



**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 Supports Budget 2021's funding for Canada Water Agency and understanding the effects of Climate Change

St. Catharines, ON, 20 April 2021 – St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik, Vice-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, responded to the Government of Canada's Budget 2021.

“Budget 2021 investments into environment and infrastructure programs creates a foundation for municipal governments on the shores of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to start investing in critical shoreline projects,” said Mayor Walter Sendzik. “The \$17.4 million investment into the Canada Water Agency and the \$25 million in new funding for Environment Canada for a first-ever *Census of the Environment* are positive actions that came out of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative's Action Plan 2020-2030 recommendations last year.

“We hope that with this funding, Canada's Water Agency will take a leadership role with other Federal Departments to develop an environmentally sustainable, economically viable vision for shoreline communities along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. Budget 2021 shows that the Government of Canada is committed to addressing climate change and supporting communities along the shores of the Lakes and Rivers in Ontario and Quebec. 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.”

## **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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