



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward of Burlington Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Chicago, IL – June 26, 2025– The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is pleased to welcome Mayor Meed Ward and the City of Burlington, ON to its growing coalition of more than 325 mayors and top elected local leaders working to advance the socioeconomic and environmental health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region.

As a member of the Cities Initiative, Mayor Meed Ward will work collaboratively with members from across the basin in the United States and Canada to support healthy lakes and rivers, safe and affordable water for all residents, climate resilient communities, and economic transformation throughout the region.

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward of the City of Burlington, ON: *I'm honoured to join the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative on behalf of the City of Burlington. As a waterfront community on the shores of Lake Ontario, we see firsthand how our freshwater resources are essential not only to our environment, but also to our economy and quality of life. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is one of the most economically powerful in the world, and by working together, we can ensure it remains prosperous, resilient, and sustainable. Burlington is proud to collaborate with municipal leaders across the basin to protect our shared waters, prepare for climate impacts, and support a strong economy for the future."*

Located on the north shore of Lake Ontario, the City of Burlington is positioned along the Niagara Escarpment. With an accessible waterfront, world-renowned attractions like the Royal Botanical Gardens, and key industries, such as advanced manufacturing, clean technologies, and food and beverage, Burlington is a great place to live, work, invest, and play.

Mayor Mat Siscoe of St. Catharines, ON, Canadian Co-Chair of the of the Cities Initiative: "It's great to welcome Mayor Meed Ward and Burlington to our growing coalition. We need to work together to ensure the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Region remains one of the top global economies and continue to deliver prosperity for our residents. That means collaborating on building a vibrant blue economic corridor, modernizing our water infrastructure, and protecting the lakes and rivers that are the foundation of our success as a region The Cities Initiative is a key player to deliver on those priorities."

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 attract new industries and good jobs.

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**About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal and Indigenous government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region who are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 325 member communities, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents.

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