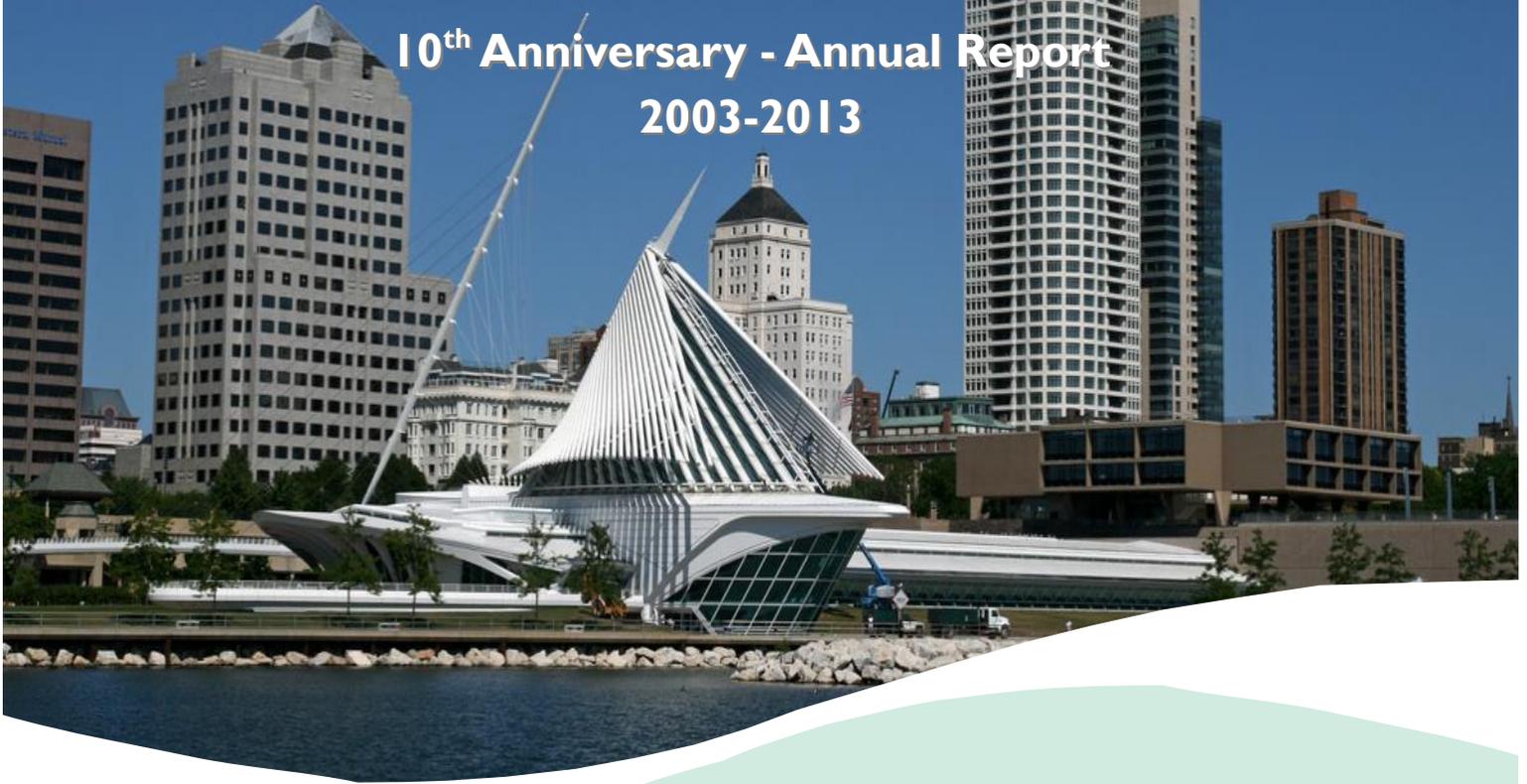


GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE

10th Anniversary - Annual Report
2003-2013



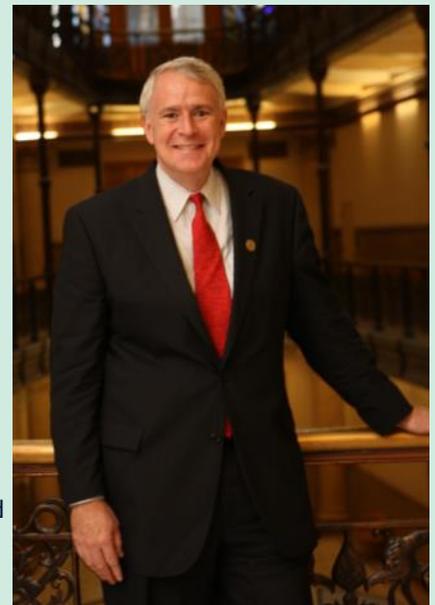
Dear Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Colleagues:

