A Resolution Submitted by Candiac, QC

CALLING FOR INCREASED FUNDING IN FUTURE PROOF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

May 2024

WHEREAS water infrastructure – both for sanitation and water treatment – are essential to the development of our towns and communities.

AND WHEREAS any growth in our population and building stock must go hand in hand with investments to upgrade our water systems.

AND WHEREAS the population growth in the Greater Montreal area, and in the rest of Quebec and Canada, is causing a housing crisis, which in turn is exerting significant pressure to launch new construction, thereby increasing our water management needs.

AND WHEREAS municipalities are facing significant financial pressure, receiving only a few cents for every tax dollar, but assuming responsibility for 66 percent of the services offered to citizens, services whose costs are rising due to inflation and the effect of climate change.

AND WHEREAS despite significant investments by the three levels of government – federal, provincial and municipal – Canada's water infrastructure is aging and requires investments, if only to maintain the current level of service, as indicated by Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey (2020). The latter deplores that "*investments have not been sufficient to make up for the deterioration of existing assets,"* whose average useful life deteriorated between 2017 and 2021.

AND WHEREAS the federal government will propose a new version of its infrastructure programs around 2026, but that the design of these programs starts now and must take into account new needs and technologies to ensure the lasting effect of investments for future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, of which Candiac is a member, should advocate for:

    - Raising awareness about the central role of water infrastructure and their financing to compensate for their aging, but also to support their necessary growth given their key role in providing solutions to the current housing crisis

    - Including standards in the design of the above-mentioned investments, in particular with a view to the redesign of the Government of Canada's infrastructure investments to include measures that will enable these investments to have significant impacts over time, such as the inclusion of new technologies and standards of resilience to extreme climate events

    - Investing in data collection – including via smart infrastructures that collect data directly on water treatment, purification and distribution – to support evidence-based public and political decision-making, the aim of it being to better adapt the actions of municipalities and other levels of government to the new conditions imposed by climate change, to our objectives of reducing water consumption and to the ecological footprint of our citizens

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the Canadian Federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities.