



CLIMATE CHANGE:
2021 and Beyond

Preparing our communities for the future.

VIRTUAL
EVENT

Is your city prepared for
the future impacts of
climate change?

2021 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Annual General Meeting
August 25 -26



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



Climate change has already had a profound impact on our planet. The physical, economic and environmental effects will continue and evolve in the future. And yet, only half of the cities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin are actively preparing for these future impacts.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN PREPARE

Join us for the 2021 Annual General Meeting, where you'll hear from a range of experts from government, industry and academia to help you prepare your city for the future. You won't want to miss our keynote speakers: Former Prime Minister Brian Mulrone, EPA Administrator Michael Regan and Erin Brockovich. This year's virtual format means you'll have new opportunities for one-on-one interactions with your fellow mayors and our keynote speakers.



Brian Mulrone
Former Prime Minister



Michael Regan
Administrator of the
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency



Erin Brockovich
Keynote Speaker

How to register

[Click here](#) to register.

Discounted, early bird registration extended until August 20th!

Registration

Early Bird
Regular

Member

\$25
\$50

Non-Member

\$50
\$75

ERIN BROCKOVICH

*Award-Winning
Environmental Activist*



Say the name Erin Brockovich and you think, strong, tough and stubborn. Erin is all that and more. A formerly-unknown legal researcher who became a 20th century icon overnight thanks to Julia Robert’s Oscar-winning tour de force Erin’s dogged persistence was the impelling force behind the largest medical settlement lawsuit in history.

Brockovich kept fighting for the people one town at a time. In her latest book, *“Superman’s Not Coming”*, she brings to light the stark truths of America today: Resources are exhausted; corruption is rampant; infrastructure is outdated; water and health issues affect us all--rich and poor, Republicans and Democrats. Erin gives permission and empowers people to take action so that they can save their families, their communities and the planet.

Erin uses her life experiences to motivate and bring inspiration to audiences worldwide, providing lessons on her four steps to success, her motto for resilience and perseverance and advocacy for the causes that matter. Her motto comes from famed biologist Rachel Carson: “We are challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves.” Erin teaches that it will be up to us, we the people, to change our course.

MICHAEL REGAN

*Administrator of the U.S.
Environmental Protection Agency*



Michael Stanley Regan is an American environmental leader who is serving as the 16th Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency since March 11, 2021. He is the first African American to serve in the role. Regan has formerly served as the secretary of North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality and air quality specialist in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). His elevation to that role was widely praised by environmental groups because of his track record for addressing environmental racism and supporting policy to address climate change.

Regan began his career as an environmental regulator for the Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton administration and Bush administration from 1998 to 2008. He then joined the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), where he ultimately became the associate vice president for clean energy and a Southeast regional director. He remained at the EDF for over eight years. Regan is responsible for helping to advance the Biden administration’s commitment to combating climate change, promoting green energy innovations, and addressing the effects of environmental racism.

BRIAN MULRONEY

Former Prime Minister



Brian Mulroney led the Progressive Conservative party to the largest victory in Canadian history. He became Prime Minister in September of 1984, becoming Canada’s eighteenth Prime Minister. He was re-elected with a majority government four years later thereby becoming the first Canadian Prime Minister in 35 years to win successive majority governments and the first Conservative Prime Minister to do so in 100 years. He resigned in June 1993, having served almost nine years as Prime Minister. His government introduced bold new initiatives such as the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Canada-U.S. Acid Rain Treaty and the Canada-U.S. Arctic Cooperation Agreement.

The Prime Minister continues to be a leader on the environment. He has pushed elected officials worldwide to implement solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change now rather than later. Mulroney once said, “Successful leaders do not impose unpopular ideas on the public, successful leaders make unpopular ideas acceptable to the nation.” Prime Minister Mulroney received the International Environment Bureau Award for “Outstanding and responsible leadership on both global and national environmental policies and issues”. In 2006, a panel of Canada’s leading environmental groups determined that Mr. Mulroney was “The Greenest Prime Minister in history.”

POLLY TROTTEMBERG

*Deputy Secretary of U.S.
Department of Transportation*



Polly Trottenberg is Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). As the number two official and Chief Operating Officer, she supports Secretary Buttigieg on providing leadership and strategic vision for USDOT. She has an extensive 25+ year public sector career in all levels of government. Trottenberg served from 2014 to 2020 as New York City’s Transportation Commissioner, where she ran a complex 5,800-person agency responsible for the safe, efficient and equitable operations of New York City’s transportation network, including 6,000 miles of roadways, 789 bridges, the nation’s largest traffic operation and parking system, the Staten Island Ferry, and extensive bicycle, pedestrian, and public plaza infrastructure, as well as key initiatives in urban mobility, smart transportation technologies, and safety.

Trottenberg served in the Obama Administration as the Assistant Secretary and Under Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation. During her previous five years at the Department, she developed and implemented transportation policies to address the needs of state and local transportation agencies on every type of project from roads and bridges, to transit and rail, to airports, ports and pipelines.

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH

U.S. Senator - Illinois



Senator Tammy Duckworth is a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is Chair of the Sub-Committee on Fisheries, water and Wildlife. She is a key player in the negotiations to pass the U.S. President’s Infrastructure legislation in the U.S. Senate.

Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, who was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois’s Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

CHANTAL ROULEAU

Minister for Transport and Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region



Minister Rouleau was elected to the National Assembly of Quebec in the 2018 provincial election. She represents the electoral district of Pointe-aux-Trembles as a member of the Coalition Avenir Québec.

Prior to her election to the legislature, Rouleau served on the Montréal City Council. She became mayor of the borough of Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles in June 2010 following a municipal by-election. She was a member of the Vision Montréal municipal political party until May 30, 2013, when she left to join Équipe Denis Coderre. Rouleau had previously been involved in sustainable development initiatives in Montréal’s east end for more than 30 years.

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW

U.S. Senator - Michigan



Senator Debbie Stabenow is the Co-Chair of the U.S. Senate’s bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force and one of our greatest champions for protecting the Great Lakes and our waterways, whether in the Michigan legislature, the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate. Senator Stabenow is the author of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Under her leadership, the GLRI Act was signed into law earlier this year. The GLRI reauthorizes the program and increases funding over 5 years. She also led the successful bipartisan effort to authorize funding for a new Soo Lock, which is critically needed for the economic security of our Great Lakes.

Senator Stabenow serves as Chairwoman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. She authored the 2018 Farm Bill, which made historic investments in land and water conservation and improved regional conservation partnerships.

Senator Stabenow also serves as a senior member of the Budget Committee and Finance Committee, and as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

**THE HONOURABLE
DAVID PICCINI M.P.P.**
*Minister of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks*



David Piccini is the Member of Provincial Parliament for Northumberland-Peterborough South. The Honourable David Piccini was sworn in as Ontario’s Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on June 18, 2021. Before coming to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister Piccini served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and was a member of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

David began his career with federal public service, first as an international market analyst at Agriculture Canada, then as a policy advisor at Service Canada. He then joined the Office of the Minister of International Trade where he contributed to key trade files, including the Canada-Europe Free Trade Agreement.

We look forward to Minister Piccini addressing the issues of climate change and its impact on the province of Ontario.

**CONGRESSWOMAN
DEBBIE DINGELL**
*Michigan’s 12th Congressional
District*



Before being elected to Congress, Debbie was the Chair of the Wayne State University (WSU) Board of Governors. An active civic and community leader, she is a recognized national advocate for women and children. She is Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force and Co-Chair of the Congressional Smart Transportation Caucus.

For more than 30 years Debbie served one of Michigan’s largest employers, the General Motors (GM) Corporation, where she was President of the GM Foundation and a senior executive responsible for public affairs. She is a strong advocate for Great Lakes cities, the environment and the fight against climate change.

CONGRESSMAN BILL HUIZENGA
*Michigan’s 12th Congressional
District*



Huizenga represents Michigan’s 2nd Congressional District, which stretches from Kentwood to the lakeshore and up the coast of Lake Michigan from Holland to Ludington. Huizenga was first elected to Congress in 2010 and is currently serving in his sixth term.

Congressman Huizenga was elected to Co-Chair the Great Lakes Task Force in 2017. This bipartisan group fosters cooperation and support for policies and programs that enhance the environmental health of the Great Lakes, while also ensuring the full economic potential of the Great Lakes region is realized.

MARCY KAPTUR
*U.S. Representative – Ohio’s 9th
Congressional District*



In the 117th Congress (2021-23), MARCY KAPTUR holds the record as the longest serving woman in the history of the U.S. House, with her career spanning 40 years. Congresswoman Kaptur is a relentless advocate for Ohio’s north coast stretching from Toledo to Cleveland. She is the co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, a bipartisan group of House and Senate members that work together to advocate for issues that preserve the Great Lakes and support the region.