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative during its 10th anniversary year. The Cities Initiative and its members have come a long way since its inception in 2003. Founded to ensure local governments have a voice in the protection, restoration, and long term sustainable management of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, the Cities Initiative has flourished to become the leading municipal voice on the Lakes and River. Even more importantly, members of the Cities Initiative have led by example through action in their own communities to protect and restore this international freshwater treasure.

As we celebrate 10 years of progress restoring the Lakes and River and keeping them healthy and vibrant for generations to come, we must recognize the work yet to be done. Cities can lead the way on this important work to find ways to eliminate invasive species, ensure a clean water supply to drink and enjoy, and help communities grow and develop in a manner that takes full advantage of this freshwater system while sustainably managing it. We have our work cut out for us but if the last 10 years are any indication, I am confident cities can make more good things happen faster. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure our children, grandchildren, and all future generations can drink the water, eat the fish and swim in our Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
Chair, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2012-2013



Voice of Mayors

Water Levels

Great Lakes water levels hit record lows at the end of 2012 and into 2013, impacting shorelines, personal property, businesses, and municipal infrastructure of many Cities Initiative member municipalities. In response, the Cities Initiative sent a letter to President Obama and Prime Minister Harper in February 2013 requesting that the two governments work together to find near, mid and long terms solutions to the water levels problem. Soon after, the International Joint Commission (IJC) issued its Advice to Governments on the Recommendations of the Upper Great Lakes Study in April 2013, endorsing a new regulation plan for water levels in the interconnected lakes of Superior, Michigan and Huron. While the Cities Initiative welcomed the new regulation plan, it does not directly address extremely low water levels in Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, especially in Georgian Bay. However, in its final report, the IJC recommended that the U.S. and Canadian federal governments undertake an investigation into Lake Michigan-Huron water levels in order to identify restoration options.

In November 2012, the Cities Initiative was invited to participate on the IJC's Adaptive Management Plan advisory group, helping the Adaptive Management Task Team develop a plan to evaluate and prioritize adaptive management activities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin and address future variations of water levels. The Task Team intends to submit a final version of the Adaptive Management Plan to the IJC in mid-2013.

A number of Cities Initiative member municipalities are working to educate and inform policy and decision makers of the urgency of low water levels. Georgian Bay area mayors, including Mayor Sandra Cooper (Collingwood), Mayor Scott Warnock (Tay), and Mayor Cal Patterson (Wasaga Beach), met in October 2012 with Minister Peter Kent of Environment Canada and a representative from the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans. They discussed the issue of low waters levels in the Georgian Bay, including the adverse impacts faced by communities as a result of low water levels, such as impacts to fish and other marine life and a decline in tourism revenue. The Mayors encouraged the Minister to focus more attention and resources on the growing threat posed by lowering water levels.

Pipelines

Given the widespread concern expressed by Cities Initiative member mayors following the Enbridge pipeline spill in 2010 that resulted in 20,000 barrels of oil entering the Kalamazoo River, the Cities Initiative is closely watching developments with respect to several pipeline project proposals. In particular, the Cities Initiative is monitoring the Enbridge pipeline #9 pipeline reversal project that crosses over the



From left, Mayor Scott Warnock (Tay); Simcoe-Grey MP Kellie Leitch; Mayor Sandra Cooper (Collingwood); Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment; Mayor Cal Patterson (Wasaga Beach) Deputy Mayor George Lawrence (Tiny) and Simcoe-North MP Bruce Stanton.

northern end of Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River from Hamilton through to Montreal. The Cities Initiative Board of Directors will discuss and determine how the organization will participate in any consultations or hearings associated with the project in 2013.

Deep Geologic Repository

Ontario Power Generation (OPG), an electricity generating utility wholly owned by the Government of Ontario, has proposed constructing and operating a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste in Kincardine, Ontario. The exact location of the proposed site of the DGR is about one kilometer inland from the shore of Lake Huron, under the Bruce Nuclear Plant site. Given its proximity to Lake Huron, and the implications for the Lakes associated with nuclear waste storage, the Board of Directors and members of the Cities Initiative asked staff to monitor the situation and help develop a position for the organization if necessary. The Cities Initiative requested, and OPG organized, a fact finding site visit on May 17, 2013. Mayor Keith Hobbs (Thunder Bay), Mayor Mitch Twolan (Huron-Kinloss), Mayor Mike Bradley (Sarnia), Mayor Ellen Anderson (Town of the Blue Mountains), Mayor Cooper and Executive Director David Ullrich attended the site visit. The Cities Initiative submitted comments to the Joint Review Panel of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed DGR on May 24, 2013. The Cities Initiative also formally requested intervener status for an upcoming public hearing on the DGR to be held in the fall of 2013. We will continue to work with the membership to refine our position on the DGR and provide updates.

Representing Cities

COA MOC

The Cities Initiative's memorandum of cooperation with the Ontario Government on matters related to the Great Lakes once again served Cities Initiative members well. The COA MOC, as it is called, was renewed for a two year period in June 2012. Since then, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has been involved in negotiations with the Federal Government on a new Canada-Ontario Agreement respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. The Cities Initiative held a meeting on October 31, 2012 with MOE and Environment Canada officials to hear about the negotiations and to provide early input on a confidential basis directly to the negotiators. On December 3, 2012, Mayor Vance Badawey (Port Colborne), Mayor Steve Parish (Ajax) and Mayor Twolan represented the Cities Initiative at a meeting with MOE, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs staff to discuss collaborative work in the coming year. Out of this meeting came several ideas that are currently being worked on, including an inventory of municipal activities to reduce nutrients entering the lakes, and a forum for federal, provincial and municipal officials to share their latest information on the state of science with respect to nutrient runoff into the Lakes. For more information, please visit <http://www.gslcities.org/representing-cities/coa-moc.cfm>.

The Great Lakes Advisory Board

The Cities Initiative has secured a position on the new Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB), an entity that will help support implementation of the U.S. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The GLAB, overseen by the US EPA, will provide advice and recommendations on policy, goals and objectives, and annual priorities to the EPA Administrator, who serves as chair of the federal Interagency Task Force (a task force of eleven U.S. Cabinet and Federal Agency heads that coordinate restoration of the Great Lakes). In addition to this role on the Advisory Board to represent municipalities, David Ullrich, Cities Initiative Executive Director, was appointed to the position of Chair of the Advisory Board.

Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

On September 7, 2012, Canada and the U.S. signed an updated Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and it was entered into force on February 12, 2013. The updated GLWQA contains new provisions on the nearshore environment, aquatic invasive species, habitat degradation, and the effects of climate change. The Cities Initiative, along with other stakeholders, was invited by Environment Canada and the U.S. EPA to sit on the newly created Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC). The first meeting of the GLEC was held in December 2012 and the Cities Initiative was represented by Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall.

The St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026

Implementation of the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026 (Plan) was announced by the governments of Canada and Quebec in November 2011, and further advanced throughout the last year. Cities Initiative Quebec-based staff participated in all activities related to the Plan and voiced the principal concerns of Quebec mayors regarding protection, restoration and development of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence network. At the heart of Quebec mayors' priorities is implementation of an integrated management approach for the St. Lawrence River, the key element of the 2011-2026 Plan. The management model will be gradually applied in the coming years to the whole St. Lawrence River region. In this management approach, municipalities will be asked to contribute to the decision-making that will shape the future of the St. Lawrence River, as part of a diverse group of stakeholders formed of social and economic leaders and First Nations representatives. Over the next year, the Cities Initiative will continue its collaboration with federal and provincial governments regarding the Plan to ensure that municipal voices are heard when River issues are discussed, especially the request for the creation of a national consultation table.



Ontario Mayors during a Cities Initiative Ontario Regional Meeting.

