

# Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) program Natural Resources Canada

November 3, 2025



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE

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

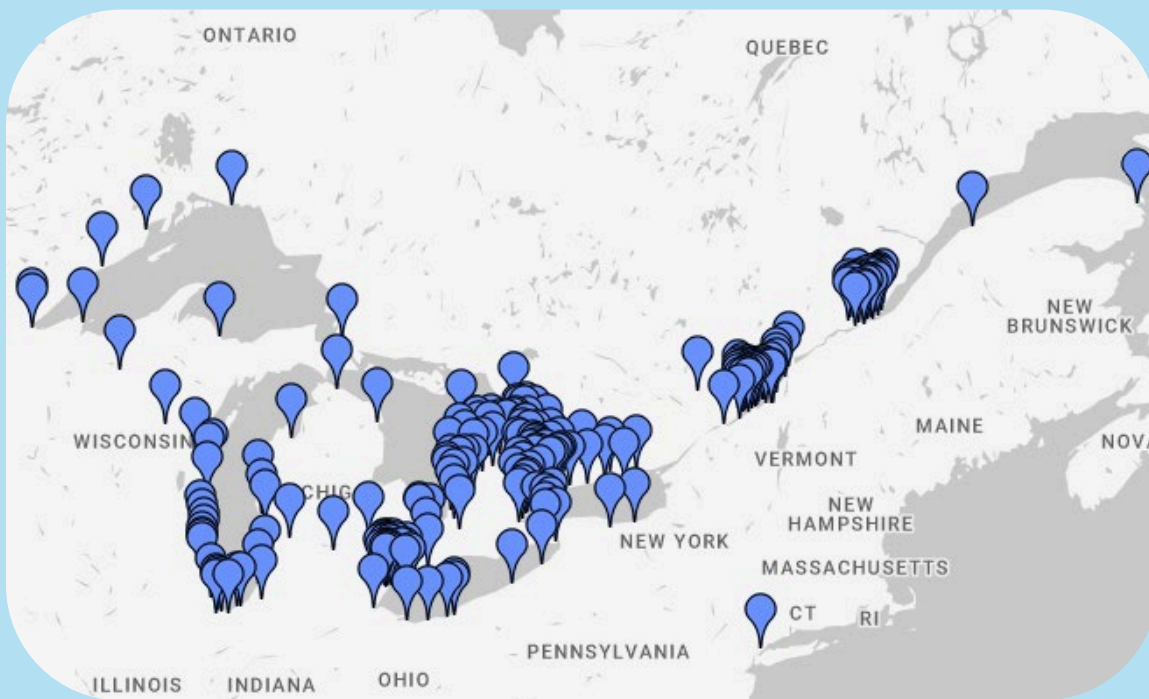
# ABOUT THE CITIES INITIATIVE

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# THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE



- Founded to **give cities in the region a voice** in protecting and managing the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and **unite local governments that share a critical freshwater resource**
- The Cities Initiative now represents **more than 400 communities – over 120 Ontario communities** represented
- Our mission is to **promote economic prosperity** and **protect our fresh water** across the region

# PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY AND FRESHWATER SECURITY



**Healthy Lakes  
and Rivers**



**Climate and  
Coastal Resilience**



**Safe and  
Affordable Water**



**Economic  
transformation**

# OUR CLIMATE & COASTAL RESILIENCE WORK

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# OUR CLIMATE & COASTAL RESILIENCE PILLAR

- Coastal flooding and erosion is a **shared challenge for communities, homeowners, and infrastructure**
- Privatization of the shoreline:
  - 80% of the U.S. Great Lakes coast
  - 20% of Canada's Great Lakes coast
- Green infra and hybrid solutions are slowly being rolled out, but **lack of knowledge and limits on funding**
- Concerns around climate action **spiked following 2017 and 2019 floods** – recognition that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Region shoreline is at risk, but **concern is receding...**



City of Laval workers cleanup on one of Laval's residential streets following the devastating recent floods.

