

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Keynote Speaker and Host City Announcement

I am writing to invite you to join over 125 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence mayors at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in St. Catharines, Ontario June 22 through June 24. The theme of this year's AGM will be "Powering the Blue Economy–Leveraging the Potential of Our Freshwater Resources".

As mayor of the City of St. Catharines and Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, I am very excited about this year's AGM. This will be the first time we will be able to gather in person since 2019 and we have an exciting agenda of speakers and topics to cover. We are also planning a number of activities that will give you ample opportunity to collaborate and get reacquainted with your fellow mayors.

This year's keynote speaker is aquanaut and ocean conservationist **Fabien Cousteau**, Mr. Cousteau will kick-off our conference addressing the important intersection between environmental stewardship and economic resilience.

Nicknamed the "Garden City," St. Catharines is an ideal place for this year's AGM. As the largest city in the Niagara region, we offer visitors a wide variety of activities and natural beauty for everyone to enjoy. Our unique micro-climate allows wineries to flourish and our proximity to Niagara Falls makes St. Catharines an ideal community to visit.

We are lucky to be hosting this year's conference at the White Oaks Resort and Spa, a beautiful complex situated in the heart of Niagara wine country. Our opening gala will be conducted at Queen Victoria Place Restaurant overlooking the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

We look forward to you joining us this year. **Registration will formally begin March 10 so keep an eye out for details in your email inbox.** Please feel free to contact me or our staff if you have any questions about this year's annual meeting.

Best regards,

Mayor Walter Sendzik, St. Catharines, Ontario
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
chair.sendzik@glslcities.org