



**AUG 13 2020**

His Worship Mitch Twolan  
Mayor of the Township of Huron-Kinloss  
P.O. Box 130  
Ripley ON N0G 2R0

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2020, in which you express your support for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's proposal to the Government of Canada to invest \$7 billion to support critical water resource priorities facing the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.

As you know, the protection of Canada's freshwater resources continues to be a key federal priority. Canada is committed to developing further protections and taking active steps to clean up large lakes, including the Great Lakes, as well as to creating the new Canada Water Agency in order to work together with the provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep its water safe, clean and well-managed.

Furthermore, current Government of Canada programming restores and protects the Great Lakes through science, action and collaboration with the United States, Ontario and other partners. Through the Great Lakes Protection Initiative, Canada is working to address the most significant environmental challenges facing Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health by delivering on its commitments under the Canada–United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

To assist in achieving the goals of the Initiative, funding is provided to support partner-led on-the-ground projects that help restore water quality and ecosystem health in areas of concern, prevent toxic and nuisance algae in Lake Erie, reduce releases of harmful chemicals, engage Indigenous Peoples in addressing Great Lakes issues, and increase public engagement through citizen science.

In addition, the federal government collaborates with the Government of Quebec through the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011–2026 to support the conservation of biodiversity, sustainability of uses, and improvement of water quality.

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While the proposal of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is under review, the federal government provides funding for municipal water infrastructure projects through the existing Investing in Canada Plan that is delivered by Infrastructure Canada. Through this program, the Government of Canada has made \$2 billion available for the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to provide communities, including those in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basins, with more reliable water and wastewater systems. For more information regarding the Investing in Canada Plan, please visit [www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/about-invest-a-propos-eng.html](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/about-invest-a-propos-eng.html).

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.