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative—10th Anniversary

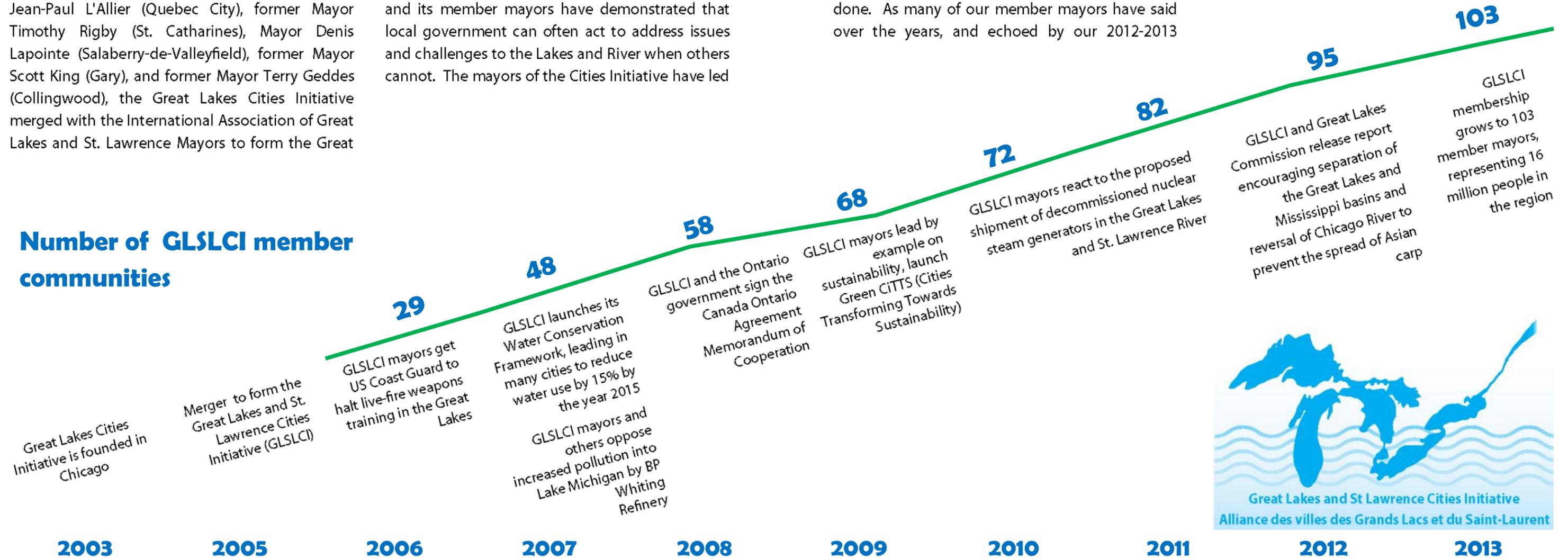
2013 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Former Mayor of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, founded the Great Lakes Cities Initiative in 2003. In 2005, under the guidance and leadership of Mayor Daley, former Mayor David Miller (Toronto), former Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier (Quebec City), former Mayor Timothy Rigby (St. Catharines), Mayor Denis Lapointe (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield), former Mayor Scott King (Gary), and former Mayor Terry Geddes (Collingwood), the Great Lakes Cities Initiative merged with the International Association of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Mayors to form the Great

Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Now, 103 mayors strong, the Cities Initiative has established itself as the leading municipal voice for communities in the US and Canada on the protection, restoration and promotion of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative and its member mayors have demonstrated that local government can often act to address issues and challenges to the Lakes and River when others cannot. The mayors of the Cities Initiative have led

by example on their efforts to advance the protection and restoration of the Lakes and River and encourage the sustainable management of this international treasure. As we revisit some of the highlights over the last 10 years in the timeline below, we are cognizant of the work yet to be done. As many of our member mayors have said over the years, and echoed by our 2012-2013

Chair, Mayor Barrett, we will continue to work hard to ensure that our children and future generations can drink the water, eat the fish and swim in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Number of GLSLCI member communities



Initiatives

Green CiTTS

In its third year, the Cities Initiative Green CiTTS program developed a Sustainable Municipal Water Management declaration which was adopted by the membership at the Cities Initiative annual meeting. At the direction of the Board, a working group reviewed the SMWM declaration to streamline the number of milestones and indicators. The revised SMWM declaration is now being test-driven by six cities, each of which is evaluating its water management practices against the SMWM milestones and indicators using a SMWM evaluation tool. The cities will present their completed sustainable municipal water management public evaluation reports at the Cities Initiative 2014 annual meeting. The SMWM declaration, principles, milestones and indicators can be seen at <http://www.glslcities.org/initiatives/greencities/smwm.cfm>.

