



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

November 30, 2021

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The Honourable Selwyn "Buck" Hicks, Warden
County of Grey
595 9th Ave East
Owen Sound, ON, N4K 3E3

Dear Warden Hicks:

It has been another busy and productive year for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The Cities Initiative has been fully engaged in a number of activities to benefit our member Cities, which you can find in the enclosed report card. We have also included your invoice for membership dues for 2022.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region makes up 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water. Protecting and ensuring the sustainable development of our precious natural resource is our collective responsibility, for the good of our communities, our regional economy and future generations. **County of Grey plays an important role within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region and your continued support for the work of the Cities Initiative is vital to our success moving forward.**

Our organization is uniquely positioned as the **only binational organization representing cities committed to the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin**. The Cities Initiative's mission is to work toward the protection, restoration and sustainability of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region to ensure its health and vitality for generations to come.

The dues paid by our member cities represent approximately 67% of the operating budget for the Cities Initiative. We are a lean organization with low overhead and staff working remotely. We focus on generating value for our member mayors, amplifying their collective voice, advancing solutions to common challenges, and showcasing environmental and social innovations emerging from Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities in water policy and management.

As we look to 2022, the Cities Initiative is planning to leverage the opportunities that will present themselves in the coming year, including the 50th anniversary of the US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the implementation of once-in-a-generation infrastructure funding in the U.S. and the launch of the Canada Water Agency, among many others.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jon Altenberg, our Executive Director, at jon.altenberg@glslcities.org. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Sincerely,

Walter Sendzik
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor, St. Catharines, ON

Jonathan Altenberg
Executive Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative