

**Gatineau Declaration
Towards an Integrated Approach to Sustainable Water Management
within the Ottawa River Watershed**

The undersigned participants of the Ottawa River Summit, Representing various sectors of society, including municipal governments, First Nations, businesses, provincial and federal agencies and not-for-profit organizations among others,

Having met in Gatineau, Quebec, on May 29, 2015,

Acknowledging that:

The Ottawa River watershed drains an area of 146,300 square kilometres, is the largest tributary of the St. Lawrence River, and has 17 major tributaries of its own,

Further acknowledging that for much of its length the Ottawa River forms a shared boundary for Quebec and Ontario and that the federal government as well as the provincial governments of Quebec and Ontario and many municipalities within the watershed have unique roles and responsibilities to protect ecosystem health within Ottawa River Watershed,

Further acknowledging that First Nations and Métis peoples have an important longstanding relationship with the Ottawa River Watershed,

Recognizing that water is an essential element that sustains and connects all life, has been instrumental in our past development and it is equally the key to our future prosperity,

Further recognizing that within our watershed we have unique and valued biodiversity as well as recreation, tourism and economic development opportunities that require us to manage our freshwater ecosystems effectively,

Further recognizing that the implementation of an integrated approach to watershed management is essential for setting priorities and taking actions to restore and protect the health of the Ottawa River Watershed,

Further recognizing that government, business and civil society all have a stewardship role to play in solving our water challenges and that raising the level of awareness and understanding of water protection issues is essential,

With the goal of developing collaborative, adaptive, and fair solutions to achieve improved water quality and ecosystem health that recognize environmental, social, and economic values,

Adopt the Gatineau Declaration on an Integrated Approach to Sustainable Water Management within the Ottawa River Watershed, which is annexed to this present resolution.





PRESENTED BY



Fondation
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Signatures here



Annex - The Action Agenda

Gatineau Declaration Towards an Integrated Approach to Sustainable Water Management within the Ottawa River Watershed

We, stakeholders with a common interest in the health of the Ottawa River Watershed, assembled at the Ottawa River Summit in Gatineau, Quebec on May 29, 2015, affirm our commitment to work collectively for a healthy and sustainable future for the Ottawa River Watershed.

We acknowledge a shared responsibility to preserve the biodiversity, the quality of our water and the well-being of communities within the Ottawa River Watershed.

We propose to work with all relevant levels of government, business and industry, as well as civil society to:

1. Acknowledge and celebrate the cultural, heritage, and natural values within the Ottawa River Watershed;
2. Create new forums, or adapt existing ones, for integrating and sharing information, research and knowledge about the health of the Ottawa River Watershed, the challenges we face, and potential solutions or best management practices relevant to protecting freshwater ecosystems;
3. Agree on a set of indicators (such as water quality, biodiversity, shoreline integrity, etc.) to monitor and report on river health; and
4. Recognise people, businesses, organizations, and communities who are leading change in our watershed or are implementing projects that foster innovation and promote sustainable river management.

We aim to monitor, review, assess and publicly report on an annual basis on our progress towards the achievement of our action agenda.

We are in agreement that this must be an inclusive process, and will work to involve all governments, organizations and key stakeholders from around the Ottawa River Watershed.