

# NIAGARA RIVER Area of Concern Status Assessment

The International Joint Commission (Commission) was established by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty (the Treaty). The treaty recognizes that each country is affected by the other's actions in the lake and river systems along their common border, and provides that "boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health and property on the other". The primary purpose of the Treaty is to prevent and resolve disputes concerning these shared waters. In 1972, the governments of the United States and Canada signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Agreement). In 1978, the two governments signed a new Agreement which included additional commitments to rid the Great Lakes of persistent toxic substances. Its purpose is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The Commission was given the responsibility to assess and evaluate the governments' programs and progress under the Agreement and assist in its implementation.

ISBN 1-894280-30-X



## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Remedial Action Plans and Areas of Concern For More Information	1
The Status Assessment Process	2
Current Status Assessment	2
<b>The Niagara River Area of Concern</b>	<b>3</b>
History of the Niagara River Area of Concern	3
Setting and Sources of Contamination	7
Human Health Considerations	4
<b>Findings</b>	<b>8</b>
Notable Successes	9
Challenges to Restoring Beneficial Uses and Commission Recommendations	11
Setting and Sources of Contamination	7
Human Health Considerations	4
<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Literature Cited</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Schedule of Consultations</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Table</b>	
1. Beneficial Use Impairments in the Niagara River Area of Concern	5
<b>Figure</b>	
1. PCB Loads Entering Lake Ontario via the Niagara River	8