
- Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs; and
- Ontario Minister of Natural Resources; and
- federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change; and
- federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; and
- the local Member of Provincial Parliament and Member of Parliament.