Congresswoman Kaptur serves as the Chair the influential House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, which she considers an honor given the Ninth District stretches much of the southern Lake Erie coastline. In this position, she focuses on efforts to protect the natural resource of Lake Erie and has advocated for American energy independence through increased funding for renewable energy programs and research, such as wind and solar. Kaptur also serves on the powerful Defense Subcommittee.

DAVID MILLER

Director of International Diplomacy and Global Ambassador of Inclusive Climate Action at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Former Mayor of Toronto



David is responsible for supporting Mayors in their climate leadership and for building a global movement for socially equitable action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. He served as Chair of C40 Cities from 2008 until 2010.

Miller was Mayor of Toronto from 2003 to 2010. Under his leadership, Toronto became widely admired internationally for its environmental leadership, economic strength and social integration. He is a leading advocate for the creation of sustainable urban economies, and a strong and forceful champion for the next generation of jobs through sustainability. Miller has held a variety of public and private positions and served as Future of Cities Global Fellow at the Polytechnical Institute of New York University from 2011 to 2014.

David Miller is a Harvard trained economist, professionally a lawyer and author of the book *Solved: How the World's Great Cities are Fixing the Climate Crisis*.

DR. GAIL KRANTZBERG

Program Lead & Professor; M.Eng. Engineering and Public Policy McMaster University



Dr. Krantzberg is a Professor in the Engineering and Public Policy in the School of Engineering Practice and Technology at McMaster University offering Canada's first Master's Degree in Engineering and Public Policy. Gail completed her M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in environmental science and freshwaters. She worked for the Ontario Ministry of Environment from 1988 to 2001, as Coordinator of Great Lakes Programs and Senior Policy Advisor on the Great Lakes. Dr. Krantzberg was the Director of the Great Lakes Regional Office of the International Joint Commission from 2001 to 2005.

ELIZABETH HENDRIKS

Vice President, Restoration and Regeneration



With a lengthy background in water policy, Elizabeth Hendriks leads WWF-Canada's Freshwater team to reverse the decline of freshwater ecosystems across the country through policy, technology and community building. Elizabeth has considerable experience working internationally and nationally on water policy and led the release of the first national assessment of the health and stressors to Canada's freshwater.

MARTIN LOKEN

Minister (Political) at the Embassy of Canada to the U.S. in Washington, DC



As part of the Embassy's senior leadership team, Martin Loken oversees programs dealing with foreign and defence policy, energy, environment, public safety, border security, immigration, intelligence liaison and law enforcement.

Before joining the Embassy in August 2017, he held a number of executive positions at the Ottawa headquarters of Global Affairs Canada, including Chief Information Officer (2014-17), Director General, Intellectual Property and Services Trade Policy Bureau and Chief Negotiator for air transport agreements (2012- 2014). From 2008 to 2012, he was Canada's Consul General in Minneapolis, representing Canada in the U.S. Upper Midwest. A career foreign service officer, Martin has also served at Canada's Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Canada's Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic. He has also held several headquarters positions in Canada, working on a range of issues, including trade negotiations, international science and technology relations and human rights.

ANA ESCROGIMA

U.S. Consul General of Montréal



A 17-year veteran of the Foreign Service, Ana Escrogima is the Consul General at the U.S. Consulate General in Montréal. Most recently, she served as the Office Director for Regional and Multilateral Affairs in the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau. Ana served overseas as Deputy Chief of Mission in the Yemen Affairs Unit in Saudi Arabia, established in 2015 after the closure of the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen.

A former Rusk Fellow at Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Ana has extensive experience abroad and in Washington, D.C. She was the State Department's UAE-based Arabic language spokesperson and served as the Public Affairs Officer in Algeria, where she was responsible for all bilateral cultural and press engagements. Ana served as a political officer at the U.S. embassies in Iraq and Syria; she was the Special Assistant to former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, with responsibility for Middle East issues – most notably the Iran nuclear negotiations.

WEDNESDAY

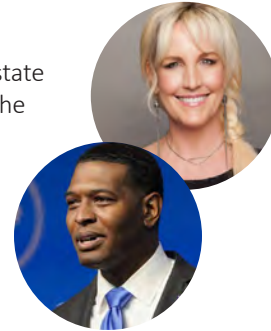
ENVIRONMENTAL KEYNOTES

Erin Brockovich

This renowned, award-winning environmental activist will discuss her activism with state and federal governments, the intersection of climate change and water equity, and the importance of protecting our vital freshwater resources.

