



Motion to Secure Canada's \$1 Billion Investment in a Strengthened Freshwater Action Plan

Moved: Councillor Tedjo
Seconded: Councillor Dasko

WHEREAS Mississauga, as a member of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, supports: protecting source water, planning for climate change impacts and shoreline resilience, ensuring safe and affordable water services for all our residents, and building up a sustainable blue economy in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

AND WHEREAS ensuring healthy communities and a strong economy for Canadians depend on securing Canada's source water, which includes addressing water quality issues, contaminants and pollution, supporting biodiversity and reversing wetland and fish and wildlife habitat loss and improving community knowledge to empower citizens to safeguard this essential resource.

AND WHEREAS the Federally-led Freshwater Action Plan (framework) and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative (the supporting funding program) were first announced in the 2017 Canadian federal budget with a \$44.84 million investment for the Great Lakes over five years.

AND WHEREAS the Freshwater Action Plan and Great Lakes Protection Initiative's investments has combined science and action to address priorities in the Great Lakes such as preventing toxic and nuisance algae, enhancing the resilience of coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes, restoring Great Lakes Areas of Concern and supporting Canada's commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, among other priorities.

AND WHEREAS a commitment was made in 2021 by the federal government to strengthen the Freshwater Action Plan with an historic investment of \$1 billion over ten years to restore and protect large lakes and river systems starting with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

AND WHEREAS the federal government only committed \$19.6 million in funding in the 2022 Budget for the Freshwater Action Plan, falling short of the aforementioned commitment.

AND WHEREAS the United States has invested \$1.8 billion in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) since 2017 and will see accelerated funding with the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*.

AND WHEREAS a 2018 University of Michigan study shows that for every dollar of federal spending on GLRI projects between 2010 and 2016, yielded \$3.35 in additional economic activity.

AND WHEREAS nearly half of Canada's population lives in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, a region that will continue to see accelerated growth, resulting in greater land and resource use pressures that will further contribute to water availability and quality issues.

AND WHEREAS the [Stockholm Resilience Centre](#) recently identified the importance of wetlands as carbon sinks and fresh water's role in climate mitigation.

AND WHEREAS in 2020, the [Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Collaborative](#) outlined 30 recommendations to Environment and Climate Change Canada as part of a ten-year, \$2.2 billion [Action Plan 2020-2030 to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence](#), addressing shoreline erosion, outdated infrastructure, invasive species, exposure to toxins and beach contamination, following an 18-month consultation with First Nations, NGOs, academics and other experts.



AND WHEREAS the recommendations outlined in *Action Plan 2020-2030* should serve as the basis of programming for strengthened federal action in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin through its strengthened Freshwater Action Plan.

AND WHEREAS the proposed Canada Water Agency should play a role in accelerating the rollout of funding made available through a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan.

AND WHEREAS the City of Mississauga has proposed that this new Canada Water Agency be headquartered in the Lakeview Innovation Corridor.

AND WHEREAS Freshwater Action Plan funding should largely be directed to community groups, local governments and First Nations to ensure that investments made will have the biggest local impact and empower action at the local level, rather than being held back for federal administration and operations.

AND WHEREAS it is critical to implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including accelerating a \$1 billion over five years, and to creating a Canada Water Agency to consolidate and coordinate federal water efforts and support provinces and territories in addressing systemic issues impacting the viability of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin and the communities dependent upon the region's source water.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City of Mississauga calls on the federal government to commit \$1 billion in funding over five years for a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan in Budget 2023.
2. The City of Mississauga calls on the federal government to guide its Freshwater Action Plan funding to implement recommendations in the Great Lakes-St Lawrence Collaborative's *Action Plan 2020-2030*.
3. The City of Mississauga calls on the federal government to direct priority funding under the strengthened Freshwater Action Plan to focus more on actual projects in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin and less on administration.
4. The City of Mississauga calls on the federal government to make municipalities eligible for future funding in programs announced under the strengthened Freshwater Action Plan and that it immediately fund the Canada Water Agency and consider locating it along Mississauga's waterfront and;
5. That a copy of this resolution and the City's proposal for the Canadian Water Agency be sent to the federal Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Finance; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change; the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (responsible for the Canada Water Agency), and Mississauga Members of Parliament.

Sincerely,

Alvin Tedjo
Councillor, Ward 2