



# **GREAT LAKES PLASTICS FORUM**

**SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



# An Ontario Approach to Plastics in the Great Lakes

- Strengths to Build on
- Learning from Others
- Challenges
- Key Questions





# Strengths to Build On

- Ontario's Economy
- Federal/Ontario Intersections
- Legislative Authority
- Research, Knowledge and Community Action



# Learn From Others

## ■ Regulatory Actions

- Microbeads, deposit-return, bans on bags and straws, plastic discharge plans and capture technology

## ■ Non-Regulatory Actions

- Plastic film recycling return programs at retailers, storm drain screens, booms, culvert screens, trash wheels and the Green Dot System

## ■ Product Innovation

- Product manufacturing requirements, labelling to differentiate recyclable and compostable items

# Challenges

- China and Vietnam halted recycling imports in 2018, impacting recycling globally. It is expected that more countries will adopt similar bans on recycling imports.
- Six out of eight Great Lakes states have laws prohibiting municipalities from regulating single-use plastic items.
- Types of plastics recycled differ from municipality to municipality.



# Key Questions

- Where does plastic pollution occur in the Great Lakes?
- Can we identify the sources and pathways?
- What impacts are plastics having?
- What tools do we have to achieve reductions?
- What are public expectations?
- How do we measure success?