# AGENDA OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Welcome remarks, territorial acknowledgement, and roundtable introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>Cities Initiative Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 PM</td>
<td>Climate Resiliency</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mayors Commission on Coastal Resilience (MCCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCCR work in Canada and the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation by Conservation Ontario</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentation by Severn Sound Environmental Association</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Presentation by Greenland Engineering</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Discussion improving coastal resilience for Ontario communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion with Parliamentary Secretary (Transport) and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Caucus Co-Chair <strong>Vance Badawey</strong> (LPC – MP, Niagara Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:50 PM</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion with Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Caucus Vice-Chair <strong>Brian Masse</strong> (NDP – MP, Windsor West)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:10 PM</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion with <strong>Terry Dowdall</strong> (CPC – MP, Simcoe—Grey) and <strong>Alex Ruff</strong> (CPC – MP, Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Presentation and discussion with <strong>Brian Saunderson</strong>, (OPC – MPP, Simcoe – Grey)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5PM</td>
<td>CLOSING REMARKS AND SOCIAL</td>
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CITIES INITIATIVE ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING

WELCOME TO THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS!
CITIES INITIATIVE ONTARIO REGIONAL MEETING

CITIES INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW
WHO WE ARE

The Cities Initiative is a **binational coalition of Canadian and U.S. mayors and local elected leaders** working collaboratively to promote the **economy, environment and well-being of communities** in the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River Basin.

- Founded in 2003
- Developed by Mayors, for Mayors
- Driving municipal engagement and focus on basin-wide issues
MORE THAN 250 MEMBERS & GROWING
HOW WE WORK

Advocacy for programs, policies and resources

Collaboration on issues of shared interest

Education on solutions to common challenges
2024 CANADIAN POLICY PRIORITIES

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**
- $1B in freshwater programming
- Address new pollutants

**WATER EQUITY**
- Dedicated water infrastructure funding
- Improve access to waterfronts

**CLIMATE CHANGE & COASTAL RESILIENCE**
- Determine the cost for coastal resiliency implementation
- Address implementation barriers

**ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**
- Develop evidence-based plan to develop blue and green industries
- Waterfront revitalization
**SOME KEY CANADIAN WINS IN 2023**

Creation of the new **Canada Water Agency**
- **$420m** commitment for the Great Lakes
  - Expecting Saint-Laurent funding levels announced in 2024

- **New National Adaptation Strategy**
  - **$164m Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping**
  - **$41m Resilient Coastal Communities**

- **Raising profile of water infrastructure deficit** and needs in the basin & addressing the fiscal framework

- Raising support for a funded **Canada Great Lakes & St Lawrence Coastal Resiliency strategy**

- Building coalitions with basin organization to deliver basic services and infrastructure funding

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Climate change a ‘clear and present danger’ to Niagara’s shores

Regional council motion put forth by Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton says municipalities are front-line actors that bear most of the cost of adapting their infrastructure and communities, but have the least of financial resources of any level of government to tackle the problem.
OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH US

Policy & Advocacy
- Mayoral commissions
- Policy events
- Resolutions

Networking & Learning
- Annual general meeting
- Webinars
- Regional meetings
- Programming

Strategic Input
- Board of directors
- Regional leads
- Annual survey
OTHER MEMBER BENEFITS AND SUPPORT

• **Direct advocacy** – Support for your priorities
• **Wege Award** – US$7,500 prize for sustainable projects
• **Public relations support & exposure** – Your work with us gets covered
• **Special rate for annual conference** – Plus discounts for accompanying staff and elected officials
• **Newsletters & other updates** – Available to elected officials and staff
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Grant Program</th>
<th>App Date</th>
<th>Decision by</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>CI Funding Requested</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Munis/Region</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRCan</td>
<td>Climate Resilient Coastal Communities</td>
<td>13-Dec-23</td>
<td>31-Mar-24</td>
<td>Conservation Ontario</td>
<td>$147,800</td>
<td>01-Apr-24</td>
<td>31-Dec-27</td>
<td>Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCC</td>
<td>EcoAction Community Fund - Freshwater</td>
<td>22-Mar-24</td>
<td>30-Jun-24</td>
<td>Cities Initiative</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>01-Jul-24</td>
<td>1-Jun-27</td>
<td>Lachine St. Lawrence River</td>
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</table>
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAMMING FOR OTHER PILLARS

• Member needs
• Industry coverage
• Funding availability

2024 Activities

• Conversations with ON and QC members
• Deeper dive on 2022 survey results
• Graduate class project (UW-Milwaukee)
• More grant applications!
MAYORS COMMISSION ON WATER EQUITY

SECURING CLEAN & AFFORDABLE WATER FOR ALL

AGING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
Despite massive investments in the past years, the average useful life of Canadian water infrastructure has been steadily decreasing.

POPULATION GROWTH AND HOUSING NEEDS The population of the region is rapidly increasing, requiring new housing stock which puts the existing ageing water infrastructure under pressure.

UNEQUAL ACCESS AND RAISING COSTS Access to clean and affordable updating these infrastructures has a cost, which municipalities cannot bear.
MAYORS COMMISSION ON WATER EQUITY

Launch of the commission following the three main issues identified.

Discussions include:

- New sources of revenue and changing the fiscal framework
- Streamlining the cost of water in new infrastructure projects by fed/prov. Governments
- Better pollutants monitoring and costing
MAYORS COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Action Plan for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Economic Transformation, 2025-2035 will map paths for municipal action to support the following:

- **Industrial Transformation**: attracting green and blue industries to foster job creation and climate and water innovation while protecting the basin’s unparalleled freshwater ecosystem

- **Energy Transformation**: implementing clean and renewable energy sources to respond to the expected growth in clean energy consumption for businesses, industries and residents

- **Transportation Transformation**: expanding sustainable, integrated and waterborne commerce, mobility and tourism

- **Waterfront Transformation**: developing shorelines intentionally by weaving together multiple uses, including residential and recreation, to create accessible and thriving economic centers while ensuring coastal resilience.
2024 Annual Conference

- Taking place **May 15 – 17, 2024** in Montréal, QC
- **Early Bird rate** until March 31 – 25% off regular rate