



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

Support for Improved Partnership and Funding Opportunities to Advance Shoreline Protection, Erosion Control, Infrastructure Improvements and Naturalized Restoration

June 2021



A Resolution Submitted by the Town of Lincoln, Ontario

WHEREAS, the freshwaters of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are the primary source of drinking water, as well as water-based recreational activities, for the more than 40 million people that live predominantly in urban areas within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin; and

WHEREAS, protecting and improving the quality of shoreline infrastructure, notably those used for water treatment and disposal as well as for recreational, maritime and other economic uses, is vital to sustaining high quality of life in shoreline communities across the basin; and

WHEREAS, shoreline communities across the Great Lakes region are heavily impacted by erosion, flooding and other effects from high lake levels and extreme weather events, with historically high lake levels predicted to persist until the region experiences dry conditions for up to several years; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River are already feeling the effects of climate change, with more frequent severe storms that compound the impacts from high water levels and flooding, 100-year storm events already happening every 20 years on average, abnormally high tides and great variability of water levels cause uncommon erosion; and

WHEREAS, such changes have a significant impact on the state of the shores, affecting shoreline citizens' safety, shoreline access and economic development of shoreline municipalities; and

WHEREAS, shoreline conditions are protected and improved through the completion of municipal infrastructure retrofits and projects; and

WHEREAS, Federal, Provincial and State governments have responsibilities to preserve and protect the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments are willing to do the necessary work, but lack sufficient funds required to not only improve shoreline infrastructure required to meet new challenges, but even to maintain its current state; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on Federal, Provincial and State governments to improve their support to shoreline municipalities for all measures related to restoration, protection and enhancement of the shores including on sustainable erosion control measures that consider an approach that takes into consideration both infrastructure needs and improving naturalization where possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on Federal, Provincial and State governments to improve their support to shoreline municipalities for all measures related to fostering and advancing partnerships across all jurisdictions (Federal, Provincial, State, Local, Conservation Authorities, and the Army Corps of Engineers); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls for increased financial resources be allocated by Federal, Provincial and State governments to affected shoreline communities for mitigation, compensation and adaptation measures and increased flexibility in the application of environmental and infrastructure-related regulations, in order to meet the diverse needs and objectives of shoreline communities.