

Why we Joined Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor Gino Moretti

Saint-Anicet is located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, about one hour west of Montreal, with Ontario and New York State within sight on a clear day.

With a population of under 3,000 people and agriculture a major economic driver, we are a small municipality with limited resources facing a big problem. St. Lawrence has risen by almost three feet (1m) in recent years, and this is changing our 160-year community in ways not seen since the St. Lawrence Seaway was built 60 years ago.

High water along the shores of the St. Lawrence has eroded three islands into nothing by rocks that were once part of our community. That is the most visible changes to our community – but the most drastic is that the new higher water in the river means that we need to pump water out la rivière La Guerre.

These changing water levels and erosion are also causing sentiment build up in the canal the – further jeopardizing our water systems.

The information session, the policy papers, and the ability to speak with and learn from other municipal leaders are so helpful as my municipality starts the process of developing our asset management plan and explore new drinking water, wastewater, and agricultural water options that will keep our community safe. The advice and information from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative have been very helpful to the team and we look forward to working with other municipal leaders in the months ahead as we address many issues facing our waters.