



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer Joins Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Board

Chicago, IL – June 23, 2023 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is pleased to announce that Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, Canada was elected a member of the organization’s board at the Annual General Meeting in Chicago this June.

“Aspiring for the socioeconomic and environmental health of our communities is meaningless without our First Nations at the table.” said incoming chair of the Cities Initiative and mayor of Saint-Anicet, Quebec, Gino Moretti. “I look forward to working hand in hand with Grand Chief Sky-Deer to ensure we serve the needs of all our communities along our treasured Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.”

Grand Chief Sky-Deer is the first ever representative of a First Nations community to join the board of the organization. Together, the Cities Initiative is proud to work towards ensuring that all voices are heard and guaranteeing efforts to strive for real water equity across Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin communities in the United States and Canada.

In her role on the board, Grand Chief Sky-Deer will provide key guidance on building strong collaborative relationships between municipalities and First Nations and Tribal communities across the basin to address common challenges and opportunities around keeping our waters clean, providing safe and affordable access to water and improving climate action.

“A core principle of our culture is the nurturing and protection of our environment, to ensure our generations to come have the same clean resources we have today,” said Grand Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer. “As the Cities Initiative is comprised of mayors along the Saint Lawrence River and Great Lakes, I am very pleased Kahnawà:ke is being included in an organization that recognizes the importance of First Nations’ perspectives in their environmental protection efforts.”

At the Cities Initiative’s annual meeting, Grand Chief Sky-Deer delivered a moving speech about the importance of protecting the jewel that is our Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin and for partnership between all communities that share our waters.

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About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational, mayor-led coalition of U.S. and Canadian cities dedicated to the environmental and socioeconomic health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. With more than 230 member cities, the Cities Initiative is the largest municipally-driven organization in the basin focused on these issues.

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