



L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT
GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE

Statement from St. Catharines Mayor Mat Siscoe on Canada-U.S. Trade and Tariffs

September 2, 2026

Today, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent is calling on the Canadian and United States governments to avoid the implementation of new tariffs and retaliatory measures and to return to the negotiating table in good faith to extend and strengthen the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA). Doing so would help reinforce the relationship and build confidence in an otherwise uncertain economic climate.

“As Co-Chair of the Cities Initiative, I’ve seen firsthand that we are stronger together. Canada and the United States must work together to protect our communities and reinforce North American competitiveness in the global economic market,” said St. Catharines Mayor Mat Siscoe. “No region is more central to the bilateral trade relationship between Canada and the United States than the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region and no region benefits more than we do. We must preserve that.”

Earlier this year, the Cities Initiative’s Canadian members approved a resolution entitled [Strengthening the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement to Support Economic Prosperity in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region](#). This resolution called on Canada to remain party to CUSMA while further operationalizing provisions impacting supply-chain resiliency and economic competitiveness.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region represents over 50% of bilateral trade and more than 30% of combined economic output for our two countries.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent 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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