

From: Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative <admin@glslcities.org>

Sent: January 13, 2023 10:15 AM

To: William C. Steele <William.Steele@portcolborne.ca>

Subject: Have you added the \$1 Billion Booster for Freshwater Health resolution on your council's agenda?

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GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE

L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

Support the Cities Initiative's \$1 Billion Booster for Freshwater Health campaign

The Cities Initiative is reinforcing the importance of committing \$1 billion to freshwater programs in the next the federal Budget. That's why we are **asking our members to pass a [council resolution](#) and send a [letter](#) to Ministers Freeland (Finance) and Guilbeault (Environment and Climate Change) by February 28.**

Has your city added a resolution to its council agenda? More than a dozen municipalities have passed or committed to pass this important resolution so far!

The Cities Initiative is working with other organizations across Canada, including the Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and Great Lakes Commission **to push the federal government to invest \$1 billion in a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan** to improve the health of the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes and river systems. With your help, we can secure this once-in-a-generation funding for fresh water.

Read more about the campaign [here](#). For more information about this campaign, please contact our Canada Policy Director, Phil Murphy-Rhéaume at Phillipe.murphy-rheaume@glslcities.org.

How can your city help?

- Encourage your municipal council to **pass a resolution and send a letter** to the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister (Chrystia Freeland) and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (Steven Guilbeault).
 - Access the template council resolution [here](#)
 - Access the template letter [here](#)
 - **Please share adopted council resolutions and letters mailed to the government with our Canada Policy Director, [Phil Murphy-Rhéaume](#), who will also be compiling them as part of our advocacy efforts**
- **Talk to your local federal and provincial elected representatives** to communicate your support for this campaign and the need for the federal government to live up to its commitment to invest significant funds in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin stewardship.

Why this matters

- During the 2021 federal election, the Liberal Party committed to a “strengthened Freshwater Action Plan,” including a **historic investment of \$1 billion over ten years**. To date, the federal government has *not* implemented this campaign promise.
- A \$1-billion investment in the Freshwater Action Plan would **lead to enhanced funding for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin stewardship**, including budget increases for the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, more funding to address Areas of Concern and support on-the-ground stewardship activities.
- Since 2017, the **Government of Canada has invested \$45 million in the Great Lakes Protection Initiative**. By comparison, **the U.S has invested over \$1.8 billion during the same time frame in its Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)**. The GLRI has been found to create positive economic spinoffs, generating \$3 in economic activity for each federal dollar spent on the program.



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