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2022-2023**

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Jonathan Altenberg  
President & CEO

November 30, 2022

Her Worship Andrea Matrosovs, Mayor  
Town of the Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Mayor Matrosovs:

It has been another busy and productive year for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The Cities Initiative has been fully engaged in a number of activities to benefit our member cities, which you can find in the attached report card. Now, more than ever, we need to join forces in supporting the basin. We are facing tremendous headwinds environmentally and socio-economically and we must fight together to assure our basin's success.

We have also included your invoice for membership dues for 2023.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin makes up 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water. Protecting and ensuring the sustainable development of our precious natural resource is our collective responsibility, for the good of our communities, our regional economy and future generations. **Town of the Blue Mountains plays an important role within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin and your continued support for the work of the Cities Initiative is vital to our success.**

Our organization is uniquely positioned as the **only binational organization representing 187 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 basin to ensure its health and vitality for generations to come.

The dues paid by our member cities represent approximately 50% of the operating budget for the Cities Initiative. We are a lean organization with low overhead. We focus on generating value for our member mayors, amplifying their collective voice, advancing solutions to common challenges, and showcasing environmental and social innovations emerging from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River cities in water policy and management.

As we look to 2023, the Cities Initiative is planning to leverage the opportunities that will present themselves in the coming year, including the implementation of once-in-a-generation infrastructure funding in the U.S., and launch of the Canada Water Agency and National Adaptation Strategy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jon Altenberg, President and CEO, at [jon.altenberg@glslcities.org](mailto:jon.altenberg@glslcities.org). I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Sincerely,

Billy McKinney  
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor, Zion IL

Jonathan Altenberg  
President and CEO, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

## Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

PO Box 1332

New Lenox, IL 60451

312.201.4518 | [www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org) | @GLSLCities



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE

**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**

DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

**INVOICE NO. 1543**

**November 11, 2022**

**Bill to:**

Town of the Blue Mountains  
32 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 310  
Thornbury, ON N0H2P0

**Payable to:**

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Payment Due within 30 days of receipt.

**Please mail to:**

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
P.O. Box 1332, New Lenox, IL 60451

Description	Population	Total
	7,025	

2023 Annual Membership Dues

\$2,200.00

**Total Due by** January 10, 2023

**\$2,200.00**

**All dues are payable in CAD.**

### DUES STRUCTURE

Size of City	Dues Amount
0 1,000	\$550
1,000 2,500	\$1,100
2,500 5,000	\$1,650
5,000 10,000	\$2,200
10,000 25,000	\$2,750
25,000 50,000	\$3,300
50,000 75,000	\$4,400
75,000 100,000	\$5,500
100,000 250,000	\$7,700
250,000 500,000	\$11,000
500,000 1,000,000	\$16,500
1,000,000 2,000,000	\$22,000
2,000,000 3,000,000	\$27,500

Thank you for your continued membership!

Please note our banking information has changed.

### ACH/EFT Instructions

Bank: Bank of Montreal  
Routing Number: 00022-001  
Account Number: [REDACTED]



**GREAT LAKES AND  
ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE



## 2022 INITIATIVES

### CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

## REPORT CARD

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The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has been active over the past year in promoting the environmental, social and economic vitality of our member cities. This report card reviews our progress in critical areas and grades us on our success in generating tangible achievements for cities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

# REPORT CARD

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## Secured Substantial Resources for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Cities



The Cities Initiative has been an effective force in securing resources for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin cities. Key successes in Canada and the United States include:

### Canada:

- Helped secure more than \$50 million in additional freshwater investments for 2022, including:
  - A five-year commitment of \$44 million and \$9 million ongoing to create the new Canada Water Agency;
  - \$20 million to sustain the Freshwater Action Plan to support clean-up efforts in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin; and
  - \$45 million over five years and \$9 million ongoing to fund the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.
- Accelerated the deadline for provinces to submit their priority projects under the federal infrastructure program to expedite the delivery of needed funds.

### United States:

- Influenced the climate provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act, including:
  - \$27 billion for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund;
  - \$5 billion for Climate Pollution Reduction Grants; and
  - \$2.6 billion for Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience.
- Called for billions in annual federal appropriations for coastal resilience and water infrastructure to supplement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

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## Strengthened Government Support for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Restoration and Protection



The Cities Initiative has advanced key priorities for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. Key successes in Canada and the United States include:

### Canada:

- Renewed commitments to launching the Canada Water Agency and significantly increasing Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin investments by the federal government;
- Helped advance funding commitments by Ottawa in Budget 2021 for a Natural Infrastructure Fund was made available to smaller communities through a call for project proposals; and
- Secured commitments from the Ontario and Quebec governments around source water protection and water royalties from private companies, respectively.

### United States:

- Sustained support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative on Capitol Hill;
- Increased funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study; and
- Advocated for a more equitable federal-local cost share to be authorized via the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Brandon Road Interbasin Project to prevent an established presence of invasive carp in the Great Lakes.

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## Elevated Mayors' Voices in Ottawa and Washington



The Cities Initiative increased its relevance as a leading voice in Ottawa and Washington for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin mayors. Key successes in Canada and the United States include:

- Featured remarks from Michael Regan, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Terry Duguid, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of

# REPORT CARD

Environment and Climate Change; and Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senator from Illinois at our Annual General Meeting in St. Catharines, Ontario;

- Continued to work closely with the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force and the Parliamentary Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Task Force – and collaborated with the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and other partners – to elevate our federal policy priorities in both capitals and secure federal funding for our communities; and
- Held our first Ottawa Day since 2019, in conjunction with national and regional partners, where member mayors met with MPs and Senators to advance federal policy priorities.

## Became a Partner for Change on Coastal Resilience



In 2022, the Cities Initiative completed a pilot of the Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative in Wisconsin and launched the program in three additional regions. Key successes in Canada and the United States include:

- Piloted a technical assistance and funding support program in Wisconsin Lake Michigan communities resulting in project advancement in eight communities ranging from southeast (Kenosha) to northeast (Green Bay) Wisconsin;
- Launched the program in Southeast Michigan (Lake St. Clair and Detroit River), West Michigan, and Indiana, engaging with over 25 communities in total;
- Secured a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to develop a Shoreline Plan for the Illinois North Shore in 2023 that will compliment technical-assistance efforts to advance coastal-resilience projects in North Shore communities;
- Applied for \$1.5 million in additional funds to expand the program to the remaining Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin communities in the United States; and
- Applied for CAN \$1 million in additional funds to expand the program to shoreline communities in Ontario and Quebec.

## Positioned Mayoral Commissions to Deliver Policy Results



The Cities Initiative's mayoral commissions continued to build policy influence and contribute to policy change at all levels. Key successes in Canada and the United States include:

- Hosted a Mayors Commission on Water Equity Field Hearing on Equitable Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act at the One Water Summit in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Twelve Great Lakes mayors delivered testimony on lead service line replacement, urban flooding, and other water-equity priorities to senior officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state agencies;
- Selected Mayor Cavalier Johnson of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Mayor Justin Bibb of Cleveland, Ohio, as Co-Chairs of the Mayors Commission on Water Equity; and
- Continued to work with the Mayors Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience to develop action plans and refine policy priorities after a successful first year. Major policy engagements with Environment and Climate Change Canada; Infrastructure Canada; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, among others, on green infrastructure and other topics are anticipated in the year ahead.

### OVERALL GRADE: A-

**We are pleased to report that the Cities Initiative is in a healthy position and we look forward to building on our accomplishments in 2023.**



**GREAT LAKES AND  
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