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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following the U.S. midterms, mayors across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region urge rapid action on Canada-U.S. trade

TORONTO – Nov. 6, 2026 – Following the U.S. midterm elections in which cost-of-living concerns were front of mind for many American voters, Canadian members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint Laurent representing several of the country's largest cities are calling on the Canadian and U.S. governments to return to the negotiating table to address ongoing trade tensions that are increasing costs for households and businesses, and harming our regional economy.

"In St. Catharines, across Niagara and throughout Ontario and Quebec, thousands of jobs depend on our trading relationship with the United States," said St. Catharines Mayor Mat Siscoe, Chair of the Cities Initiative. "Our manufacturers and businesses are already navigating the challenges of tariffs, rising costs and economic uncertainty. With the U.S. midterm elections behind us, the focus needs to be on finding solutions. Canada and the United States must return to the negotiating table and reach a lasting agreement that protects our workers, supports our businesses and strengthens our shared economic future."

The economic relationship between Canada and the United States is one of the largest and most integrated bilateral trading partnerships in the world. Our region alone represents more than 50% of bilateral trade and more than 30% of the combined economic output of the two countries. The region generates CA$12 trillion / US$9 trillion in economic output each year, largely due to the strength of highly integrated supply chains between the two countries.

Mayor Siscoe of St. Catharines is joined by other Great Lakes mayors in calling for greater economic certainty and a strong and stable Canada-U.S. trading relationship (see their statement here). This statement was endorsed by Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer, London Mayor Josh Morgan, Mississauga Mayor-Elect Alvin Tedjo, Montréal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada and Toronto City Councillor Paul Ainslie.

A similar statement was issued by the Cities Initiative's United States counterpart and endorsed by Buffalo Mayor Sean Ryan, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Rochester Mayor Malik Evans and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

Earlier this year, the Cities Initiative's Canadian members approved a resolution urging Canada and the United States to remain parties to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement while strengthening provisions that support supply chain resilience and economic competitiveness.

About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal, Tribal and First Nation 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 Canadian organization and a U.S. 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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