

Transboundary governance capacity in the Arctic

**Lessons from the
Laurentian
Great Lakes?**

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Great Lakes Policy Research Network

A satellite-style map of the Great Lakes region in North America, showing the five large lakes (Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario) and the surrounding landmasses. The water is dark blue, and the land is green with some brown patches. The map is slightly tilted and has a soft, glowing effect around the edges.

<http://www.greatlakespolicyresearch.org/>

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The Laurentian Great Lakes

21 percent of the
world's fresh
water

3rd largest economy
in the world

70 percent of CA, 30
percent of US population



The Laurentian Great Lakes

2 countries

8 states

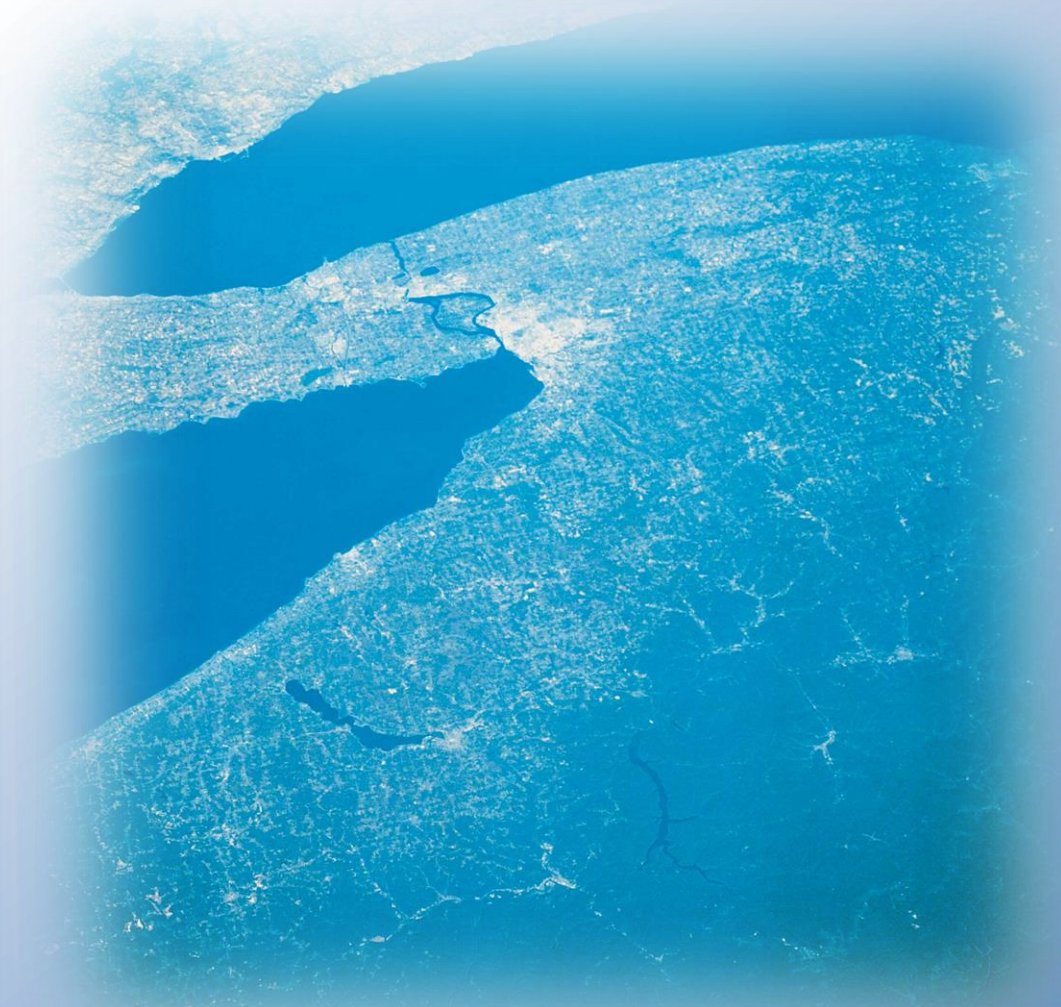
1 province

140+ cities

70+ First Nations



Binational Buffalo Niagara



**Binational
Buffalo
Niagara**

**Niagara
Falls**



Binational Buffalo Niagara

Birth of the Environment: Justice Movement



Drivers

land use

food & energy

climate change

invasives

contaminants

demographic change



Governance

Ability to organize
and act across
boundaries – sectoral
and jurisdictional –
and scale to address
issues that
transcend these
boundaries



Transboundary Governance Capacity Framework

- Institutions
- Leadership
- Shared discourse
- Participation
- Resources



TGC Institutions

Degree of compliance
Functional intensity
Stability and resilience
Legitimacy



Transboundary Governance Arctic

System that is global, regional
& subnational, with national
institutions that have
transboundary implications



Transboundary Governance Arctic

Global

- UNCLOS
- World Trade Organization
- ILO Convention on Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- UNCFCC
- Stockholm Convention – POPs



Transboundary Governance Arctic

Regional

- Arctic Council
- Northern Forum
- Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Regime



Transboundary Governance Arctic

Domestic

- Co-Management Regimes



Transboundary Governance Arctic

NGOs

- Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Intl Arctic Science Council
- SAON



TGC Institutional Capacity

Compliance – Self-enforcing

Functional intensity – Information sharing, consultation, cooperation & collaboration

Stability & resilience – Reflects global historical interest

Legitimacy – High degree



TGC Capacity

Hyper-institutionalized, decentralized

High degree of stability & resilience
and legitimacy

Low degree of compliance &
functional intensity



TGC Capacity

What do we do?

- Network of distinct regime elements that operate simultaneously
- Paradox: the importance of process in complex transboundary systems



**“In our every
deliberation, we
must consider the
impact
of our decisions on the
next seven generations.”**

from the
Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy

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