WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026 (SLAP) is entering its fifth year of existence; and

WHEREAS, included in the SLAP is a participatory governance system, based on the creation of Regional Roundtables (Tables de concertation régionales); and

WHEREAS, of now, six (6) Regional Roundtables have been officially constituted; and

WHEREAS, discussions and decisions of these Regional Roundtables foster exchanges and collaboration between municipalities, industry, community services, First Nations and integrated water management organizations (ZIP committees and watershed organizations); and

WHEREAS, many shoreline municipalities, holding roles and responsibilities in their land use planning, participate actively in the work of the Regional Roundtables; and

WHEREAS, the Quebec Maritime Strategy states that the active implication of municipalities as a key success factor for its new and ambitious strategy and that the Quebec government plans to foster dialogue between representatives from the maritime industry, municipalities and the population, by using the Regional Roundtables as a vehicle for this dialogue; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) and the Regional Roundtables have their set roles in the management of the St. Lawrence River.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative acknowledges the creation of the Regional Roundtables and that many Quebec municipalities are getting involved in the Regional Roundtables; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative recognizes its complementary relationship with the Regional Roundtables and the importance of a constructive partnership between these entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative starts discussion among its member cities and other stakeholders to create a basin-wide discussion and consensus-building framework at the scale of the area covered by the St. Lawrence Action Plan, allowing for integrated management at a global level; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative communicates to its members, when appropriate, the consensus positions emanating from the work of the Regional Roundtables.

Signed this 15th day of June, 2016

Mitch Twolan, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss