



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

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Jonathan Altenberg
Executive Director

P.O. Box 1332
New Lenox, IL 60451
312.201.4518
www.glslcities.org

December 30, 2020

His Worship Gary McNamara, Mayor
1562 Carmelita Court
Tecumseh, ON N9N 0E3

Dear Mayor McNamara:

It has been a busy and productive year for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The Cities Initiative has been fully engaged in a number of initiatives to benefit our member cities. Please see the report card included with this letter to see all of the important programs we are working on.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region makes up approximately 80% of North America's surface freshwater supply. Protecting and ensuring the sustainable development of these global treasures is our responsibility collectively, as is promoting the social and economic vitality of the cities that surround them. Tecumseh is an important city within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and your continued support for the work of our organization is vital to our success moving forward.

The dues paid by our member cities represent approximately 67% of the operating budget for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. We are a lean organization with a low overhead and staff working remotely. We focus on generating value for our member mayors, amplifying their collective voice, advancing solutions to common challenges, and showcasing the innovative solutions emerging from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities.

Our organization is uniquely positioned as the only binational organization representing cities committed to the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. The Cities Initiative's mission is to work toward the protection, restoration and sustainability of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region to ensure its health and vitality for generations to come.

Attached is your invoice for membership dues for 2021. We have also included a report card that highlights the work we have done over the last year to support your city. We look forward to continuing to work with Tecumseh to protect and serve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jon Altenberg, our Executive Director, at jon.altenberg@glslcities.org. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Vandersteen
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative



2020 INITIATIVES U.S. AND CANADA

REPORT CARD

- **Launch of the Stimulus Water Restoration Initiative**

An ongoing effort to influence the federal governments in Canada and the U.S. to increase funding for water infrastructure and erosion mitigation projects and provide revenue replacement funds to assist cities recover from the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our successful campaign helped Canadian municipalities secure funds to respond to financial impacts from the pandemic. We are working with key members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and members of the Canadian Parliament to advance funding for water infrastructure and coastal erosion mitigation.



- **Amplified Mayors' Voices with the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament**

Supporting key priorities such as Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River restoration, water infrastructure, agricultural conservation and nutrient reduction, Asian Carp control, and commercial navigation, working in collaboration with regional organizations such as the Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative.



- **Formation of the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Water Equity**

A commission specifically focused on the water equity challenges facing many of our cities, including lead service lines, water affordability and water shutoffs, aging infrastructure and climate resilience.



- **Formation of the Cities Initiative Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience**

The council will recommend solutions to coastal erosion, flooding, severe storm events and other impacts from high lake levels and climate change. The council will seek federal and state/provincial funding, identify best practices, exchange technical information, and facilitate communication and collaboration with agencies and organizations working to strengthen coastal resilience around the region.



- **Completion of the Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence 2020-2030**

Developed by five regional organizations, the report recommends key initiatives to guide Canadian policy for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.



- **Cities Initiative Webinar Series**

This series of twelve informative webinars covered topics ranging from Asian Carp, high water levels and how to fund water infrastructure projects. We also co-hosted presentations from the Trump and Biden campaigns, including White House Deputy Chief of Staff John Fleming and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher, and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

