

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Loïc Blancquaert of Saint-Lambert Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Montréal – August 21, 2026 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is pleased to welcome Mayor Loïc Blancquaert and the City of Saint-Lambert, 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 Blancquaert and Saint-Lambert 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 Loïc Blancquaert of Saint-Lambert, QC: “The St. Lawrence River is an integral part of daily life for the people of Saint-Lambert. It has been at the heart of our landscape, our history, and our quality of life for more than 150 years. By joining the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, we hope to add our voice to those of riverside communities who, like us, are committed to protecting this essential resource and working together to make our communities more resilient to climate change.”

Saint-Lambert is a city of nearly 23,000 residents located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, just minutes from Montreal, to which it is connected by the Victoria Bridge. Known for its heritage character, quality of life, and riverside promenade, it is part of the Longueuil agglomeration and occupies a privileged position at the heart of the greater Montreal metropolitan region, directly on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

Mayor Nicolas Dufour of Repentigny, QC, President of the Cities Initiative’s Quebec Advisory Committee: “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 Blancquaert and Saint-Lambert 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