



## **Urging the Canada Water Agency to Include the Recommendations from Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 2020-2030 Into Their Planning**

### *A Resolution Submitted by the City of Collingwood, ON*

December 2020

Whereas the Prime Minister has mandated the Minister of Environment, specifically the Parliamentary Secretary Terry Dougal, with the creation of a new Canada Water Agency; and

Whereas Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is the largest source of freshwater in the world representing over 80 percent of North American surface freshwater and almost 20 per cent of the world's surface freshwater; and

Whereas the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative was part of a coalition that consulted with almost 400 individuals over two years on the issues facing Canada's Great Lakes and St. Lawrence fresh water ecosystem; and

Whereas the Coalition release three reports with over thirty recommendations to address the following four themes:

- Protect Great Lakes and St. Lawrence shoreline communities and ecosystems that are most vulnerable to high water levels and make them 'climate-resilient';
- Reduce our exposure to toxins, by actively identifying and reducing human and environmental exposure to harmful chemicals in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region, in the air, water, ground and products;
- Accelerate phosphorus reduction into our waterways that cause harmful algal blooms, by targeting areas or properties that contribute the most;
- Make contaminated beaches clean and safe by taking action to address sources of sewage and other bacteriological contamination.

Therefore, the federal government should include the Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 2020-2030 thirty recommendations into the creation of the Canada Water Agency; and

Therefore, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative requests that the Government of Canada commits at least \$2.2 billion in investments over ten years to implement the Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 2020-2030, guided by the implementation roll-out and investment strategy in this report, and seek shared funding arrangements where appropriate from the Governments of Quebec and Ontario.