



**2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**Hamilton Convention Centre | 1 Summers Lane**

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM**

*All sessions and activities will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre, unless otherwise noted (\*)*

**Masters of Ceremonies**

**Mayor Mat Siscoe**, City of St. Catharines, ON

**Mayor Ryan Sorenson**, City of Sheboygan, WI

**TUESDAY, MAY 5**

<b>4:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration desk open</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one
<b>8:00 PM – 10:00 PM</b>	<b>Welcome Reception*</b> * radius Restaurant Hamilton - 18 Hess St S

*Presented by Ramboll*

*In collaboration with:*

- **OPTERRA Energy Services**
- **Canada Steamship Lines**
- **OEC**

**Partner Welcome:**

- **Adam Tindall-Schlicht**, Americas Sector Lead, Ports, Transportation & Infrastructure, Ramboll; President, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

<p><b>8:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Registration desk open</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one</p>
<p><b>8:00 AM – 9:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one <i>Presented by the Chamber of Marine Commerce</i></p>
<p><b>9:00 AM – 12:15 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Nexus H2O – Innovate for Water</b> Albion BC – Level two <i>Presented by AquaAction</i></p> <p><i>In collaboration with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Veolia Canada</b></li> <li>• <b>Alectra, Inc.</b></li> </ul> <p>Advancing new approaches to water management is essential to keeping rates affordable for residents and businesses alike, while ensuring our water systems can support long-term economic transformation across the region. Nexus H2O will focus on cutting-edge water innovation, featuring the second edition of PitchH2O, a friendly competition for municipal innovators and water-tech start-ups. We will also highlight Cities Initiative programs in Ontario and feature insights from municipal and private-sector leaders driving smarter, more efficient, and more effective water systems.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Fisher</b>, President, Canada Water Agency</li> </ul>

	<p><b>PitchH2O Judges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nicola Crawhall</b>, CEO, Canadian Water Network</li> <li>• <b>Kerri Freek</b>, Director, Marketing and Communications, XPV Water Partners</li> <li>• <b>Cari Vanderperk</b>, Director, Watershed Management, City of Hamilton, ON</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:00 AM – 12:15 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Members’ Annual General Meeting</b> <i>(reserved for Cities Initiative members)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayors Commission Meetings <i>(by invite only)</i></li> <li>• Annual Member Meeting Wentworth C – Level one</li> </ul>
<p><b>1:30 PM – 2:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Ceremony</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by Geosyntec Consultants</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Councillor Jesse Herkimer</b>, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation</li> <li>• <b>Kanahsohon Kevin Deer</b>, Elder, Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory</li> <li>• <b>Mayor Andrea Horwath</b>, City of Hamilton, ON</li> </ul> <p><b>Partner Welcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Howard Cumberland</b>, Senior Principal Marine Scientist, Geosyntec Consultants</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:30 PM – 3:20 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Cities Initiative Annual Declaration Plenary Session</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by HOPA Ports</i></p> <p><b><i>Unlocking the Inland Advantage: The Critical Role of Big Cities in Attracting New Businesses, Driving Job Creation, and Increasing Maritime Commerce</i></b></p> <p>The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's Economic Transformation Action Plan calls for attracting 500,000 new, water-centered industries, creating more than 18 million jobs, and increasing maritime commerce on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway by 30%</p>

over the next decade to create the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor and reinforce our CA\$12.72 (US\$9.3 trillion) regional economy. This plenary session will bring together big-city mayors to sign a declaration and highlight the critical role of our region's large metropolitan areas in spurring economic growth and strengthening regional competitiveness while safeguarding our precious freshwater resources.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Ian Hamilton**, President and CEO, HOPA Ports

**Speakers:**

- **Mayor Andrea Horwath**, City of Hamilton, ON
- **Mayor Cavalier Johnson**, City of Milwaukee, WI
- **Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie**, City of Toronto, ON
- **Deputy Mayor Catherine Vallières-Roland**, City of Québec, QC
- **Mayor Josh Morgan**, City of London, ON
- **Mayor Stéphane Boyer**, City of Laval, QC
- **Mayor Sean Ryan**, City of Buffalo, NY

**3:20 PM –  
4:15 PM**

**Plenary Session**

Wentworth C – Level one

*Presented by the **Nuclear Waste Management Organization***

***Building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor: Strategies for Locally Driven Industry Attraction and Economic Growth***

