

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Luc Boivin of Saguenay Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Toronto, ON – August 31, 2026 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is pleased to welcome Mayor Luc Boivin and the City of Saguenay, QC, 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, Mayor Boivin and Saguenay 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.

Mayor Luc Boivin of Saguenay, QC: “The Saguenay Fjord is one of the most spectacular gateways to the St. Lawrence, and our city carries a particular responsibility toward this unique ecosystem. Our rivers, our fjord, and our economy are closely tied to the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin. By joining the Cities Initiative, Saguenay is committing to work alongside other communities to protect this shared resource and build a stronger, more sustainable regional economy for future generations.”

Saguenay sits at the confluence of the Saguenay River and its famous fjord, which flows into the St. Lawrence River at the Saguenay–St. Lawrence Marine Park. With a population of more than 150,000, Saguenay is the main urban centre of the Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean region and a significant economic hub for the aluminum, forestry, agri-food, and tourism sectors, while increasingly focusing on housing, youth retention, and sustainable development.

Mayor Nicolas Dufour of Repentigny, QC, Chair the Cities Initiative’s Quebec Advisory Committee: “It’s great to welcome Mayor Boivin and Saguenay to our growing coalition. We need to work together to ensure the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Region remains one of the top global economies and continue to deliver prosperity for our residents. That means collaborating on building the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor, modernizing our water infrastructure, and protecting the lakes and rivers that are the foundation of our success as a region. The Cities Initiative is a key player to deliver on those priorities.”

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.

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