# MAYORS COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## MISSION

Support community-led efforts to equitably adapt to extreme weather and strengthen resilience to climate risks

## ONTARIO CO-CHAIRS



MAYOR SANDRA  
EASTON  
Lincoln



MAYOR GARY  
MCNAMARA  
Tecumseh

## QUÉBEC CHAIR



MAYOR MAUD  
ALLAIRE  
Contrecoeur



# MEMORANDUM OF COLLABORATION WITH CO

- **Signed Jan 2024 at ROMA** to support our Mayors Commission on Climate Resilience
- **Share knowledge** and collaborate on advocacy
- **Recognize CA mandate** for coastal resilience
- **Showcase on-the-ground projects** that address vulnerabilities and risks to coastal communities



# ADVANCING ADAPTATION POLICY

## ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE 2020-2030

Implementing Innovations in Science  
and in Governance  
June 2020



The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Collaborative



Prepared by:



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE**  
CITIES INITIATIVE  
**L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
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Ontario communities to spend \$276 million over next five years combating coastal damages from climate change



IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL PROTECTION IN THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN

Ontario and Quebec mayors call for greater federal leadership to protect shoreline communities along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River

# NATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION

## Summit Recommendations

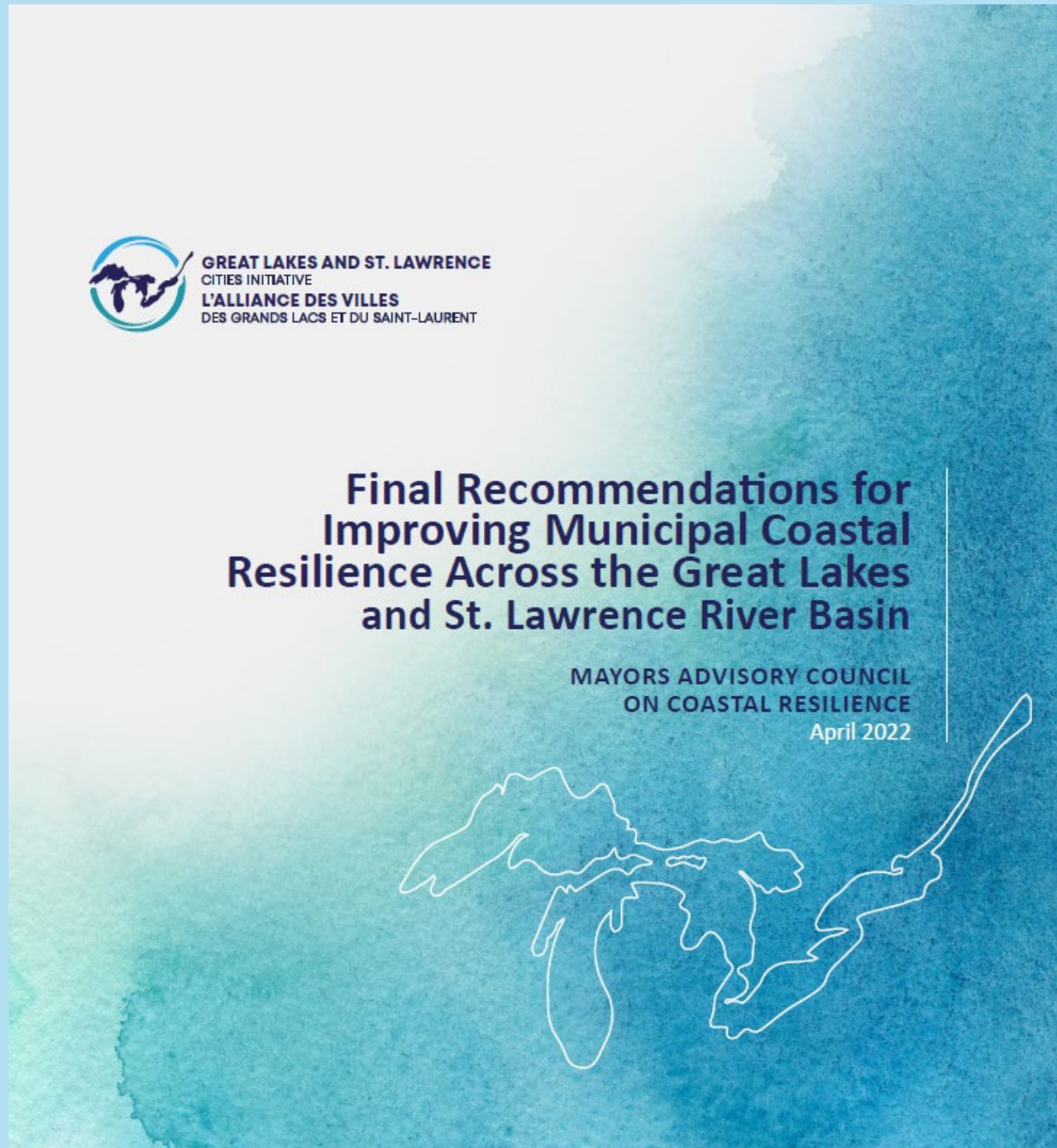


**CLIMATE PROOF**  
CANADA



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# ADVANCING ADAPTATION POLICY



- Make **coastal resilience a core priority for federal government actions** on climate adaptation, infrastructure funding, and science and research
- Invest in **federal funding to accelerate the development of regional shoreline adaptation plans**
- Advance a **green infrastructure Centre of Excellence** to improve access to practical advice and best practices around nature-based and hybrid solutions.
- **Identify knowledge and address knowledge gaps** for municipalities, Indigenous communities and other key actors

# ADVANCING ADAPTATION POLICY



## WATERFRONT TRANSFORMATION



The Action Plan puts forward five strategies and numerous actions for bringing about Waterfront Transformation:

**1. Remediate and Develop Brownfields and Vacant Properties**

– By remediating and redeveloping brownfield sites, local governments can ensure that waterfront lands will provide tangible benefits for communities.

**2. Attract Sustainable Commercial and Industrial Activity**

– By encouraging sustainable economic activity and placemaking, local governments can leverage waterfronts to create local employment opportunities and attract visitors.

**3. Accommodate Accessible Housing and Vibrant Communities**

– By building mixed-use communities, local governments can add housing supply to the market, with new neighborhoods bringing activity and vibrancy to waterfronts.

**4. Facilitate Public Access and Shape Waterfront Identity**

– By providing public access and a waterfront experience, local governments can better integrate waterfronts and communities.

**5. Support Land Conservation and Resilience**

– By proactively planning for extreme-weather impacts, local governments can help futureproof businesses and communities from natural disasters.

# ADAPTING TO COASTAL HAZARDS

## MUNICIPAL LEADERS

### WORKING GROUP

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# MUNICIPAL LEADERS WORKING GROUP

The Cities Initiative's contribution to Conservation Ontario's *Adapting to Coastal Hazards Across the Great Lakes* pilot projects led

## GOAL

Foster a group of **Local Government Coastal Resilience Champions** from the three pilot regions and across the province

***Why local government champions?*** Municipal leaders are key decision-makers

- They can help shape public opinion as climate change falls off voters' radar
- They play a key role in setting a community's vision and priorities
- Well connected to other levels of government – can help put these issues on fed/prov radar

# MUNICIPAL LEADERS WORKING GROUP

## OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate **knowledge sharing** (in collaboration with CO/CAs)
- Reinforce the Cities Initiative's **climate and coastal resilience policy agenda**
- **Encourage sustainable actions** by municipal governments
- Develop **ambassadors for resilience** at the municipal level

## FUNCTION

- Meet **virtually twice a year** to receive updates, hear from experts, and do regional check-ins
- Host at least **one in-person meeting in each pilot region** throughout the course of the project



# WORKING GROUP OUTPUTS

- Training **materials and resources**
- Access to a **roster of experts**
- **Policy recommendations** and advocacy materials
- **Annual reports** on activities for municipal councils
- **Project implementation** opportunities as they arise
- Press and **PR opportunities**



# CURRICULUM TOPICS

2025

**Municipal Climate  
Action Planning**

2026

**Communications and Planning Engagement**

**Nature-based Solutions  
for Resilience**

2027

**Funding Coastal  
Resilience Projects**

**Case Studies**

Would you like  
to contribute  
your expertise to  
these topics?  
Please reach  
out!

# CONFIRMED WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

## Western Lake Ontario

- **Mayor Sandra Easton** – Lincoln
- **Mayor Jim Jordan** – Grimsby
- **Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa** – NOTL
- **Coun. Bruce Williamson** – St. Catharines
- **Coun. Kelvin Galbraith** - Burlington
- **Coun. Alex Wilson** – Hamilton

## Northern Lake Superior

- **Mayor Ken Boshcoff**, Thunder Bay
- **Coun. Mark Thibert**, Neebing

## Southern Lake Huron

- **Mayor Glen McNeil** – Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
- **Mayor Paul Klopp** – Bluewater
- **Mayor Jim Ginn** – Central Huron
- **Mayor Trevor Bazinet** – Goderich
- **Mayor Doug Cook** – Lambton Shores

## Other Regions

- **Mayor Gary McNamara** – Tecumseh (Lake St. Clair)
- **Mayor Brian Ostrander** – Brighton (Lake Ontario)
- **Coun. Morgaine Griffin** – Central Elgin (Lake Erie)

# Thank You!

Phil Murphy-Rhéaume

COO / Canadian Managing Director

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