



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

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cities Initiative Supports Budget 2024's Investments to Protect Communities from Flooding and Bolster Climate-Resilient Housing

The introduction of the National Flood Insurance Program and additional infrastructure funding will help local governments support the construction of new, climate-resilient housing

Ottawa, ON – April 16, 2024 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative applauds the Government of Canada's Budget 2024 for creating a national flood insurance program and increasing funding for essential local infrastructure, such as drinking water and wastewater facilities, to help build new homes. These measures mark substantial progress in enhancing community resilience nationwide.

The \$15 million commitment to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is starting a national flood insurance program to be available by 2025, which should help local communities plan for future flood events.

With \$6 billion over ten years, the new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund supports new housing by funding water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste infrastructure. The Fund will comprise \$1 billion, available directly to municipalities, to support urgent infrastructure needs and expand the housing supply. The Fund also includes \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories to support long-term priorities. Provinces and territories can only access this funding if they commit to key actions that increase the housing supply.

"We commend the federal government's commitment to investing in measures that protect Canadians from flooding and bolster climate-resilient housing," said Mayor Gino Moretti of Saint Anicet, QC, Chair of the Cities Initiative. "Moving forward, we are committed to working with all parties in Parliament to identify funding options to implement and sustain the National Adaptation Strategy."

Furthermore, the Cities Initiative strongly advocates for the continued funding of the Freshwater Action Plan and the Canada Water Agency, recognizing their indispensable roles in advancing freshwater coastal resilience programming and supporting community-driven projects to enhance water quality and ecosystem health across Canada.

The urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change on homes, businesses and critical infrastructure cannot be overstated. The damage inflicted upon shoreline communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin due to the lack of lake ice and warmer conditions underscores the imperative for increased preparedness. Cities Initiative members are eager to work with all Members of Parliament and Senators to address these ongoing threats to our communities' growth and prosperity.

About the Cities Initiative

The Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of local governments led by mayors and chief elected officers working collaboratively to safeguard the economic, environmental and social health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. It is committed to stewarding the basin's freshwater and ensuring that all residents have access to clean, safe and affordable water as the foundation for sustainable, vibrant, inclusive and resilient communities.

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