



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

June 2022

A Resolution Submitted by the City of Contrecoeur



Taking a proactive approach and restoring funding for shoreline protection infrastructure along the St. Lawrence Seaway

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence Seaway passes through the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and three Canadian canals: South Shore and Beauharnois Canals in Quebec, and the Welland Canal across the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario.

AND WHEREAS this request to create a Canadian shoreline protection fund is limited to the St. Lawrence River portion of the Seaway.

AND WHEREAS a now defunct shoreline protection program was run by the Canadian federal government during the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway, but was terminated in 1997. Since then, the shores of the St. Lawrence River, particularly between Montreal and Lake Saint-Pierre, have experienced significant erosion, creating problems for municipalities, landowners, and public safety.

AND WHEREAS shoreline erosion is a natural process, climate change and urbanization have exacerbated the phenomenon. As a result, some existing shoreline protection structures along the Seaway have encountered costly maintenance needs.

AND WHEREAS wave energy caused by marine transportation, especially in the narrow sections of the St. Lawrence Seaway – i.e., the Montreal-Lake St. Pierre section – and as a result, the shipping industry has voluntarily lowered the speed of vessels in this area.

AND WHEREAS there are three principal modes of shoreline protection failure that require significant maintenance or complete replacement now and into the future:

- Age Failures - degradation of materials, such as concrete or quarried stone
- Overtopping Failures - wave overtopping during storms
- Downcutting Failures - cumulative process at the toe of the structure

AND WHEREAS bringing back a modernized shoreline infrastructure program to address age, overtopping, and downcutting failures would help address erosion along the shores of affected communities while contributing to protecting water quality and supporting job creation at a critical moment of Quebec's and Canada's economic recovery.

AND WHEREAS the St. Lawrence Seaway justifiably becomes an increasingly important corridor for shipping and helps drive economic development across Quebec and Ontario, especially in the context of the post-pandemic recovery, so grows the importance of protecting shoreline properties and communities along this busy navigation corridor.

AND WHEREAS the Canadian House of Commons was petitioned by 38 signatories via Petition 431-00087 (Environment) to direct the federal government to implement a program to protect the shores of the St. Lawrence River and take appropriate measures to stop their erosion and ensure a safe environment, including the following: regulations imposing a speed limit on vessels, depending on their type, and the construction and maintenance of shore protection works; the goal is to foster trust and cooperation between the federal government, seaway users and shoreline residents.

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative created a Mayors' Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience last year to hear from experts and impacted communities, and to develop recommendations to encourage a responsible way forward for addressing shoreline erosion and flooding.

AND WHEREAS the Advisory Council's Canadian recommendations focus on boosting action and collaboration around coastal resilience from the federal government. They also call for more resources to support nature-based solutions and green infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is joining concerned communities in calling on the Government of Canada to take a proactive approach and restore funding for shoreline protection infrastructure along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative also request the Government of Canada to collaborate with the Government of Quebec, along with impacted communities and stakeholders, to study the impact of wave energy on shoreline erosion along the St. Lawrence Seaway, to identify priority zones for investment to limit the impact of erosion in concerned communities, to determine the total investment necessary and an action plan tied to erosion problems along the St. Lawrence Seaway, and to support the adoption of sustainable and nature-based solutions as a measure to renew infrastructure built by the Government of Canada along this important and strategic navigation route.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to the federal Ministers of Transport, Fisheries and Oceans, Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, along with all MPs representing ridings along the Montreal-Lac St. Pierre section of the St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as the Quebec Minister of Transport.