

BUILDING THE FRESH COAST ECONOMIC CORRIDOR BY ATTRACTING NEW, WATER-CENTERED INDUSTRIES AND EXPANDING MARITIME COMMERCE ON THE GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

May 2026

We, the undersigned members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, declare our commitment to working collaboratively to build the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor over the next decade by attracting 500,000 new, water-centered industries to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region and expanding maritime commerce on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway by 30 percent – all while protecting our precious freshwater resources.

With these goals in mind, we affirm the following:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region is the third largest economy in the world, producing CA\$12.72 trillion / US\$9.3 trillion in annual economic output and representing 30 percent of the economic activity in Canada and the United States combined.
- Our region is home to about 84 percent of North America's surface fresh water, a vital resource that provides water to businesses and communities, underpins our economic and environmental well-being, and makes our region one of the best in the world to live, work, invest, and play – particularly as water scarcity increases globally.
- The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Waterway – which includes both the Seaway and the Lower St. Lawrence River – already supports more than 356,000 Canadian and American jobs and generates Cdn\$66.1 billion / US\$50.8 billion in economic activity annually, but greater investments are needed to realize its full potential.
- The Cities Initiative's *Economic Transformation Action Plan* sets a mayor-led vision for building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor and includes key strategies and actions that we are implementing to become the fastest growing region in North America over the next 10 years.
- Transforming our regional economy for the 21st century and safeguarding our fresh water for current and future generations will require intensive collaboration among our communities, businesses, and federal and regional stakeholders.

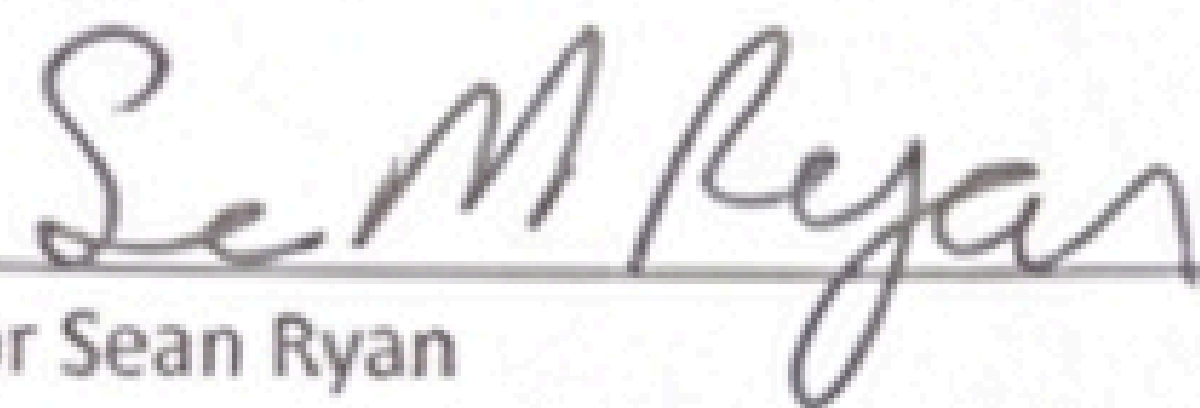
On behalf of the entire Cities Initiative membership:



