



A Resolution Submitted by the City of Toronto, ON; the City of Mississauga, ON; the Grey County, ON and the Communauté métropolitaine de Québec, QC



TREATING WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AS NATIONAL ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

May 2026

WHEREAS reliable water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure is essential to public health, supporting housing development, industrial activity and the functioning of trade corridors across Canada.

AND WHEREAS aging infrastructure, population growth and increasing climate-related impacts — including flooding, extreme precipitation and shoreline erosion — are placing growing financial pressure on municipalities and First Nations.

AND WHEREAS more than 11 percent of Canada's water and wastewater infrastructure assets are already in poor or very poor condition, according to the Canadian Infrastructure Council.

AND WHEREAS municipal water and wastewater infrastructure represents hundreds of billions of dollars in public assets, including wastewater systems alone with a replacement value exceeding \$200 billion in Canadian municipalities, according to the Government of Canada.

AND WHEREAS proactive investments in climate-resilient infrastructure could save Canadian governments up to \$10 billion annually in avoided infrastructure damage, according to the Canadian Climate Institute.

AND WHEREAS inadequate water and wastewater capacity can delay housing construction, constrain industrial site development and limit the expansion of ports, logistics hubs and manufacturing facilities that support Canada's domestic and international trade, as well as Canada's economic competitiveness and supply chain resilience.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent urges the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the Government of Ontario to:
 - Commit to investment in water, wastewater and stormwater systems as critical infrastructure for the economic, environmental and social sustainability of communities.
 - Recognize municipal and First Nations water, wastewater and stormwater systems are of national economic importance, being essential to housing growth, industrial competitiveness and the functioning of trade corridors.
 - Establish a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure program delivered through the Build Communities Strong Fund to support municipalities and First Nations in upgrading and expanding crucial water infrastructure.
- This program should:
 - Prioritize municipalities and First Nations whose infrastructure investments support housing delivery and sustainable, water-centered economic development, including industrial activity and the expansion of ports, logistics hubs and transportation corridors.
 - Supports investments in stormwater management and climate-resilient infrastructure to help communities adapt to increasing flooding and extreme weather events.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the Canadian Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Gregor Robertson, the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma and the Quebec Minister Responsible for Infrastructure, Eric Girard.