



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Kentner of Meaford Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Chicago, IL – July 10, 2024 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is pleased to welcome Mayor Ross Kentner of the Municipality of Meaford to its growing coalition of more than 260 mayors and top elected local leaders working to advance the socioeconomic and environmental health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

As a member of the Cities Initiative, Mayor Kentner and the municipality will work collaboratively with member mayors across the basin in the United States and Canada to: support ecosystem and source water protection; ensure that every resident has access to clean, safe, and affordable water; better prepare communities for the impacts of climate change; and, set the path for the basin's economic transformation into a world-leading blue-green economic corridor.

"I am pleased to join this initiative and access a network of other communities rich in natural resources, like the Municipality of Meaford," said Mayor Ross Kentner. "Water is a cornerstone of our environment and economy. We are in a period of significant growth right now and want to ensure that we are doing so sustainably, especially with projects like the proposed Ontario Pump Storage Projection on our horizon. I look forward to the experience and expertise that will come from this group as we better understand how to protect our region. It's crucial that we make informed decisions today to safeguard our water resources and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come."

The Municipality of Meaford is located on Southern Georgian Bay is where more than 11,000 residents call home. Meaford's waterfront stretches 39 kilometers, and it just steps away from its downtown core where residents and visitors can find restaurants and shopping while also learning about the historic town at its museum or the iconic Meaford Hall.

"Our organization is delighted to welcome Mayor Kentner to our team," said Gino Moretti, Mayor of Saint-Anicet, QC and Canadian Co-Chair of the Cities Initiative. "Cities and local governments are on the frontlines of the biggest challenges facing communities in the basin. Working together, we can better prepare our communities for climate change, tap into new economic opportunities for our region and avert the water crises and conflicts impacting other regions of North America and the world."

Every new member of the Cities Initiative is a testament to the importance that local governments in this globally significant basin place on preserving our freshwater resources, preparing our communities for the impacts of climate change, improving our aging water infrastructure and building sustainable local economies that leverage environmental initiatives to attract new jobs.



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 communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. With more than 260 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:

Christine Maydossian | Leliken Public Affairs | cmaydossian@leliken.com