



**Cities Recognized for Sustainability, Conservation and Water Management**  
***New Leadership Elected and Key Resolutions Carried at Annual Meeting***

Thunder Bay, ON, June 20, 2014 – At their annual meeting and conference, mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognized cities for their excellence in sustainability, water conservation and municipal water management.

The city of Highland Park, IL was selected for the eighth annual Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award. The Wege Award goes to one small Cities Initiative member city for a sustainable and meaningful project that balances economic, social and environmental aspects within the community. The project must also be a best practice that can be adopted by other cities. Highland Park was selected for their Water Conservation & Efficiency Initiative, which has set in place certain regulations and tiered water rates, and includes public education on the environmental impacts of excessive water consumption.

The City of Kingston and the City of Grand Rapids were recognized for their efforts on water conservation, as part of the Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework. Kingston received the *Most Innovative Conservation Method* award for their utility management model and their commercial and multi-residential incentives. Grand Rapids received the *Most Progress on Water Conservation* award for their great strides in water conservation over the last few years. All together the participants of the Water Conservation Framework have succeeded in conserving more than 121 billion gallons of water.

Finally, the City of Montréal received the 2014 Green CiTTS Award. The award recognizes the city for its sustainable municipal water management public report, one of the first of its kind through the Green CiTTS Sustainable Municipal Water Management Framework.

The Cities Initiative membership thanked Mayor Keith Hobbs of Thunder Bay for his year of service as Chair of the organization. For 2014-2015, Mayor John Dickert of Racine was elected as Chair, Mayor Mitch Twolan of Huron-Kinloss as Vice-Chair, and Mayor Denis Coderre of Montréal as Secretary/Treasurer.

The membership carried seven resolutions addressing key issues on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. Resolutions addressed the phase-out of microplastics in personal care products that can pollute waterways and endanger marine and wildlife, endorsement of the physical

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*John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, Chair*

*Mitch Twolan, Mayor of Huron-Kinloss, Vice-Chair*

*Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal, Secretary-Treasurer*



separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins to keep Asian carp out of the lakes and an appeal for a regional consensus on a solution by December 2015, and a call for more oversight and safety around the transportation of oil and gas products throughout the region. To view materials from the 2014 Annual Member Meeting and Conference, including the award winners' submissions and the seven resolutions carried by the membership, please visit [www.glslcities.org/annual-meetings/2014.cfm](http://www.glslcities.org/annual-meetings/2014.cfm).

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a coalition of more than 110 Canadian and US mayors who work together to promote, protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

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