As water scarcity increases the costs of doing business globally, industries will be increasingly drawn to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region. With 21% of the world's surface fresh water, access to global markets through the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, and an innovation-ready workforce, the region is poised for a new era of growth. Yet it would be a mistake to repeat the same playbook that generated economic growth at the expense of lakes and rivers. This plenary will explore how to attract the right industries to our region and how elected leaders can partner with the private sector to ensure new business investment delivers good jobs, protects water quality and supply, and advances long-term freshwater stewardship for communities for generations to come.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Lisa Frizzell**, Vice-President, Communications, Nuclear Waste Management Organization

	<p><b>Moderated by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Catherine Vallières-Roland</b>, Deputy Mayor, City of Québec, QC, and Metropolitan Community of Québec</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vance Badawey</b>, President and CEO, Council of the Great Lakes Region</li> <li>• <b>Adam Tindall-Schlicht</b>, Sector Lead, Ports, Transportation &amp; Infrastructure, Ramboll; President, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle</li> <li>• <b>Mayor William Steele</b>, City of Port Colborne, ON</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:15 PM – 4:25 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Special Address</b> Wentworth C – Level one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wade Grant</b>, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Quadra</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:25 PM – 4:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by <b>LimnoTech</b></i></p>
<p><b>4:45 PM – 6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p>I. <b><i>The Water-Waste-Energy Nexus: Optimizing Infrastructure Investment for Economic Growth</i></b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by <b>Veolia Canada</b></i></p> <p>Communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region are grappling with aging infrastructure, growing demand on utilities, and funding gaps to renew these critical systems. While a growing infrastructure deficit could hold our region back, it also presents an unparalleled opportunity to transform our economy. Innovation can turn into a catalyst for growth and a key advantage for communities. This session examines how embracing integrated water-waste-energy solutions can transform infrastructure deficits into a platform for prosperity, resilience, and regional competitiveness.</p>

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Wes Muir**, Director, Business Development & Government Relations, Veolia Canada

**Moderated by:**

- **Robert Haller**, Executive Director, Canadian Water and Wastewater Association

**Speakers:**

- **Mayor Lucas Cleveland**, City of Cobourg, ON
- **Commissioner Randy Conner**, Department of Water Management, City of Chicago, IL
- **Anthony Parente**, General Manager, Water & Wastewater, Region of Peel, ON

**II. *Vacant to Vibrant: Transforming Brownfields into Thriving, Working Waterfronts***

Albion BC – Level two

*Presented by SmithGroup*

Given its industrial heritage, brownfields are found across the Great Lakes region. To reduce the hazards and burdens associated with brownfields, remediating and redeveloping them is an urgent priority for the region's leaders. Importantly, redevelopment also creates a unique opportunity for cities to innovate in prime locations, often along the Great Lakes shoreline, catalyzing local economic development, revitalizing waterfront areas, and increasing property values – exponentially creating rippling benefits in tourism, recreation, community-building, biodiversity and more. This session will engage participants in a dynamic discussion that showcases how innovation, partnerships, community engagement, and leveraging of available resources can transform vacant and blighted areas to vibrant and thriving community assets.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Tom Rogers**, Senior Principal, Urban Design & Waterfront Studio Leader, SmithGroup

**Moderated by:**

- **Tom Rogers**, Senior Principal, Urban Design & Waterfront Studio Leader, SmithGroup

	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John MacKenzie</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority</li> <li>• <b>Allison Marusic</b>, Principal, Landscape Architect, SmithGroup</li> <li>• <b>Laura Solano</b>, Partner, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates</li> </ul>
<p><b>7:00 PM – 10:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Mayors Opening Reception*</b> * <i>Art Gallery of Hamilton – 123 King St W</i></p> <p><i>Presented by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Green Infrastructure Partners</b></li> <li>• <b>GFL Environmental, Inc.</b></li> </ul> <p><i>In collaboration with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Algoma Central Corporation</b></li> <li>• <b>Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mayor Andrea Horwath</b>, City of Hamilton, ON</li> <li>• <b>Patrick Madahbee</b>, Shared Circle Co-Chair, Biinaagami</li> </ul>

