

Canadian Government Update

Government of Canada Budget

In preparation for the 2021 budget, the Cities Initiative is developing a "Budget Ask" for our members to share with Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Senators during the expected "Consultation Period" this winter (January-February 2021). Watch for more information in early 2021.

The Parliament of Canada:

With the creation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Parliamentary Task Force, meetings are being set for November 2020 between Senators, Parliamentarians and Cities Initiative members to discuss our core issues. Watch for emails regarding these meetings once dates are confirmed.

Environment and Climate Change Canada and the International Joint Commission

The IJC, with the support of ECCC, will be holding public consultations to review their water management "Plan 2014" between November and January, with city governments along the Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative will be working with the IJC, ECCC, member municipalities and other Canadian municipalities within this region to present the challenges and costs associated with the recent flooding and water level fluctuation. Watch for emails to Ontario and Quebec members once dates are confirmed.

Government Engagements and Activities

At the end of October, Cities Initiative staff participated in the most recent Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Annex Subcommittee meeting – this time focusing on nutrients. This two-day session explored how federal, state/provincial governments are developing and executing "Domestic Action Plans" to address these issues.

With presentations from Canada, Ontario, the United States, and most state governments along the shores of the Great Lakes, the key topics discussed were:

- What progress has been made under your Domestic Action Plan?
- How are you measuring progress under your Domestic Action Plan?
- Which indicators are you using?

A more complete summary will be included in our November 19 webinar.

Great Lakes Executive Committee

The Great Lakes Executive Committee has invited the Cities Initiative to participate in their upcoming meeting in mid-December on the current status of the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The meeting will focus on the governments of the United States and Canada to help coordinate and implement the programs and other measures undertaken to achieve the purpose of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.