Meanwhile, the Cities Initiative has been working with climate adaptation and resiliency experts in Canada and the United States to develop a climate adaptation service for members. Stay tuned for an announcement soon on a climate adaptation service. The focus on climate change adaptation and resiliency building is timely. In the spring/summer of 2012, the cities of Duluth and Thunder Bay experienced intense storms and flooding that devastated municipal infrastructure and other property and placed public safety at risk. To inform other communities of the dangers and risks of high intensity weather and flooding, the Cities Initiative hosted a webinar highlighting the experiences of Duluth and Thunder Bay. The webinar provided members with lessons learned from the two cities and ways in which they can better prepare for high intensity weather events and potential flooding. The information shared by Duluth and Thunder Bay will no doubt help other communities take steps necessary to better protect the public as well as property and infrastructure in the face of more extreme weather.



Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, QC.

Asian Carp

Progress continues on efforts to educate policy makers, decision makers and the public on the recommended ecological separation solution to keep Asian carp and other invasive species out of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The Cities Initiative, through the work of David Ullrich, continues to be heavily involved in the outreach campaign for the *Envisioning a Chicago Area Waterways System for the 21st Century* study. In November 2012, the Cities Initiative was instrumental in pulling together a public hearing for all interested parties in Ontario on the issue of Asian carp, an idea initiated by a Town of Ajax resolution submitted at the 2012 Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting. The Cities Initiative will continue its work to advocate for the ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins. For updates, please regularly visit http://www.glslcities.org/initiatives/21century_asiancarp.cfm.

Water Conservation

The Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework is a voluntary program through which local governments commit to working towards a 15 percent reduction in total water usage below year 2000 levels by the year 2015. At the 2012 Annual Meeting it was announced that almost half of the participants have collectively achieved an 18 percent reduction in water use below year 2000 levels, conserving a total of 108 billion gallons of water. Additionally, the City of Windsor and the City of Thunder Bay were recognized for innovation and progress in water conservation. Throughout the year, the Cities Initiative also hosted a webinar with the Alliance for Water Efficiency on the water revenue loss dilemma faced by many municipalities. To learn more on the water conservation framework, please visit <http://www.glslcities.org/initiatives/water-conservation.cfm>.



Executive Director David Ullrich, Canadian Ambassador to the United States Gary Doer, Mayor Brian McMullan (St. Catharines) and Mayor and Chair Tom Barrett (Milwaukee).

Events

Midyear Board Meeting

In December 2012, the Cities Initiative Board of Directors was hosted by Cities Initiative Chair, Mayor Tom Barrett, in Milwaukee for its Midyear Board Meeting. In attendance were Mayor Barrett, Mayor Régis Labeaume (Québec Metropolitan Community), Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson (Gary), Mayor George Heartwell, (Grand Rapids) Mayor Denis Lapointe (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield), Mayor McMullan, Mayor Twolan, Mayor John Dickert (Racine), Mayor Cooper, and a representative on behalf of Mayor Rahm Emanuel (Chicago). At the meeting, the Board approved moving forward with a climate change adaptation and resiliency-building focus for the Green CiTTS program for 2013-2014, approved a membership incentive program to help attract new members, and selected the 2014 Annual Meeting host city, Thunder Bay. Additionally, the Board received updates from staff and discussed action on a number of items including water levels, the proposed deep geologic repository in Kincardine, fracking and shale gas, Asian carp, and many others.



Members of the Cities Initiative's Board of Directors meet in December, 2012, in Milwaukee, WI.

