



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

June 2022

A Resolution Submitted by St. Catharines



Securing the Future of Canada's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Blue Economy Through Strategic Planning and Investments

WHEREAS Canada has an opportunity to harness the economic potential of its freshwater resources by building back better – and bluer – by supporting a sustainable blue economy in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.

AND WHEREAS achieving a Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River blue economy requires a strategy to leverage our freshwater resources in a sustainable and responsible manner, create jobs in coastal communities in existing and emerging industries, and ensure that our freshwater resources remain healthy.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes generate more than 1.5 million jobs and \$60 billion in wages annually and is the foundation of a \$6-trillion regional economy, which would be one of the largest in the world if it stood alone as a country.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has committed to launching a Blue Economy Strategy and has consulted widely with the provinces and territories, Indigenous peoples, industry, conservationists, and all Canadians in the development of this strategy.

AND WHEREAS during those consultations many Canadians noted the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway have a key role to play in Canada's blue economy strategy.

AND WHEREAS several provinces, including Quebec, have developed maritime strategies to leverage emerging opportunities in the marine sector, including a \$926.9 million investment in its Advantage St. Lawrence vision for the province's marine economy.

AND WHEREAS to remain competitive Ontario must capitalize on the economic potential of its marine sector and the province's integration in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system.

AND WHEREAS the marine industry is vital to Ontario's economy through the creation of jobs, increased supply chain efficiencies and resilience, and the ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and road congestion.

AND WHEREAS Ontario has indicated support for a maritime strategy as part of its regional planning efforts, thanks to advocacy by Ontario municipalities like the City of St. Catharines and industry stakeholders in the maritime transport sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call on the Ontario government to create a comprehensive Maritime Strategy, modeled on and integrated with Quebec's Advantage St. Lawrence plan to create an integrated vision for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway network.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the Government of Ontario to signal their commitment to the importance of the marine sector by creating an advisory panel made up of Ontario government, municipal and industry representatives to lead the consultations and oversee the development of the strategy.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the federal government incorporate a freshwater pillar centred on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin as part of its Blue Economy Strategy.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT that these strategies:

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- Include investments to modernize infrastructure along the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway network to ensure the competitiveness of a low-carbon transport industry
- Ensure efficient and ecosystem-friendly navigation of the Great Lakes
- Deliver sustainable development opportunities for maritime communities, including new investments in water-based public transit (e.g., shuttles, ferries)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier; Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; Minister of Transportation; and MPPs representing Great Lakes St. Lawrence River basin communities; as well as the federal Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; Minister of Fisheries and Oceans; Minister of Transport; Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities; the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and MPs representing Great Lakes St. Lawrence River basin communities.