

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Warden Bonnie Clark of Peterborough County Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Toronto, ON – July 14, 2026– The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is pleased to welcome Warden Bonnie Clark and the County of Peterborough, ON to its growing coalition of more than 425 local government leaders working to advance economic prosperity across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region while protecting the globally significant freshwater resources that sustain our quality of life.

As a member of the Cities Initiative, Warden Clark and Peterborough County will work collaboratively with members from across the region in Canada and the United States to support healthy lakes and rivers, safe and affordable water for all residents, climate resilient communities, and economic transformation to build the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor from Lake Superior to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence.

Warden Bonnie Clark of Peterborough County, ON: “Peterborough County is proud to join the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative at a time when partnering with our Canadian and US partners is more important than ever. The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence region is not only an environmental treasure, it is a critical economic corridor that underpins billions of dollars in Canada–U.S. trade and supports communities on both sides of the border. By joining this coalition, we are strengthening our voice in advocating for policies that protect water quality, agriculture, maintain reliable trade navigation, and ensure this vital system continues to support jobs, industry, and economic growth. Collaboration across borders is essential, and Peterborough County is committed to working with our partners to safeguard these waterways for the long term.”

Peterborough County offers a vibrant mix of natural beauty, economic potential, and welcoming communities. Spanning over 4,000 square kilometers, the County is home to eight distinct townships — each contributing unique strengths to the region’s dynamic economy and cultural fabric. Rooted in a rich history of agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, the County is evolving through innovation, collaboration, and sustainability. This transformation is creating fertile ground for both established sectors and emerging industries, making Peterborough County a smart choice for forward-thinking businesses and entrepreneurs.

Mayor Mat Siscoe of St. Catharines, ON, Canadian Chair of the Cities Initiative: “The Cities Initiative plays an important role in uniting community leaders to strengthen the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region. We’re pleased to welcome Warden Clark and Peterborough County to our growing coalition of local and First Nation governments. At a time of rapid economic and



environmental change, collaboration is essential to safeguarding our region's vital lakes and rivers and ensuring that our region remains a global economic leader. Together, we are advancing the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor to create new opportunities for our communities and residents and improve the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.”

Every new member of the Cities Initiative is a testament to the importance that municipal, First Nation, and Tribal governments place on protecting the region's globally significant watersheds, preparing communities for extreme weather, modernizing aging water infrastructure, and position our CA\$12.72-billion economy to be among the fastest growing in North America.

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About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

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 who are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 425 communities represented, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents. The Cities Initiative is comprised of a U.S. organization and a Canadian organization. In September 2025, the Cities Initiative launched its Economic Transformation Action Plan: A Blueprint for Economic Growth and Freshwater Stewardship in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region.

For more information, please contact:

Christine Maydossian | MERCURE | cmaydossian@mercure.ca