MAKING WAVES

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

Budget 2023: A Victory for the Cities Initiative

On March 28, 2023, the Government of Canada's 2023 Budget was released. While the current economic context had an impact on the extent to which the federal government was willing to support source water protection, months of efforts and advocacy by the Cities Initiative and our members tipped the balance in our favour. Even if the total federal investments are not sufficient to address all important needs, we celebrate this important victory.



Here are some key highlights from this year's Budget:

- $650 million over 10 years, including the $420 million announced during President Biden's visit, to support monitoring, assessment and restoration work in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and other significant bodies of water.
- $85 million over five years, and $21 million ongoing thereafter to support the creation of the Canada Water Agency (CWA), which will be headquartered in Winnipeg – legislation establishing the CWA as a standalone entity to be tabled before the end of 2023.
- Close to $100 million in various climate change and adaptation initiatives, such as a low-cost insurance program for homeowners and a web portal to help Canadians identify flooding risks.
- $165 million to establish a Green Shipping Corridor Program to reduce the impact of marine shipping on surrounding communities and ecosystems.

The Cities Initiative welcomes these investments and we will continue to advocate for other key funding priorities through 2023, such as the creation of a dedicated water infrastructure funding program.