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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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Delivered by E-mail to the International Joint Commission

Deviation from Plan 2104 for Lake Ontario

We would like to acknowledge and extend our sincere gratitude to the International Joint Commission (IJC) for your concerted efforts to mitigate the potential flooding of the Upper St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, as noted in the press release dated December 11, 2020.

We applaud the efforts of the IJC in deviating from Plan 2014 along with the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSRLB) in using your discretion to manage the outflows from January 1 through the end of February, 2021, and would encourage further deviation from Plan 2014 at that time where the conditions permit, in order to continue the creation of a pre-emptive precautionary buffer in the event that significant precipitation and snow runoff occur in the coming spring.

While we recognize that regulatory decisions cannot prevent flooding, they can mitigate it. Your efforts in deviating from Plan 2014 will greatly contribute to the prevention of a flood in Lake Ontario during the pandemic.

Clearly the mild winter thus far has prevented the significant formation of ice on the Great Lakes, and has presented an excellent opportunity to reduce the high water levels throughout the system. We have noted a steady decline in Lake Ontario to a level just above the seasonal long-term average.

We very much welcome your recognition and confirmation of the continued threats posed by the high water levels in the basin that feeds into the St Lawrence River and the risk that this presents for another high-water event in 2021.

We encourage your continued diligence in seeking every potential opportunity to continue the deviation strategy and “take advantage of opportunities that may arise through the winter.”

As noted in our previous correspondence, this strategy will facilitate the creation of a significant pre-emptive precautionary buffer against factors that may raise the level of Lake Ontario in the spring. We fully agree with your comments that “There remains considerable uncertainty in the weather and water supply conditions between now and next spring,” and for this reason we continue to encourage the deviation strategy to create as much of a pre-emptive precautionary buffer as possible, while balancing and respecting the rights and concerns of other interested parties.

We continue to advocate for the creation of a pre-emptive precautionary buffer every winter while levels remain high on the Upper Lakes, to protect against unforeseen weather events. We encourage the Board to establish long term strict early warning indicators that would trigger deviation from Plan 2014, and to employ early intervention strategies to remediate the potential flooding of Lake Ontario.

We hope you will give special attention to balancing excess water between Lake Ontario and Lac St Louis should a strong Ottawa freshet result in Lake Ontario flooding.

Thank you very much once again for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Johnson
Co-chair of YQNA



Angelo Bertolas
Co-chair of YQNA



Tony Farebrother
Chair, TICA