



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE **HONORS CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY**

Québec, December 10, 2010 –Today, at its mid-year meeting in Quebec City, the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative celebrated their founder, Mayor Richard M. Daley, for his vision in creating the Cities Initiative, and his dedication to civic service. After 21 years in office, Mayor Daley recently announced that he will be retiring from municipal government in May 2011.

Founded in 2003, the bi-national coalition of mayors dedicated to the protection, restoration and promotion of the Great lakes and St. Lawrence has grown to 72 member mayors representing 13 million people in eight states and two provinces.

“I speak for all the mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative when I say- thank you, Mayor Daley, for bringing us together and supporting the growth of the Cities Initiative since its creation”, said Mayor Denis Lapointe, chair of the Cities Initiative and mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield in Quebec. “We owe you a debt of gratitude. We couldn’t have done it without you.”

Since becoming mayor in 1989, Mayor Richard M. Daley has earned a reputation as a tireless fighter for improving Chicago's quality of life, acting to improve public schools, strengthening its economy and helping Chicago become among the most environmentally friendly cities in the world. Chicago today is recognized as a global city receiving various distinctions by local and international media.

“Mayor Richard Daley represents everything that is admirable about civic service. He has a practical, hands-on approach to bringing about real change to cities, and best of all, he delivers results” said Mayor George Heartwell, past chair of the Cities Initiative and mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan. “It has been a privilege serving with him on the board of the Cities Initiative.”

Demonstrating this approach, Mayor Daley spearheaded a campaign in 2008 to oppose an enormous increase in the allowable discharge into Lake Michigan from a massive oil refinery in Whiting Indiana, upstream from Chicago’s water intake. BP backed down and promised not to increase its discharges.

“By crossing borders and language lines, Mayor Daley created a bi-national organization that brings our individual experiences together to forge one common voice in defense of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence”, said Mayor Brian McMullan, vice chair of the Cities Initiative and mayor of St. Catharines, Ontario. “We speak for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence like no other organization.”



After being presented a gift by the Cities Initiative, Mayor Daley remarked, "It's been my distinct pleasure to be part of this municipal movement to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin, the largest source of fresh water on earth." Mayor Daley added, "As leaders of our cities, Mayors understand how vital the resource are to our environment and our citizens who rely on it, and we have the ability to take good ideas and translate them results that improve the quality of the resource."

Additional key accomplishments of the organization under Mayor Daley's leadership include:

- Essential support for the development and passage of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Water Resources Management Compact and Agreement;
- U.S. Congressional approval of the \$475 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;
- Stopping the live fire exercises in the Great Lakes by the United States Coast Guard; and
- Advancing water conservation, storm water management, and protection against pharmaceuticals in drinking water in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region

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