



# Media Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Conservation Ontario and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Collaborate to Enhance Coastal Resilience in the Region**

**NEWMARKET, ON (January 26, 2024)** On the first day of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Toronto, [Conservation Ontario](#) and the [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#) Mayor's Commission on Coastal Resilience signed a Memorandum of Collaboration to help communities prepare for increasing risks from flooding, erosion, and severe storms along the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

"This Memorandum of Collaboration is an expression of our willingness to work together on key challenges faced by coastal communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. By pooling our resources and expertise, we will develop solutions that enhance coastal resilience and safeguard vulnerable communities in these areas," said Chris White, Chair of the Conservation Ontario Board of Directors, the association that represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities.

The purpose of this collaboration is to maximize resources by working together on communications, fundraising, and addressing science and implementation gaps. With existing capacity and expertise, Conservation Authorities are key partners in coastal resilience, and helping communities to proactively address climate vulnerabilities and risks to coastal communities.

"Mayors are about action and the impacts of climate change for our 270-plus communities are profound. By collaborating with Conservation Ontario and others, we are committed to implementing programs and projects that will help us tackle many of our climate vulnerabilities including flooding, erosion, and severe storm damage. Together, we will advocate for funding and effective strategies to protect our coastal communities from climate impact," said Jonathan Altenberg, President, and CEO of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The responsibilities and collaborative actions of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayor's Commission on Coastal Resilience and Conservation Ontario include developing messaging for funding, planning and delivering messages to elected officials, developing funding applications and partnership agreements, showcasing on-the-ground strategies and projects, developing joint communications, providing technical expertise, increasing response rates to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayor's Commission Annual Survey, and co-developing frameworks, tools, and education opportunities.

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