Mayor Cavalier Johnson
City of Milwaukee, WI



Mayor Justin M. Bibb
City of Cleveland, OH



Mayor Sean Ryan
City of Buffalo, NY



Mayor Malik Evans
City of Rochester, NY



Mayor Olivia Chow
City of Toronto, ON



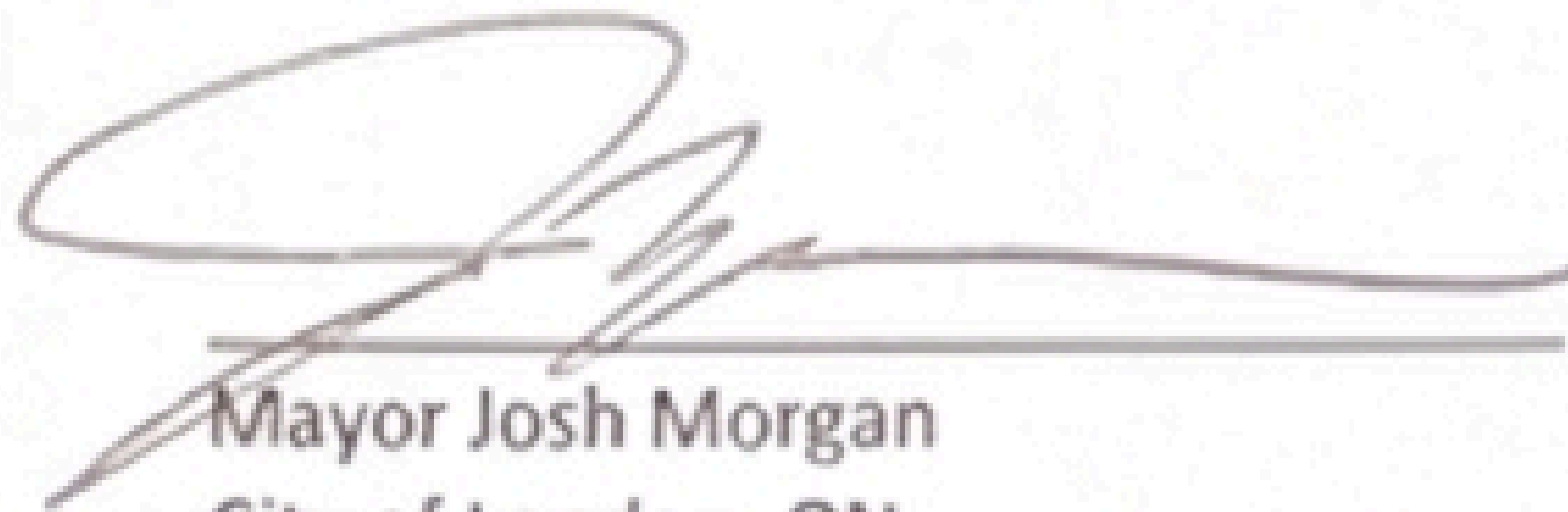
Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada
Ville de Montréal, QC



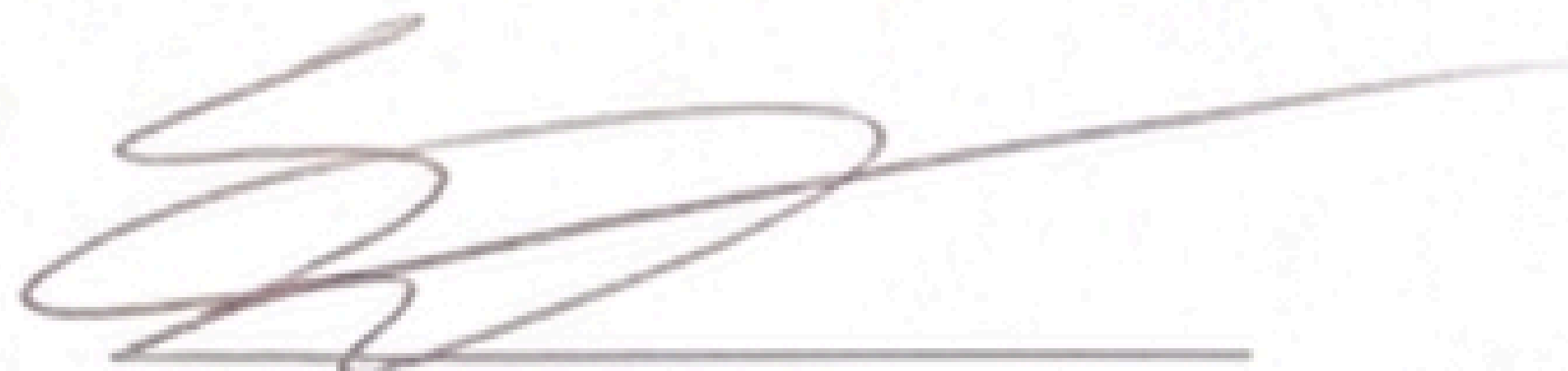
Mayor Bruno Marchand
Ville de Québec, QC



Mayor Andrea Horwath
City of Hamilton, ON



Mayor Josh Morgan
City of London, ON



Mayor Stéphane Boyer
Ville de Laval, QC