



Canada Policy Update

It's been an active post-summer season on the freshwater, climate change and environmental files in Canada!



Transformational Funding for the Great Lakes in Canada

On September 28, Cities Initiative members around the Bay of Quinte participated in an announcement on Canada's historic \$420-million investment in the Great Lakes with Environment and Climate Change Minister, Steven Guilbeault, and Parliamentary Secretary, Vance Badawey.

Canada's Great Lakes funding will prioritize delisting Areas of Concern by 2030, addressing phosphorous loading in Lake Erie and achieving other freshwater priorities under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The federal government expects to launch a first funding intake for this Great Lakes program this fall – stay tuned for more

details as they become available!

[Read our full news release.](#)



Cabinet shuffles and pre-Budget season

Earlier this summer, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shuffled his Cabinet and also changed portfolios for several Parliamentary Secretaries. There are now new Ministers in Ottawa for key departments, such as Infrastructure, Fisheries and Transport. We have sent congratulations letters and will follow up to schedule meetings to advocate around our key priorities.

At Queen's Park, Premier Doug Ford also oversaw a few shuffles, notable in the ministries of Environment, Municipal Affairs and Transport. We'll be engaging the government this fall through our new Ontario Regional Working Group to help advance our Ontario members' priorities with the Ford government.

Much like budget season has started in the municipal world, federal and provincial governments are gearing up next year's Budget season. We are expecting a Fall Economic Update by federal Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, sometime in November.

This summer, we submitted five recommendations to the federal Standing Committee on Finance for their pre-Budget consultations. Notably, we call on the Government of Canada to invest additional sums into freshwater programming to hit its previous \$1-billion promise for freshwater over 10 years. We also continue to call for Canada to invest in and re-launch a dedicated water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure stream and are pleased to see the Federation of Canadian Municipalities echo our calls for funding these critical systems. Further, we're calling on the government to work with Ontario and Quebec on a made-in-Canada Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, taking inspiration from our American friends who will be undertaking their own study through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can review the full submission [here](#).