

A Resolution Submitted by the Metropolitan Community of Québec, QC



**ADDRESSING MAINTENANCE DREDGING ISSUES FOR THE MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE OF
THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**

May 2025

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence River has a network of maritime infrastructure for recreational tourism purposes – such as docks serving small boats and marinas – that contribute to the recreational tourism and economic vitality of different regions of the St. Lawrence.

AND WHEREAS the St. Lawrence River is also equipped with industrial infrastructure – such as freight transshipment docks – that are essential to the sustainability of Québec and Canadian supply chains and contribute significantly to the economic vitality of different regions of the St. Lawrence.

AND WHEREAS this infrastructure is subject to recurring silting, which can be explained by hydrodynamic conditions specific to the different sectors of the St. Lawrence River and which have a variable impact from one region to another.

AND WHEREAS this recurring silting phenomenon has several impacts on the use of infrastructure, including the limitation of access depending on the tide or a reduction in the space available at the quayside or for maneuvers, and these operational constraints can cause economic losses for management organizations and local communities.

AND WHEREAS this infrastructure is largely the responsibility of local communities or local organizations with limited resources to ensure their operation, maintenance, repair and upgrading.

AND WHEREAS the management of large volumes of sediments from dredging activities is complex and, in many cases, requires disposal solutions to authorized sites on land, with high disposal costs and environmental impacts resulting from the land transport of sediments.

AND WHEREAS dredging operations are strictly regulated by the various orders of government and are subject to authorizations or strict environmental standards putting upward pressure on dredging costs in a context where the supply of services for this type of work is limited.

AND WHEREAS the issues of sedimentation and dredging are complex and can involve a wide variety of stakeholders from different regions of the St. Lawrence River, whether from the public sector, the private sector or the research community.

AND WHEREAS a global perspective of these issues across the St. Lawrence River could help to promote better government recognition of the challenges faced by local communities and propose measures to help local communities face these challenges, including funding, technical assistance or other support.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is committed, through the Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation, to assisting members in advancing sustainable economic development, including in the maritime transportation sector.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative will include recommendations regarding the challenges local communities face with respect to siltation and maintenance dredging of maritime infrastructure in the *Action Plan for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Economic Transformation, 2025-2035*.
- The Cities Initiative will advance any relevant recommendations in its advocacy to government authorities.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Canadian Minister of Transport and Internal Trade Chrystia Freeland; Québec Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility Geneviève Guilbeault; Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change Julie Dabrusin and Québec Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks Benoit Charette.