

November 2016

Dear International Joint Commission,

Re: Feedback on Preliminary Recommendations on issue of microplastics in the Great Lakes

On behalf of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, we'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the topic of microplastics within the Great Lakes basin. Our cleanup program is an important and vital precursor to pollution prevention and promotes understanding and awareness of shoreline litter issues by engaging Canadians to rehabilitate shoreline areas through cleanups.

In addition to the recommendations you have outlined, **we would like to ensure that significant citizen-focused cleanup programs, including our Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup and Adopt-a-Beach (hosted by the Alliance for the Great Lakes), are listed within the Outreach and Education section.**

Volunteers from these cleanups represent a longstanding and established citizen network that contribute to an important dataset on the type and amount of litter found along shorelines. In our more than 20 year history of supporting volunteer cleanups in Canada, results have shown a predominance of single-use plastics and during our 2015 cleanup more than 15,000 kg of shoreline debris was collected along the Great Lakes basin. This represents a significant opportunity for microplastic prevention.

Not only do cleanup programs such as our **Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup** and **Adopt-A-Beach** provide complementary litter datasets along both sides of the Great Lakes basin, they also feature similar models for citizen engagement. The collective impact of our cleanup efforts work towards plastic reduction by starting the conversation of waste prevention and reduction solutions, and promoting educational programming to guide new behaviours and attitudes towards waste.

We'd like to thank you again for your consideration of citizen engagement as effective outreach, and the recognition that addressing the cause and impacts of microplastics will require a multi-sector and binational approach. We look forward to continuing this discussion towards plastic-free shorelines and waterways.

Sincerely,



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