June 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan, M.P.
FROM Roderick McQueen

Attached is a draft news release that will be distributed along with copies of your Great Lakes study. Will you please give it your approval or otherwise and let me know?

We intend to mail the news release and the report to about 100 newspapers, radio and television stations (virtually all those with offices within 20 miles of the Lakes), make them available to the Press Gallery, special interest groups, trade publications and Mayors etc. of Great Lake-side communities.

Cheers.

[RmQ]
Draft News Release
Rod McQueen

There must be an upgrading of the 1972 Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality agreement, concludes Sean O'Sullivan in a report on the Great Lakes.

In addition to strict adherence to the agreement, says the Hamilton-Wentworth MP, it "should be upgraded to become a treaty with the United States, so that after all the effort which has already been put into trying to clean up the Great Lakes we end the provision which provides for cancellation by either party giving twelve months (notice) to do so."

This is the major recommendation in a 61-page report submitted to the Hon. Robert Stanfield, one of several studies assigned to various caucus members.

O'Sullivan criticizes the 1972 agreement because it was not binding on the U.S., and, therefore, the U.S. did not have to carry out any of the programs designed to meet water quality objectives. He sees the twelve-month termination clause as "a great weakness ... because if either of the signing nations did not live up to their promises to take part in the clean-up ... they could simply opt out" after the initial five-year period.

He sees the Great Lakes as an "international resource" and says we must accept the joint responsibility "that the water resources of the Lakes are safeguarded from irreversible environmental and ecological damage."

In general, he says, the water quality of the Great Lakes has not improved since 1970 -- that's the bad news. The good news is that it's no worse.

In addition to tracing the historical background, international agreements, industrial uses and navigation on the Great Lakes, other highlights from O'Sullivan's report include the following:

--- Agriculture: "Although federal funds are often forthcoming for large-scale enterprises, the individual entrepreneur, such as a farmer, who is gambling on making a success of his land, is seldom helped. This type of man and woman, independent, self-sufficient and providing the greatest essential of life is now needed more than ever. Especially in the fertile, highly productive Great Lakes basin."
-- Tourism: "Every available use should be made by the federal government of land along the shoreline of the Great Lakes, not only to prevent further pollution ... but also to provide recreation ... the federal government should accept its responsibility and work with the Government of Ontario to ensure (the) provision and preservation" of recreation facilities.

-- Emergency assistance: "The federal government should accept a policy to provide funds to compensate owners for their losses sustained during emergencies affecting properties which cannot be covered by insurance."

-- Pollution: Canadian municipal phosphorous control "would be more effective if the United States put heavier restrictions on phosphorous content in detergents, and (would) re-commit the federal funds allocated to the states and then impounded.

-- Power projects: "Ontario Hydro's projected expansion plans should be the subject of careful scrutiny by the federal government, working in conjunction with experts of the Ontario Government."

O'Sullivan's study will now receive further consideration by the relevant caucus committees.