



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 01 – 2014M

MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change continue to advance in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region, with more frequent and more erratic weather events, a steadily increasing trend in temperature and rainfall, and other significant ecological impacts such as increased stress on native species, resulting in the proliferation of non-native, invasive species; and

WHEREAS, changing weather will affect a wide range of municipal operations, everything from wastewater and stormwater management, land use planning, road and bridge maintenance, building standards, parks and urban forestry, and public health services and emergency planning; and

WHEREAS, not only are municipalities incurring costs to respond to and clean up after storms, they are also facing legal repercussions for failing to adapt to climate change, as demonstrated by two class action lawsuits in member municipalities for damages incurred during extreme storms; and

WHEREAS, municipalities increasingly have a responsibility to adjust their ‘standard of care’ in light of the changing information on climate as relying on outdated standards or processes can be considered negligent if new information suggests that they should be reconsidered; and

WHEREAS, timely adaptation and building community resiliency can lessen the severity of climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has launched the Municipal Adaptation and Resiliency Service (MARS) for its member municipalities, to help them accelerate and expand their adaptation activities, consisting of a *Call to Action*, a one-stop shop for adaptation information, training webinars, recognition awards, and demonstration projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative requests that its members adopt a *Call to Action*, describing what adaptation efforts they will be undertaking over the next two years and submit it to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative to post publicly; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that federal, provincial and state governments commit financial and other resources to support municipal climate adaptation and resiliency, including

- a) vulnerability assessments;
- b) adaptation training and other information resources;
- c) infrastructure adaptation;
- d) support for green infrastructure and other innovative approaches to adaptation; and;
- e) climate projections downscaled to the local level.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith P. Hobbs'.

Keith Hobbs, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Thunder Bay