Quebec Regional Meetings

More than forty St. Lawrence Mayors and other City representatives attended four Québec regional meetings in Quebec City throughout 2012-2013, which were initiated by Mayor Régis Labeaume, President of the Québec Metropolitan Community, Mayor of Québec City and Secretary-Treasurer of the Cities Initiative. At the meetings, mayors discussed and developed action plans on several important shared issues, including shoreline protection and restoration, water levels, the St. Lawrence Action Plan, invasive species, regional port transfers and hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation. The Quebec Union of Municipalities (UMQ) also attended the meetings as an observer. Cities Initiative staff collaborated with lead mayors on each issue to move their respective action plan forward. These meetings aim to get municipal leaders together on shared issues, promote our work and ultimately, grow our membership in Quebec.



Quebec Mayors at the Regional Meeting held on January 25, 2013.

2012 Annual Member Meeting

The 9th Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting and Conference, *Advancing Waterwise Cities*, was hosted in Quebec City by the Québec Metropolitan Community and its President Régis Labeaume, on June 26-28, 2012. The membership passed resolutions on topics ranging from aquatic invasive species to shale gas exploration, sediment management and sustainable municipal water management. Six member communities were recognized for their outstanding work in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River: the City of Gary received the Wege Small Cities Sustainability Award; the City of Duluth, the City of Thunder Bay, and Lambton County received Green CiTTS awards; and the City of Windsor and the City of Thunder Bay received Water Conservation awards. As part of the Green CiTTS program, Cities Initiative mayors made public their Declaration on Water Sustainability and the [Sustainable Municipal Water Management: Measuring Progress and Reporting Publicly](#) report was launched, offering municipalities tools to measure their performance in sustainable water management and report publicly about their efforts.



Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall, Mayor McMullan, Mayor Hobbs and Mayor Richard Harvey (Nipigon) discuss at the Ontario Regional Meeting, part of the 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference in Quebec City, QC.

Cities Initiative Membership Growth

This past year marked a milestone for the Cities Initiative in terms of membership. In March 2013, the Cities Initiative's membership reached and exceeded the 100 member mark! Throughout 2012-2013, the Cities Initiative welcomed 14 new members bringing our total to 103 members by May 2013, representing approximately 16 million Canadian and U.S. citizens in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The organization is only as strong as its membership. We owe a great deal of thanks to many member mayors who reached out to neighboring communities and encouraged them to join the Cities Initiative, including Mayor Cooper, Mayor Martin Damphousse (Varenes), Mayor Heartwell, Mayor Randy Hope (Chatham-Kent), Mayor Labeaume, Mayor Larry MacDonald (Bayfield), Mayor McMullan, Mayor John Paterson (Leamington), and many more. We look forward to continuing our important work with our membership and welcoming new communities and mayors to the Cities Initiative. The newest members of the Cities Initiative are :

- Mayor Ben Van Diepenbeek, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Ontario
- Mayor Claude Haineault, Beauharnois, Quebec
- Mayor Dave Ryan, Pickering, Ontario
- Mayor François Roussy, Gaspé, Quebec
- Mayor Jean Martel, Boucherville, Quebec
- Mayor Jim Ginn, Central Huron, Ontario
- Mayor John Close, South Bruce Peninsula, Ontario
- Mayor Larry Kraemer, Kincardine, Ontario
- Mayor Laurence Méthot, Port-Cartier, Quebec
- Mayor Mike Smith, Saugeen Shores, Ontario
- Mayor Nelson Santos, Kingsville, Ontario
- Mayor Norman Dyotte, Candiac, Quebec
- Mayor Steve Arnold, St. Clair, Ontario
- Mayor Suzanne Dansereau, Contrecoeur, Quebec

About us

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a coalition of U.S. and Canadian mayors and other local officials working to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. By integrating their environmental, economic and social agendas, local governments are helping to sustain a resource that represents approximately 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater supply, provides drinking water for 40 million people, and is the foundation upon which a strong regional economy is based.

Contact information

David A. Ullrich, Executive Director
david.ullrich@glslcities.org
312-201-4517

Nicola Crawhall, Deputy Director
nicola.crawhall@rogers.com



Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative pose in Quebec City, QC, during the 2012 Annual Meeting and Conference.

Sincere Thanks

The Cities Initiative is grateful to all of its members and funders for their support, and we extend thanks to the Joyce Foundation, the Mott Foundation and the Wege Foundation who have been essential to our success over the last ten years.



GLSLCITIES.ORG

[@GLSLCITIES](https://twitter.com/GLSLCITIES)