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

<p><b>7:00 AM – 9:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Breakfast Service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one <i>Presented by Conservation Ontario</i></p>
<p><b>7:30 AM – 5:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Registration Desk Open</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one</p>
<p><b>7:30 AM – 8:45 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Breakfasts</b></p> <p>I. <b>Climate and Coastal Resilient Communities</b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by Stantec</i></p> <p>This session will feature a series of short talks on current programs and their status to date, the Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes project, and leveraging partnerships to enhance and pursue coastal resilience projects. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experience</p>

in pursuing coastal resilience and network following presentations.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **David Goldwater**, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Stantec

**Speakers:**

- **Emily Kuzmick**, U.S. Coastal Programs Manager, Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- **Bonnie Fox**, Director of Policy and Planning, Conservation Ontario
- **David Goldwater**, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Stantec

**II. *Port Cities and Marine Champions***

Albion BC – Level Two

*Presented by Algoma Central Corporation*

Ports and marine industries have long been central to the identity and economic strength of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities. This session will bring together municipal leaders and marine champions to discuss how port cities can balance growth with community priorities, strengthen city-port collaboration, and position the region's maritime network for future success, while also building connections through facilitated table discussions.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Hannah Bowlby**, Senior Manager, Government Relations & Public Affairs, Algoma

**Speakers:**

- **Mayor Matthew Shoemaker**, City of Sault Ste. Marie, ON
- **Benji Timm**, Port Director, Port of Milwaukee
- **Caya Hein**, North America Manager, AIVP

**III. *Efficient and Effective Water Utilities***

Room 202 – Level two

*Presented by M.E. Simpson, Co.*

Every human being needs safe, clean drinking water, and every city needs an efficient, effective way to deliver it to its citizens. Join the Director of Hamilton's Water Department, the Commissioner of Water Management of the City of Chicago, and representatives from M.E. Simpson, Co., for a chance to network and learn about the intriguing, innovative ways utilities across the region are working with private enterprise to deliver water more safely, more efficiently, and more effectively.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Nick Winters**, Director, Water Department, City of Hamilton, ON

**Speakers:**

- **Joe Nepras**, Regional Sales Manager, M.E. Simpson, Co.
- **Commissioner Randy Conner**, Department of Water Management, City of Chicago, IL

**IV. *First Nations and Tribal Engagement Committee***

Room 205 – Level two

*In partnership with the **Biinaagami Initiative***

The First Nation and Tribal Engagement Committee meeting will bring together First Nation, U.S. Tribal, and municipal leaders to discuss the committee's recent report, which outlines recommendations on reconciliation, collaboration, and recruitment. The committee meeting will take place in partnership with Biinaagami's Shared Circle, who will present their Principles for Respectful Collaboration.

**9:00 AM –  
10:10 AM**

**Day 2 Opening**

Wentworth C – Level one

*Presented by **Green Infrastructure Partners and GFL Environmental, Inc.***

**Speakers:**

- **Hon. Todd McCarthy**, M.P.P., Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Government of Ontario
- **Hannah Bowlby**, Chair, Ontario Marine Council

**Partner Welcome:**

- **Mike Harris**, Director, Business Development, Green Infrastructure Partners; Vice President, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle

10:10 AM –  
11:05 AM

**Plenary Session**

Wentworth C – Level one

***Sustaining Turtle Island: First Nation and Tribal Approaches to Economic Transformation***

First Nations and Tribes have long traded freely across Turtle Island and engaged in a variety of economic activity to promote wealth, preserve traditional ways of life, and protect the environment. However, First Nations and Tribes have been persistently excluded from economic decision-making. As water-intensive industries relocate to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region, it is imperative that First Nations and Tribes have a seat at the table with municipalities, recognizing their status as sovereign nations, deep commitment to environmental stewardship, and the impacts of economic development on their people, lands, and waters. In this plenary session, First Nation and Tribal leaders and mayors will share perspectives on our region's future economic development and opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration to uphold First Nation and Tribal treaty rights, promote broadly shared economic prosperity, and sustain Turtle Island for all residents.

**Introduction by:**

- **Ghislain Picard**, Former Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Québec-Labrador; Biinaagami Shared Circle Member

**Moderated by:**

- **Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer**, Vice President, Dable Advisory & Consulting Services; Former Grand Chief, Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

**Speakers:**

- **Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige**, Anishinabek Nation
- **President Shannon Holsey**, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
- **Mayor Ken Johnson**, City of Muskegon, MI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Warden Andrea Matrosovs</b>, County of Grey, ON</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:05 AM – 11:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by the <b>Ontario Marine Council</b></i></p>
<p><b>11:30 AM – 12:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p><b>III. <i>Municipal Innovation Exchange: Addressing Local Needs for Water Technology Innovation</i></b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by AquaAction</i></p> <p>Rapidly evolving water challenges in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region – flooding, invasive species, contamination, aging infrastructure – will require innovative approaches. Global investments in water technology indicate a major growth in this sector over the next decade. However, new technologies must be responsive, accessible, and affordable to the communities that will use them. On the flipside, municipalities will be better equipped to innovate if they are familiar with emerging approaches. This session will pair technology companies with municipalities in a cross-sector dialogue to learn, share, and innovate together.</p> <p><b>Partner introduction by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Soula Chronopoulos</b>, President, AquaAction; Secretary, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oliver Anderson</b>, Vice President, Communications and Growth, AquaAction</li> </ul> <p><b>IV. <i>From Port to Place: Enhancing the Fresh Coast Tourism Experience</i></b> Albion BC – Level two</p> <p>While the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region welcomes over half of North America’s tourists each year, it captures less than 20% of the continent’s tourism-related economic activity. With thousands of lakes and rivers, more than 40 tributaries, and hundreds of shoreline communities, Fresh Coast tourism has untapped potential. This session explores how building seamless visitor journeys that leverage transport networks and</p>

emerging trends can transform the tourism experience, positioning our region as a globally competitive destination and fueling local opportunities.

**Introduction by:**

- **Mayor Ryan Sorenson**, City of Sheboygan, WI

**Moderated by:**

- **Andrew Siegwart**, President and CEO, Tourism Industry Association of Ontario

**Speakers:**

- **Sally Berry**, Tourism Director, Cruise the Great Lakes, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers
- **Kevin Eshkawkogan**, President and CEO, Indigenous Tourism Ontario
- **Ryan McHugh**, Manager, Tourism and Events, City of Hamilton, ON
- **Luke Polcyn**, Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- **Mayor Justin Towndale**, City of Cornwall, ON

<p><b>12:45 PM – 1:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one</p>
<p><b>1:15 PM – 1:45 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Luncheon Keynote Plenary</b> Wentworth C – Level one</p> <p><i>Presented by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation</b></li> <li>• <b>Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation</b></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Expanding Maritime Commerce in Our Region: Opportunities and Challenges for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway</i></b></p> <p>The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway is the unheralded engine of our region’s economic prosperity. The Seaway and regional waterways move over 250 million tons of domestic and international cargo and generate CA\$66.1 billion (US\$50.8 billion) in economic activity each year while supporting more than 350,000 jobs in Canada and the United States. Yet the Seaway is falling short of its economic potential, operating at just 50% of its historic capacity. Both Ottawa and Washington share an interest in leveraging this key asset to support export-driven manufacturing, supply-chain resilience, and trade</p>

diversification. This plenary session will explore how targeted investments in port modernization, container terminals, customs clearance capacity, and multimodal infrastructure can help build the *Fresh Coast Economic Corridor* and realize a more robust vision our regional economy through a thriving Seaway.

**Moderated by:**

- **Mayor Roger Reinert**, City of Duluth, MN

**Speakers:**

- **Jim Athanasiou**, President and CEO, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation
- **Hon. Greg Zerzan**, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Transportation

<p><b>1:45 PM – 2:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Luncheon Address</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by Toronto Port Authority</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RJ Steenstra</b>, President and CEO, Toronto Port Authority</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:00 PM – 2:55 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by EllisDon</i></p> <p><b><i>Leveraging Brownfields for a Brighter Economic Future: Environmental Remediation, Business Attraction, and Community Revitalization</i></b></p> <p>The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region has the highest concentration of brownfield sites in North America – many of which exist along post-industrial waterfronts that have since been deemed "Areas of Concern" by U.S. and Canadian federal governments. Persistent contamination often leaves these valuable sites unusable for business and harms nearby water sources. But through targeted remediation and reinvestment, brownfields offer powerful opportunities for economic transformation and community revitalization. Across our region, communities are transforming brownfields into "brightfields" of renewable energy, attracting exciting new industries, and restoring public access to multi-use waterfronts. This session will examine how local elected leaders can creatively leverage contaminated properties to drive investment, return</p>

waterfront land to productive use, and prevent further environmental degradation.

