



**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 River mayors welcome sustained commitment to Canada Water Agency in the 2022 federal Budget

*Advancing the protection of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is an investment in our long-term prosperity*

**St. Catharines, ON April 7, 2022** – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) applauds the federal government for making the protection of our freshwater a key pillar of its environmental agenda in the 2022 Budget.

The Cities Initiative, a binational coalition of more than 125 mayors working actively towards a sustainable, vibrant and resilient Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, the alliance is particularly pleased to see that the government has committed to sustained, long-term funding for the Canada Water Agency.

“The health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are key for the continued prosperity and sustainability of our communities,” said the Cities Initiative Chair, Walter Sendzik, Mayor of St. Catharines. “We applaud the Government of Canada’s ongoing commitment to support the work of the future Canada Water Agency. We are hopeful that the agency will go a long way to address some of our most pressing challenges and help ensure the viability of our treasured freshwater resources.”

The Cities Initiative is also pleased to see nearly \$20 million in funding earmarked for the Freshwater Action Plan, which will support clean-up efforts in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, as well as fully funding the Canadian share of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

“Every dollar put into restoring our waterways produces new development and tourism opportunities, which will benefit cities across the region and waterfront communities,” adds Mayor Sendzik. “The commitments made in Budget 2022 demonstrate the progress we can make when we work together to deliver a clean environment and sustainable economy for the approximately 20 million Canadians living in our region.”

As the federal government commits to establishing the headquarters of the new Canada Water Agency outside of the federal National Capital Region, the Cities Initiative continues to call on the government to locate the agency in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. In addition, the Cities Initiative is calling on the government to make municipalities eligible for Freshwater Action Plan funding.

### **About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors from more than 125 cities and municipalities 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 to sustain a resource that represents approximately 80% 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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