



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT
RESOLUTION 2 – 2019M

SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY

WHEREAS, inspiration has been gleaned from the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which initially brought together over 1500 stakeholders to develop a plan and secure \$300 million a year in federal funding. Above and beyond the transformational impact of the projects that were funded, the GLRI is having a lasting benefit by engaging organisations on the ground, integrating government efforts across departments, and securing bipartisan support for future funding of the GLRI; and

WHEREAS, this GLRI funding of \$2.56 billion since FY2010 to 2017, has been instrumental in achieving numerous results including over 4 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment remediated, projected reduction of over 767,000 pounds of phosphorus, over 225,000 acres of habitat protected, restored or enhanced, among other achievements; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, independent Canadian experts launched an 18-month process to develop a Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative Strategy to safeguard Canada's greatest reserve of freshwater and the St. Lawrence River estuary, which will provide recommendations for Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and be shared with the Governments of Ontario and Quebec, indigenous and municipal leaders, and the broader community in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Collaborative Strategy is proposing new and innovative approaches to protection efforts and better alignment of government science, programs and investments; and

WHEREAS, the Collaborative Strategy is focusing on four key challenges: climate change, toxics and other harmful pollutants, nutrients, and beaches and bacteriological contamination; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative was a founding organization of this Collaborative, along with other groups; and

WHEREAS, on Climate Change, the Collaborative is suggesting increased investments to assist communities with the challenges of increased flooding; and

WHEREAS, on Toxics and other harmful pollutants, the Collaborative is supportive of increased methods of environmental impacts monitoring to allow the impacts of toxics and combinations of toxics on people, wildlife and our environment to be better understood; and

WHEREAS, on Nutrients, the Collaborative is supportive of a precision conservation approach, designed to target our resources to the areas and tools that will achieve the greatest reduction in phosphorus to our waterways; and

WHEREAS, on Beaches and bacteriological contamination, the Collaborative is recommending that



beaches with chronic contamination issues, develop a plan to identify sources, and work towards the reduction of contamination, and calls for increased funding to support these efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the US Federal Government to commit to an investment of least \$300 million for FY2020 for the US Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative supports efforts of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative, including continuing work on the St. Lawrence in 2019, and the finalization of an integrated report in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative supports the recommendations from the Collaborative on the issues of climate change, toxics and other harmful pollutants, nutrients, and beaches and bacteriological contamination; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative calls on the Canadian federal government and other orders of government to ensure the rapid investment and implementation of the recommendations of the Collaborative.

Signed this 5th day of June 2019

Michelle Morin Doyle
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative