A Resolution Submitted by Municipality of Chatham-Kent, ON

SECURING DEDICATED FUNDING TO ADDRESS SHORE RESILIENCY AFFECTED BY CLIMATE-RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE

May 2024

WHEREAS climate change poses a significant threat to infrastructure across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, including roads, bridges, water systems, homes and businesses.

AND WHEREAS Canadian municipalities have experienced substantial shoreline erosion that is threatening local infrastructure – such as along Lake Erie, where a vital highway in Chatham-Kent has been closed since 2019 – demonstrating the immediate need for action to protect infrastructure from climate-related damage.

AND WHEREAS proactive measures to address climate-related infrastructure damage before it occurs can mitigate the risk of costly repairs and prevent the loss of critical infrastructure assets.

AND WHEREAS Canadian municipalities have completed Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey to assess the need for climate adaptations for core municipal infrastructure, highlighting the importance of dedicated funding for climate-resilience initiatives.

AND WHEREAS climate change and extreme weather events are affecting lives in Canada, with wildfires, heatwaves, floods, thawing permafrost and fluctuating water levels exacerbating the erosion of the shoreline and impacting the very foundations of communities.

AND WHEREAS adaptation means creating safe and secure communities in this time of change, necessitating action across interconnected systems, such as reducing the impacts of climate-related disasters, improving health and well-being, protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity, building and maintaining resilient infrastructure and supporting the economy and workers.

AND WHEREAS Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy outlines a shared vision for building strong and resilient communities for current and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on provincial and federal governments to allocate dedicated funding to local (First Nations and municipal) governments to address climate-related infrastructure damage before infrastructure becomes irreparably damaged or unusable

- This funding must be made accessible to local governments when a critical piece of infrastructure, such as a road, bridge, water system or buildings is under threat from changing climate conditions and is likely to be damaged or destroyed in a future climate event if no action is taken

- The dedicated funding must prioritize proactive measures – such as shoreline protection, infrastructure relocation and resilience enhancements – to minimize the risk of damage and ensure the long-term viability of infrastructure assets

- The Cities Initiative calls on provincial governments to empower provincial departments and agencies to provide more technical, financial and regulatory support for local governments to address shoreline and waterfront issues on time, recognizing the critical role of provincial support in enhancing the resilience of coastal communities

- This support should include but not be limited to expertise in coastal engineering, funding assistance for infrastructure projects and streamlined regulatory processes to expedite the implementation of climate-adaptation measures along shorelines and waterfronts

- Provincial governments must collaborate closely with local authorities, Frist Nations communities, and relevant stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive strategies for shoreline management and adaptation to ensure the long-term sustainability of coastal areas and the protection of infrastructure assets

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the Federal Government Minister for Natural Resources Canada and Minister for Infrastructure, Communities, and Housing and Ontario and Québec's Ministers of Environment and Ministers for Municipal Affairs.