



MAKING WAVES

April 30th, 2015

Register for the 2015 Annual Meeting! Early Bird Deadline Extended to May 8th!

Conference registration is open, and the Early Bird discount has been extended to May 8th! Panel topics will include the Cities Initiative's Nutrient Action Collaborative, Shoreline Restoration and Economic Activity, and Risk Reduction in Oil Transportation. Cities Initiative pilot projects and student collaborative projects will also be featured. [Please click here to access the conference website and registration page.](#) The 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference will take place June 17-19 in Sarnia-Lambton County, ON. Register now to take advantage of our early-bird special, ending TODAY! We look forward to seeing many of you in June.

Welcome New Cities Initiative Staff Member Scott McKay

This week the Cities Initiative welcomes Scott McKay as the new Québec Program and Policy Manager, based in Montréal. Mr. McKay comes to the Cities Initiative with a deep knowledge of water issues and issues affecting the St. Lawrence River as well as a great understanding of municipal and provincial government. He started his career as a water treatment plant technician and then became involved in local politics along the St. Lawrence. Scott is also a former municipal councillor and member of provincial parliament. He currently lectures part-time at the University of Quebec in Montreal. We are thrilled to have Scott join the Cities Initiative team. He can be reached at scott.mckay@glslcities.org.

Mississauga Fourth Graders Take Action on Microbeads

Grade Four students from the Toronto French School in Mississauga developed a petition to ban microbeads in their municipality, and in mid-April, the students presented before the Mississauga City Council. Their presentation emphasized care for the Great Lakes, the dangers of microbeads, and it called on the municipal, provincial, and federal governments to "ban microbeads forever!" The Council passed a motion to send the petition on to the Region of Peel and the Prime Minister. [Click here to watch the class's presentation.](#)

NEB Will Open Public Comment on Pipeline Emergency Response Plans

The Canadian National Energy Board announced plans to increase transparency in the Emergency Response Plan submission process. Pipeline developers must submit emergency response plans when applying to construct new pipelines, and the NEB and pipeline companies have received negative attention in the past for the lack of transparency in public access to these plans. The Board has announced that the emergency response plans will now be open for public comment starting on June 25th, 2015. [Click here for more information on the public comment process.](#)

Quebec Increases Port Development for Cruise Ships

The President and CEO of the Quebec Port Authority, Mario Girard, announced the expansion and redesign of the Ross Gaudreault Cruise Terminal in order to accommodate the growing cruise ship



tourist industry. The project, entitled “Quebec, a destination of choice on the St. Lawrence,” will facilitate the growing international cruise ship industry; Quebec expects to host up to 400,000 cruise passengers per year by 2025, up from 180,000 in 2014. [Read more about the project here.](#)

Jordan River Partnership

On Friday, April 24th, Mayors from the Cities Initiative and from the Jordan River Valley convened at the University of Illinois, Chicago's "Water After Borders" Conference. Mayors John Dickert, Denis Lapointe, and Mitch Twolan spoke on a panel alongside Mayor Khalifah Aldayyat of Dier Allah, Jordan; Mayor Hassan Jirmi of Zubeidat, Palestine; and Mr. Ran Molho, on behalf of Mayor Yossi Vardi, of the Israeli Jordan Valley Regional Council. The mayors shared their challenges and experiences as elected officials in areas where clean, sustainable water resources are of vital importance to the citizens they represent. The mayors also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a “Sister Waters” partnership between the Cities Initiative and EcoPeace Middle East, which represents the mayors of the Jordan River Valley. [Read more about the partnership here.](#)



(from Left to Right: Mr. Ran Molho, Mayor Denis Lapointe, Mayor Mitch Twolan, Professor Rachel Havrelock (organizer), Mayor Hassan Jarmi, Mayor John Dickert, Mayor Khelifa Aldyyat)

EPA Seeks Input on Cyanotoxin Response

The EPA will hold a public meeting to gain feedback from constituents on what type of information is needed in order to best respond to the health threat posed by cyanotoxins in drinking water. The meeting will be held May 11th from 10am – 5pm. [Click here to register for in-person or webinar attendance.](#) The in-person meeting will be held at the Potomac Yard South Building in Arlington, VA.

Resource Highlight: Mayor’s Council on Pipeline Safety Initiative Conference

The Mayor’s Council on Pipeline Safety will hold a conference from May 14-15th at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA. The conference will involve a discussion on ways that mayors can ensure safe maintenance, use, and regulation of pipelines. Representatives from the National Transportation Board, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration, and the Department of Energy will be present. [Click here for details and registration.](#)

Membership

Please join the 114 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.