



GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE



June 2023

A Resolution Submitted by the Township of Tiny



TOWNSHIP OF/CANTON DE
Tiny

Improving Control of Invasive Species and Water Quality in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin is invaluable as the source of drinking water for more than 40 million people in Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin supports world-renowned recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing, which generate more than \$52 billion for the region; and

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin is home to over 3,500 plant and animal species, some of which are unique to the region and not found anywhere else on Earth; and

WHEREAS more than 180 invasive and non-native species have already affected Great Lakes ecosystems; and

WHEREAS municipalities, conservation organizations and conservation authorities in Ontario are estimated to spend nearly \$51 million per year on invasive species prevention, control and management, with 80% of that expenditure going towards control and management activities; and

WHEREAS greater investments in prevention activities can have a long-term reduction on municipal expenditures on invasive species; and

WHEREAS invasive species can impact infrastructure and other municipal assets, ecosystems and overall community well-being; and

WHEREAS Ontario has the highest number of invasive species in Canada and that the majority of the spending on invasive species comes from the municipal sector and their partners; and

WHEREAS climate change will likely exacerbate the introduction of invasive species in Ontario and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin as a whole; and

WHEREAS previous resolutions by members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have called for federal, provincial and States action on Phragmites; and

WHEREAS actions by governments across the basin to control and manage phragmites have so far proven incapable of controlling this invasive species; and

WHEREAS the current cost to treat a single kilometre of roadside infested with phragmites is estimated at \$6,000; and

WHEREAS phragmites is only one of hundreds of invasive species impacting the Great Lakes basin and local economies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call upon the federal and provincial governments to support small Great Lakes communities for removal and control of invasive species, such as phragmites, increase investment in Great Lakes water quality and further support climate action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT funding announced by the Government of Canada in Budget 2023 for freshwater protection be directed towards community-focused interventions to support invasive species control, improved water quality and local climate action;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative call upon the federal and provincial governments to take a leadership role in preventing the introduction of invasive species to the Great Lakes basin and their movement/spread within the basin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, responsible for freshwater; the Director General responsible for the Canada Water Agency Transition Office; the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; and the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks