



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Calls on Federal Support for Vital Climate Resilience Measures in Communities Facing Extreme Weather Events

Ottawa, Canada, November 6, 2023 – In response to the escalating severe weather events such as flooding, windstorms, and fires, there is an urgent need for comprehensive measures with additional funding to ensure community resilience. This was the message at last week's Climate Proof Canada Summit in Ottawa. Mayors from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence met with the Canadian Government and industry leaders to discuss how all levels of government and the private sector can come together to reduce the effects of extreme weather events in cities and towns across the country, with a special appeal for critical climate resilience initiatives in 2024.

As extreme weather events continue to threaten communities across Canada, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) emphasizes the need for immediate action to address the country's affordability crisis, ensure infrastructure adaptation, advance resilience for Indigenous communities, and cope with the challenges of extreme heat.

Mayor Mayor Gino Moretti Chair of GLSLCI and Mayor of Saint-Anicet, QC

"We need a National Adaptation Strategy Investment of at least \$5.3 billion over the next six years, totalling at least \$31.5 billion by 2030, to safeguard lives and infrastructure from climate-related disasters. This can be done in Budget 2024 by surge funding of \$2 billion in the first year and a minimum of \$1 billion per year for the subsequent ten years for the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to facilitate rapid response and recovery post-disaster."

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs – Town of The Blue Mountains

"A dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure program, with an annual investment of \$1 billion over ten years, ensuring reliable and sustainable access to clean water will allow rural, remote, and smaller communities to access funding necessary to have clean and secure water systems in the face of increase housing needs."

Reeve Bert Liverance - Township of The Archipelago

"Investing in Natural Infrastructure Integration by allocating \$500 million over five years to bolster natural asset management capacity and promoting a holistic approach that integrates natural and grey infrastructure to enhance community protection will go a long way to reducing the effect of extreme weather on Canada's housing supply. "



The GLSLCI underscores the critical role of all governments in prioritizing climate resilience initiatives. With communities, housing, and businesses at risk from changing weather, collective action is essential to secure a sustainable and secure future for all Canadians.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and chief elected officials dedicated to the environmental, social and economic health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. With more than 250 member cities, the Cities Initiative is the largest municipally-driven organization in the basin focused on issues impacting their residents.

For more information, please contact:

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