



## Great Lakes Ecoregion Network to release seminal report, *The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement at Fifty*, and Summary of Public Webinars, *Voices Around the Basin*, at Gathering on Tuesday, September 27

2022 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) between the United States and Canada. Late in 2021, individuals and organizations throughout the Great Lakes region, who have helped shape the Agreement and its implementation over the last five decades, came together to form a new network—the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network (GLEN)—to celebrate 50 years of GLWQA achievements, critique its limitations, and consider actions needed in the next 50 years to safeguard this global treasure.

**GLEN will present the findings from its seminal report, *The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement at Fifty*, as well as citizen’s voices and messages from its six public webinars about the state of the region’s lakes and rivers on Tuesday, September 27 from 6:30-8 p.m. ET in the Elizabeth Room at the Crowne Plaza Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario.** The event is being held to correspond with the [2022 Great Lakes Public Forum](#), a meeting held every three years by the Governments of Canada and the United States to report on their progress under the GLWQA.

While the two countries can celebrate several accomplishments because of their commitments in the four iterations of the GLWQA, its essential goals are unfulfilled. The Parties have failed to embrace preventive and precautionary approaches and many other GLWQA principles as primary guidance for their strategies and actions. They have also failed to take bold and responsive action at critical moments.

GLEN’s report outlines these accomplishments and failures as well as the challenges ahead that need cross-border cooperation, what a stronger management regime might look like, and what the next Agreement needs to ensure that the Great Lakes are truly restored and protected. **“In an era where democratic institutions are fragile,” the report states, “we cannot take the Agreement for granted.”**

Citizens around the basin provided their own assessments of GLWQA progress in GLEN’s six online webinars, including concerns and recommendations for the Niagara River, which will be summarized at the meeting as well.

Join GLEN at this important event on Tuesday, September 27 in person or via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88384121866?pwd=bTIYTkZpd3Bvd1lxvVBHd01aSlVldz09> (Meeting ID: 883 8412 1866, Passcode: 725202). For more information, go to <https://greatlakesecoregionnetwork.weebly.com> or contact John Jackson, [GLWQA50@gmail.com](mailto:GLWQA50@gmail.com). (519) 744-7503. Mobile: (519) 591-7503.