

A Resolution Submitted by the City of Candiac, QC



RE-ESTABLISHING DEDICATED FUNDING FOR RIVERBANKS PROTECTION IN CANADA

May 2025

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence corridor is experiencing significant erosion of its riverbanks, exacerbated by the impacts of navigation in the corridor and by the increasing effects of climate change.

AND WHEREAS traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway is expected to increase given its essential role in the domestic supply chains, the diversification of exports and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport, significant benefits that have an impact on riverside communities.

AND WHEREAS the impacts of climate change – such as reduced ice cover, water level variations and extreme weather events – further impact the riverbanks.

AND WHEREAS the Canadian federal shoreline protection program, in effect since the 1960s, was abandoned in 1997, resulting in the transfer of ownership and maintenance responsibilities for shoreline infrastructure to municipalities and private landowners.

AND WHEREAS a significant proportion of these banks were artificially developed under the previous federal program, meaning the existing infrastructure is now aging and in poor condition, often exceeding the financial capacity of municipalities to maintain or repair it.

AND WHEREAS the initiatives of the federal government and of the provincial governments following the abandonment of the shoreline protection program have not filled the funding gap for this specific issue.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative adopted a similar resolution presented by the City of Contrecoeur in 2022.

AND WHEREAS the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities (TRAN) unanimously adopted recommendations on March 30, 2023, that echoed these concerns.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiatives calls on the Government of Canada to reinstate a dedicated erosion mitigation funding program for river and coastal communities based on the following principles:
- The program should prioritize nature-based solutions where possible while allowing for the strategic, limited use of conventional gray infrastructure.
- The program should provide flexible funding to support shovel-ready projects and those in the planning, feasibility and engineering study phases.
- Federal funds be allocated for the strategic acquisition of private lands, where appropriate, to improve the resilience of riparian communities and enable managed retreat or restoration efforts.
- The Cities Initiative will continue to provide fora for regional collaboration and sharing of best practices on the subject of riverbank erosion.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: Canadian Minister of Transport and Internal Trade Chrystia Freeland, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change Julie Dabrusin and Canadian Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree.