



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

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM (CONDENSED)**

*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*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	<p><b>Registration desk open</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one</p>
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	<p><b>Breakfast service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one <i>Presented by the Chamber of Marine Commerce</i></p>
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<p><b>Nexus H2O – Innovate for Water</b> Albion BC – Level two <i>Presented by AquaAction</i></p> <p><i>In collaboration with: Veolia Canada; Alectra, Inc.</i></p>
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM	<p><b>Members’ Annual General Meeting (<i>reserved for Cities Initiative members</i>)</b></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>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	<p><b>Welcome Ceremony</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by Geosyntec Consultants</i></p>
2:30 PM – 3:20 PM	<p><b>Cities Initiative Annual Declaration Plenary Session</b> <i>Unlocking the Inland Advantage: The Critical Role of Big Cities in Attracting New Businesses, Driving Job Creation, and Increasing Maritime Commerce</i> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by HOPA Ports</i></p>
3:20 PM – 4:15 PM	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> <i>Building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor: Strategies for Locally Driven Industry Attraction and Economic Growth</i> Wentworth C – Level one</p>

	<i>Presented by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization</i>
4:15 PM – 4:25 PM	<b>Special Address – Wade Grant, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Quadra</b> Wentworth C – Level one
4:25 PM – 4:45 PM	<b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by LimnoTech</i>
4:45 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b><i>The Water-Waste-Energy Nexus: Optimizing Infrastructure Investment for Economic Growth</i></b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by Veolia Canada</i></li> <li>II. <b><i>Vacant to Vibrant: Transforming Brownfields into Thriving, Working Waterfronts</i></b> Albion BC – Level two <i>Presented by SmithGroup</i></li> </ol>
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	<b>Mayors Opening Reception*</b> * Art Gallery of Hamilton – 123 King St W <i>Presented by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Green Infrastructure Partners</i></li> <li>• <i>GFL Environmental, Inc.</i></li> </ul> <i>In collaboration with: Algoma Central Corporation; Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling</i>

## THURSDAY, MAY 7

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM	<b>Breakfast Service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one <i>Presented by Conservation Ontario</i>
7:30 AM – 5:00 PM	<b>Registration Desk Open</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one
7:30 AM – 8:45 AM	<b>Networking Breakfasts</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b><i>Climate and Coastal Resilient Communities</i></b> Albion A – Level two</li> </ol>

	<p><i>Presented by Stantec</i></p> <p><b>II. Port Cities and Marine Champions</b> Albion BC – Level two <i>Presented by Algoma Central Corporation</i></p> <p><b>III. Efficient and Effective Water Utilities</b> Room 202 – Level two <i>Presented by M.E. Simpson, Co.</i></p> <p><b>IV. First Nations and Tribal Engagement Committee</b> Room 205 – Level two <i>In partnership with the Biinaagami Initiative</i></p>
9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	<p><b>Day 2 Opening</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by Green Infrastructure Partners and GFL Environmental, Inc.</i></p>
10:10 AM – 11:05 AM	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> <i>Sustaining Turtle Island: First Nation and Tribal Approaches to Economic Transformation</i> Wentworth C – Level one</p>
11:05 AM – 11:30 AM	<p><b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by the Ontario Marine Council</i></p>
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p><b>III. Municipal Innovation Exchange: Addressing Local Needs for Water Technology Innovation</b> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by AquaAction</i></p> <p><b>IV. From Port to Place: Enhancing the Fresh Coast Tourism Experience</b> Albion BC – Level two</p>
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	<p><b>Lunch Service</b> Wentworth Concourse – Level one</p>

<p>1:15 PM – 1:45 PM</p>	<p><b>Luncheon Keynote Plenary</b> <i>Expanding Maritime Commerce in Our Region: Opportunities and Challenges for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway</i> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation</i></li> <li>• <i>Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation</i></li> </ul>
<p>1:45 PM – 2:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Luncheon Address – RJ Steenstra, President and CEO, Toronto Port Authority</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by Toronto Port Authority</i></p>
<p>2:00 PM – 2:55 PM</p>	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> <i>Leveraging Brownfields for a Brighter Economic Future: Environmental Remediation, Business Attraction, and Community Revitalization</i> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by EllisDon</i></p>
<p>2:55 PM – 3:25 PM</p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by the Government of Québec</i></p>
<p>3:25 PM – 4:40 PM</p>	<p><b>Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p>V. <i>Partnerships for a Prosperous Fresh Coast: Aligning Strategies for Economic Development, Investment Attraction, and Industrial Transformation</i> Albion A – Level two <i>Presented by the Government of Ontario</i></p> <p>VI. <i>Digital Dividends: Turning the Data Centre Boom into Local Value</i> Albion BC – Level two <i>Presented by Google</i></p>
<p>4:50 PM – 5:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b> Wentworth C – Level one <i>Presented by the Government of Québec</i></p> <p><i>In collaboration with AquaAction</i></p>

<p>6:15 PM – 7:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Exhibitors Reception</b> Wentworth B – Level one <i>Presented by AquaAction</i></p> <p><i>In collaboration with: Andrew Peller Limited; CORE Molding Technologies; Edgewater Resources; International Joint Commission; Lakewater Nutrient Capture</i></p>
<p>7:30 PM – 9:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Cities Initiative 2026 Awards Dinner</b> Webster Ballroom – Level three <i>Presented by Ducks Unlimited Canada</i></p>

**FRIDAY, MAY 8**

<p>9:00 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Educational Tours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tour Option 1: Taste of Hamilton Walking Tour</b> <i>Presented by the City of Hamilton</i></li> <li>• <b>Tour Option 2: A Tour of Hamilton’s Port and Waterfront</b> <i>Presented by HOPA Ports</i></li> </ul>
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