



For immediate release

Press Release

Canada, Quebec Reach New Agreement on the Saint Lawrence

Quebec City, November 30, 2011.- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative are pleased to hear yesterday's announcement by the Federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Peter Kent, and the Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parcs, Pierre Arcand, on the new Canada-Quebec St. Lawrence Plan.

The announcement of the renewed St. Lawrence Plan, with a fifteen year time horizon, confirms the commitment of the two levels of government in the long-term health of the St. Lawrence River. Notably, the Cities Initiative salutes the willingness of the governments to work jointly on the integrated management of the St. Lawrence as well as holding an annual St. Lawrence forum. The Cities Initiative hopes to play an active role in the implementation of the St. Lawrence Plan. Municipalities, by virtue of their membership in the Cities Initiative, have demonstrated their commitment to work with and for the citizens of the St. Lawrence to secure a healthy and accessible river for future generations.

Mr. Régis Labeaume, secretary-treasurer of the Cities Initiative, president of the Metropolitan Community of Quebec, and mayor of Quebec City said, "Over the course of the last years, the Cities Initiative has broadened its engagement with the governments in order to ensure that issues affecting the St. Lawrence such as climate change adaptation, the sustainability of its uses, biodiversity protection and water quality are amongst the principle goals for all parties involved. This announcement constitutes a new beginning to improve the environmental health of the St. Lawrence."

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Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines, Chair

Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, Vice-Chair

Régis Labeaume, President of Québec Metropolitan Community, Secretary/Treasurer



Mr. Alan DeSousa, vice chair of the executive committee of the City of Montreal, responsible for environment and sustainable development, and member of the board of the Cities Initiative, said, “This long term agreement by the Governments of Canada and Quebec governments meets the concerns of shoreline cities in the face of the most important issues related to water and specifically to the St. Lawrence. At a time when the challenges facing us are multiplying and are becoming more complex, a concerted approach by all parties is necessary.”

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of over eighty mayors from Quebec, Ontario and the eight Great Lakes states, representing over fourteen million citizens who work in concert with a view to protecting, restoring and promoting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

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