MAKING WAVES

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

Canadian Policy Initiative

The Cities Initiative Board of Directors recently adopted its 2022 Canadian federal priorities as part of its mid-year meeting. These priorities help set the agenda for outreach with the Government of Canada and federal parliamentarians for this year.

The approval of the Canadian advocacy priorities coincides with the federal government's pre-budget consultations and were presented to the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, along with other related Cabinet ministers. The priorities will also be shared with Members of Parliament who represent ridings along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin to help build momentum for the Cities Initiative's policy proposals.

These priorities, which can found here, have been outlined under six themes calling on the Government of Canada to:

- Implement a Canada Water Agency that will support the long-term viability of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin and the communities it sustains.
- Leverage federal resources and tools to support climate adaptation for coastal communities in the basin.
- Engage municipalities in the development of climate change adaptation tools.
- Enable municipalities to protect water quality for their communities.
- Address nuisances and pollutants affecting the quality of our precious freshwater resources.
- Support the growth of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Blue Economy.

The outlined priorities were developed thanks to members' policy resolutions presented at the 2021 annual meeting, the recommendations outlined by the Mayors Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience, the *Action Plan 2020-2030 to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence*, responses to federal mandate letter commitments and through individual dialogue with members. This document notably supports a demand from several of our Quebec members for the federal government to reinstate a shoreline protection program that was launched during the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and was abandoned in the late 1990s during a program review.

As provincial elections approach in Ontario and Quebec, the Cities Initiative is asking its members to share their priorities for the Ontario and Quebec governments with respect to shoreline resiliency and climate adaptation, protecting water quality in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, addressing water equity issues and supporting our burgeoning Blue Economy. Please contact Phil Murphy-Rhéaume at phillipe.murphy-rheaume@glslcities.org to share your provincial priorities.