

Canada Policy Update - 2022 Federal Budget

On April 7, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland unveiled her second budget. Entitled " A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable," this year's Budget focused largely on housing, boosting innovation and productivity, as well as supporting Canada's transition to the green economy.

The Budget also commits to freshwater investments and tackling plastic pollution, including:

- A five-year commitment of $43.5 million and $8.7 million ongoing to create the new Canada Water Agency
- $19.6 million to sustain the Freshwater Action Plan, which will support clean-up efforts in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, among other major waterways.
- $44.9 million over five years and $9 million ongoing to fund the Great Lakes Fishery Commitment, which means that Canada will finally fully fund its portion of the Commission after years of not meeting its obligation.
- $183.1 million over five years to reduce plastic waste and increase a circular economy approach to plastics, by developing and implementing regulatory measures and conducting scientific research to inform policy-making, such as monitoring plastic pollution in water systems.

Although the Budget does fund some of the Cities Initiative's 2022 priorities, there is still work to be done. We will continue to inform and advocate government decision-makers and legislators about our members' issues and push for comprehensive solutions and additional funding to address water pollution, protect our shorelines from climate change impacts and develop a long-term vision for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Blue Economy.



Mayor Water Sendzik (St. Catharines, Ont.), Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recently joined Vance Badawey, MP for Niagara Centre and members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) in the announcement of additional funding by the Government of Canada to support the GLFC's work.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Badawey, Greg McClinchey of the GLFC and Christine Maydossian of Ryan Public Affairs to provide an overview of the 2022 Budget in a special edition of our monthly webinar series.

Read our 2022 Priorities. Read our news release on Budget 2022.