



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Vice-Chair requests \$2.2 Billion for the Canada Water Agency and \$7 Billion in shoreline infrastructure funding to address climate change

St. Catharines, ON, 16 April 2021 – St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik, Vice-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, spoke before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, and Communities on the need for targeted infrastructure funding for shoreline communities, asking for \$2.2 Billion for the Canada Water Agency and \$7 Billion in shoreline infrastructure funding to address climate change and build for the future.

“It has been 80 years since Parliament, and Congress worked together to develop a joint vision for the St. Lawrence Seaway,” said Mayor Sendzik. “During this time, the creation of numerous locks and power dams through federally funded infrastructure programs, have laid the foundation for 70 years of economic growth. Today as we look forward, we need a vision for the next 80 years that will protect our fresh water and environment that is the foundation for our region's success. A one time \$7 billion infrastructure stimulus could be start to this vision.”

“The Government of Canada is taking steps with the creation of the Canada Water Agency. It is the Cities Initiatives hope that having one government agency can effectively coordinate activities across Canada. The new Parliament of Canada’s Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Taskforce, lead by MP Vance Badawey, is opening a real conversation with their American Congress colleagues that are starting to bring our two countries together on Great Lakes issues. With these historic levels of investments in Canada and the USA in the next few years, a joint vision for the region will ensure we are building for a sustainable future.”

**About The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of close to 100 U.S. and Canadian mayors and local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative and local officials integrate environmental, economic and social agendas and sustain a resource that represents approximately 80 percent of North America’s surface freshwater supply, provides drinking water for 40 million people and is the foundation upon which a strong regional economy is based.

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