

*A Resolution Submitted by the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin*



**CREATING A COMMITTEE ON FIRST NATION AND TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT**

May 2025

WHEREAS 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 that is working to promote economic prosperity and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, which is comprised of 12 U.S. Tribes, are Cities Initiative members, as are the Anishinabek Nation and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke.

AND WHEREAS leaders of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Anishinabek Nation currently serve on the Cities Initiative's Board of Directors.

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes Observing System estimates that 185 First Nations' and Native American Tribes' communities reside and have traditional Territories and homelands across our region, which spans a shoreline of 10,000 miles / 17,000 km in the United States and Canada.

AND WHEREAS First Nations and Tribes in our region have cultural, economic and spiritual ties to the water and work to preserve it for generations to come.

AND WHEREAS First Nations and Tribes are the original caretakers of the land and are responsible for the preservation of water and the marine biodiversity.

AND WHEREAS it is important that First Nations and Tribes meaningfully participate in all water-related decision-making in our region.

AND WHEREAS the Cities Initiative is committed to working alongside First Nations and Tribes to affirm their sovereignty and treaty rights and identify joint priorities to address Safe and Affordable Water; Climate Change and Coastal Resilience; Economic Transformation and Healthy Lakes and Rivers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative will establish a Committee on First Nation and Tribal Engagement to better understand joint priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration between First Nations and Tribes and municipalities in protecting our shared waters and otherwise advancing the organization's strategic pillars.
- The Committee on First Nation and Tribal Engagement will present a final report to the Board of Directors at the 2026 Annual Conference. This report must include recommendations regarding reconciliation, recruitment and continued collaboration on joint priorities with First Nations and Tribes.
- Cities Initiative members will remain dedicated to their allyship to First Nations and Tribes through meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: current and prospective First Nation and Tribal members of the Cities Initiative; the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission; U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Scott Davis; the Chiefs of Ontario Leadership Council; the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador and Canadian Minister of Indigenous Services Mandy Gull-Masty.