



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 Township of Tiny, ON



Securing Canada's \$1 Billion Investment in a Freshwater Action Plan

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative supports protecting freshwater resources, supporting a sustainable and inclusive freshwater economy, fighting climate change and addressing its impacts, reversing habitat loss, and ensuring cleaner, healthier communities for Canadians.

AND WHEREAS a Freshwater Action Plan and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative it supported were first announced in the 2017 Canadian federal budget with a \$44.84 million investment over five years.

AND WHEREAS the Freshwater Action Plan combines science and action to address priorities in the Great Lakes such as preventing toxic and nuisance algae, enhancing the resilience of coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes, and restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern among other priorities.

AND WHEREAS a commitment was made by the governing party in the 2021 federal election to a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan with an historic investment of \$1 billion over 10 years to restore and protect large lakes and river systems starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin.

AND WHEREAS the federal government only earmarked \$19.6 million in funding in the federal 2022 budget for the Freshwater Action Plan, falling short of the commitment made months before, and with no commitment to meeting the \$1 billion threshold.

AND WHEREAS the protection of Canada's lakes, rivers, and aquifers is a critical concern, especially as pollution continues to impact major waterways and as droughts and floods become more frequent and severe.

AND WHEREAS this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a signature treaty for jointly managing our shared natural resources that has led to the remediation of some of the most contaminated areas of the Great Lakes, representing a significant opportunity to demonstrate Canada's commitment to protecting our treasured freshwater resources.

AND WHEREAS it is important to implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including an historic investment of \$1 billion over 10 years, and to creating a Canada Water Agency to consolidate and coordinate federal water efforts and support provinces and territories in addressing systemic issues impacting the viability of the Great Lakes and the communities dependent upon them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative:

- Requests that the federal government commit to \$1 billion over 10 years beginning 2022,
- Calls on the government to make municipalities eligible for Freshwater Action Plan funding, and
- Calls on the Canadian government to create an independent Canada Water Agency and to locate its headquarters in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to the federal Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Finance, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (responsible for the Canada Water Agency), along with MPs representing ridings across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin.