



Great Lakes Fishery Commission La Commission des Pêcheries des Grands Lacs

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THE GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION WELCOMES LONG-AWAITED CANADIAN COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

The Government of Canada appoints Dr. Robert Hecky and Mr. Earl Provost to the Commission's Canadian Section, filling two vacancies

ANN ARBOR, MI – The Government of Canada has appointed Dr. Robert Hecky of Kitchener, Ontario, and Mr. Earl Provost of Toronto, Ontario, to serve as members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a bi-national, convention-based organization created to protect the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery. As Commissioners, Dr. Hecky and Mr. Provost will work with their American and Canadian counterparts to set the Commission's agenda, decide on priorities, to craft and approve budgets, and take other measures necessary to safeguard the fishery, perpetuate freshwater scientific research, and to help ensure productive cross-border relationships.

Established in 1954 by the *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries*, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has three primary duties: to support fisheries research; control the invasive sea lamprey in the Great Lakes; and facilitate fishery management among provincial, state, U.S. tribal, and federal agencies, which it does through implementation of the consensus-based agreement, *A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*. The Commission consists of four Canadian commissioners appointed by the Privy Council, and four U.S. commissioners (plus one alternate) appointed by the President. Commissioners are supported by a secretariat, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

“Commissioners are members of a select group of dedicated individuals in the basin,” said Robert Lambe, the Commission's Executive Secretary. “Service on this essential and dynamic, binational Commission requires the ability to translate science to decision-making, and an unwavering commitment to genuine partnerships with



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leaders, lawmakers, and officials representing a wide community of Great Lakes stakeholders.”

Commissioner Hecky was first appointed as a commissioner in July 2004. Though his appointment expired in 2020, Dr. Hecky continued to provide valuable advice to the Commission. Dr. Hecky is also the McKnight Endowed Presidential Professor in Lake Ecology at the University of Minnesota’s Large Lakes Observatory. His research interests address impacts of exotic species on near-shore processes and on food-web structuring and productivity, and he has had graduate students working on lakes Erie, Ontario, Huron, and Superior as well as on the African Great Lakes. Dr. Hecky is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and serves as the lead editor for the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

Commissioner Provost has been an active leader in Canadian politics for decades. In 2019, he was appointed as the Ontario Agent-General in Chicago by the Premier of Ontario. In this role, Mr. Provost represents the Province of Ontario’s political and economic interests in the Great Lakes basin and the Midwest United States. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Provost held several roles including, Senior Policy Advisor, intergovernmental affairs in the Office of the Premier of Ontario, Executive Director of the Ontario Liberal Party, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Toronto, and a senior organizer and advisor during the leadership campaign and government of Canada’s 21st Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin.

“Qualified and engaged commissioners are necessary for the Commission to maintain effectiveness, transparency and accountability in our programming. I am confident Dr. Hecky and Mr. Provost more than fulfill these requirements, and I welcome them to the Commission, said James McKane, Canadian commissioner and current Commission Chair. “I look forward to adding their skills to the commission table as we work to protect and preserve the Great Lakes,” McKane concluded.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is an international organization established by the United States and Canada through the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries. The commission has the responsibility to promote measures that protect and improve the multi-billion-dollar Great Lakes fishery. Visit online at www.glfc.org

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