Michael Regan

Michael Stanley Regan is an American environmental advocate and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a Biden Cabinet Member, he is a key point person on environmental issues for the United States.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE

Understanding Climate Change

The world will inevitably be impacted by climate change throughout the century. What exactly will these physical changes look like for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region? Hear from regional experts about how weather events, temperature trends and lake levels will change over the next century.

Understanding Climate Change Across the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence River Basin

Dr. Brent Lofgren – Physical Scientist
NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab

Understanding Lake Level Changes

Dr. Andrew Gronewold – Associate Professor of Ecosystem Science and Management
University of Michigan

Understanding Shoreline Behaviour and Erosion

Dr. John Johnston – Lecturer and Coastal Geoscientist
University of Waterloo – Earth and Environmental Sciences

Understanding the Urgency of Current and Future Climate Risks

Dr. Blair Feltmate – Professor and Head of the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation
University of Waterloo

SESSION TWO

Understanding Climate Change – Regional Impacts and Threats Over the Next Century

The physical impacts of climate change will have repercussions on our communities, ecosystems and economies. What will these impacts and threats look like for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities? Learn about the ways your community could be impacted by climate change including effects on water quality, wildlife and infrastructure.

Climate Change Impacts on Runoff and Water Quality

Charlie Lalonde – Project Coordinator
Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative

Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Wildlife

Dr. Len Hunt – Human Dimensions Research Scientist
Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry

Climate Change Impacts on Our Communities

Dr. Gail Krantzberg, Professor, Masters of Engineering and Public Policy Program
McMaster University

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WEDNESDAY (CONTINUED)

GENERAL MEETING

Mayor's Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience Report Out

This 20-member council will report on their initial recommendations for the physical impacts of erosion and flooding. Come learn how your city should respond.

Member Meeting (Organization Members Only)

The Cities Initiative Virtual Legislative Reception Networking Without Leaving the Office 5:00pm – 6:15pm ET

We are excited to announce that this year's Annual General Meeting will include a virtual legislative reception. On August 25th from 5:00 pm-6:15 pm EDT | 4:00 pm-5:15 pm CDT, you will be able to meet and mingle online with fellow Mayors, state and provincial legislators, industry leaders and Members of Congress.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING (One-On-One)

The Cities Initiative will be using a unique online technology, Meetaway.com that will allow you to set up individual one-on-one meetings with interested attendees. And the best part is that the virtual reception is free to conference attendees and for those not registered for the AGM, \$35 for members and \$60 for non-members.

Our state-of-the-art interface will allow you to pre-select the types of attendees you want to meet with. You will also be able to share contact information so you can stay in touch.

For more information, contact kyle.hills@glslcities.org.

Speakers at Legislative Reception

Martin Loken – Minister (Political) at the Embassy of Canada

Ana Escrogima – U.S. Consul General of Montréal

THURSDAY

OPENING KEYNOTE

Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Brian Mulroney led the Progressive Conservative party to the largest victory in Canadian history. He became Prime Minister in September of 1984, becoming Canada’s eighteenth Prime Minister. The Prime Minister continues to be a leader on the global stage on environmental issues. *Please join him for a Fireside Chat. You can submit your questions to kyle.hills@glslcities.org*



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION ONE

Adapting to the Physical Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change will have lasting impacts on physical infrastructure and our shorelines. It will be critical for communities to plan for these changes and rebuild in more resilient ways. Hear from experts on ways your community can plan for, and adapt to, the physical impacts of climate change.

Prioritizing Nature-Based Solutions in Resilience Projects

Jason Stangland – Principal, Waterfront Practice Director Smith Group

Municipal Water Supply

David Goldwater – Vice President, Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Stantec

Project Funding

John Malueg – Manager of Resiliency Programs Stantec

SESSION TWO

Preparing for the Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Change

Our communities and economies will experience socio-economic impacts related to climate change. Hear from a range of experts on ways to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to the different socio-economic impacts that could influence your community in future climate change scenarios. Topics include impacts on tourism, population migration and economic development.

Climate Migration

Beth Gibbons – Executive Director, American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Social Expectations for Our Shorelines

Jon Allan – Senior Advisor, Senior Academic and Research Program Officer University of Michigan (U.S. Co-Chair – IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board) (Member – NOAA Science Advisory Board)

GENERAL MEETING

Mayor’s Commission on Water Equity Report Out

Mayors from the cities of Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Toledo, Gary, Waukegan, North Chicago, Zion, Hammond, Erie and Saint-Anicet will announce their recommendations for dealing with water equity issues in our basin.

Times subject to change slightly due to our presenters’ schedules. We will keep you updated as needed.