ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE

For immediate release:

Media Advisory/Interview Opportunity: Kitchener municipal leaders asked to call on the province to pass the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act

Kitchener, ON -- The City of Kitchener council will consider a motion Monday evening which would call on the province to enact the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act.

Nancy Goucher, Water Program Manager at Environmental Defence, will speak to councillors about threats to the Great Lakes and how the Act would inspire more action to protect the drinking water for 80 per cent of Ontarians. The Act is currently being debated at the committee stage in the Ontario Legislature.

WHAT: City of Kitchener's proposed motion to support the province's proposed Great Lakes Protection Act

WHEN: Monday, February 10, 2014, 7pm

WHERE: Kitchener City Hall, Council Chamber, 2nd Floor

Nancy Goucher is available for interviews before and after the council meeting.

Twenty per cent of the world's available fresh water is under threat. Suffocating algae blooms are taking over large swaths of water, the number of beach closures is increasing, and massive fish kills are washing up on shorelines. The proposed Great Lakes Protection Act creates new opportunities for the community to get involved and take action. It would provide new tools to restore and protect the lakes. Targets and action plans would be created to better address the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes now and into the future.

About ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE (<u>www.environmentaldefence.ca</u>): Environmental Defence is Canada's most effective environmental action organization. We challenge, and inspire change in government, business and people to ensure a greener, healthier and prosperous life for all.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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