**Partner introduction by:**

- **Matt Ratcliffe**, Director, Design Build, Procurement & Pre-Construction, EllisDon

**Moderated by:**

- **Chris De Sousa**, Ph.D., Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University, School of Urban and Regional Planning

**Speakers:**

- **Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie**, City of Toronto, ON
- **Chris Phillips**, Director of Government Relations and Strategy, City of Hamilton, ON
- **Mayor Cory Mason**, City of Racine, WI

<p><b>2:55 PM – 3:25 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by the <b>Government of Québec</b></i></p>
<p><b>3:25 PM – 4:40 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p><b>V. <i>Partnerships for a Prosperous Fresh Coast: Aligning Strategies for Economic Development, Investment Attraction, and Industrial Transformation</i></b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by the <b>Government of Ontario</b></i></p> <p>The Cities Initiative’s Economic Transformation Action Plan envisions attracting 500,000 new enterprises and creating over 18 million jobs across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region over the next decade. This vision is grounded in economic development that avoids the environmental mistakes of the past and improves freshwater health. This interactive session brings together economic development professionals with the business leaders of the Cities Initiative’s Industry Leaders Circle to explore strategies for investment attraction, freshwater stewardship, and building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor.</p> <p><b>Introduction by:</b></p>

- **Adam Tindall-Schlicht**, Americas Sector Lead, Ports, Transportation & Infrastructure, Ramboll; President, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle

**Facilitated by:**

- **Andrew Kett**, Director, Corporate Services, Credit Valley Conservation

**VI. *Digital Dividends: Turning the Data Centre Boom into Local Value***

Albion BC – Level two

*Presented by Google*

By 2030, companies are expected to invest nearly \$7 trillion in data centre infrastructure globally. As data centres rapidly expand across our region, communities must be prepared to assess both the economic opportunities and associated risks. From proper governance tools and siting considerations to partnership models that support local goals, a strategic approach is critical to achieve community benefits. This session explores how municipalities can proactively evaluate land-use implications, energy and water demands, and infrastructure capacity to turn data centre investments into long-term success.

**Moderated by:**

- **Councillor Sean O’Meara**, Region of Halton (Oakville), ON

**Speakers:**

- **Lauren McEachern**, Senior Economic Development Officer, City of Vaughan, ON
- **Andrea Densham**, Senior Policy Advisor, Alliance for the Great Lakes
- **Laura Jay**, Deputy Director, Climate Mayors
- **Mayor Marcus Muhammad**, City of Benton Harbor, MI

4:50 PM –  
5:30 PM

**Closing Ceremony**

Wentworth C – Level one

*Presented by the **Government of Québec***

*In collaboration with **AquaAction***

**Speakers:**

- **Wes Newton**, Executive Vice-President, Strategy & Business Development, Algoma Central Corporation
- **Catherine Vallières-Rolland**, Deputy Mayor, City of Québec, QC
- **Jean-François Hould**, Québec's Delegate in Chicago, Government of Québec
- **Soula Chronopoulos**, President, AquaAction; Secretary, Cities Initiative Industry Leaders Circle

**6:15 PM –  
7:30 PM**

**Exhibitors Reception**

Wentworth B – Level one

*Presented by AquaAction*

*In collaboration with:*

- *Andrew Peller Limited*
- *CORE Molding Technologies*
- *Edgewater Resources*
- *International Joint Commission*
- *Lakewater Nutrient Capture*

**7:30 PM –  
9:30 PM**

**Cities Initiative 2026 Awards Dinner**

Webster Ballroom – Level three

*Presented by Ducks Unlimited Canada*

*In collaboration with McKeil Marine Limited*

**Partner Welcome:**

- **Brock Gouweloos**, Government Relations Manager, Ontario, Ducks Unlimited Canada

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**9:00 AM –  
1:00 PM**

**Educational Tours**

- **Tour Option 1: Taste of Hamilton Walking Tour**  
*Presented by the City of Hamilton*
- **Tour Option 2: A Tour of Hamilton's Port and Waterfront**  
*Presented by HOPA Ports*

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