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Sent: October 10, 2025 12:29 PM
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Cc: Randy Barber <rbarber@cobourg.ca>; Shirley Keaveney <skeaveney@meaford.ca>; Lauren Anderson (Lauren.Anderson@Chatham-Kent.ca) <Lauren.Anderson@Chatham-Kent.ca>
Subject: (EXTERNAL SOURCE) RE: GLSL Cities Initiative - ONRAC - Great Lakes Resilient Infrastructure Fund

Good afternoon ONRAC members,

Following up on my email from earlier this week regarding our proposal to the Ontario Government for a **Great Lakes Resilient Infrastructure Fund (GLRIF)**, you will find a **letter of support template attached**.

- If you are able and willing to provide a letter of support, **please send it back to mayor.siscoe@glslcities.org and CC me**. We will collect these letters of support and send them to our contacts in the government.
- If possible, **please return your letter of support by October 31**. If you are intending to provide a letter of support but need more time, please let me know.
- You will find additional information on the proposed GLRIF and further instructions on the letter of support template below. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Finally, a **reminder to please register for our Ontario Water Leaders Summit on November 13 in Oakville** if you haven't done so already. We'll have great sessions on economic transformation, water-tech innovation, municipal-Indigenous collaboration around freshwater issues, and sessions from our hosts at Halton Region around

waterfront transformation and coastal resilience. Please also share with your colleagues and neighbouring municipalities:

- More about the Ontario Water Leaders Summit, including local hotel options: <https://glslcities.org/ontario-water-leaders-summit/>
- Register for the Ontario Water Leaders Summit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-ontario-water-leaders-summit-registration-1545223367689>

Thank you and wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Phil

About the proposed Great Lakes Resilient Infrastructure Fund

We have been working for over a year with the ON Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on a proposal that has evolved into a proposed **Great Lakes Resilient Infrastructure Fund – a \$10-\$30-million program** that we would help run to support projects to **optimize stormwater/wastewater, leverage green infrastructure and/or optimize low impact development.**

The program would be **targeted to municipalities with populations under 100,000 located in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin** – per MECP’s count, that would include 350 eligible communities across the province. Funding caps and cost-share requirements would be determined if/when the project would be secured, but would likely provide support of up to \$1 million, with a match requirement from municipalities of about 30%. Projects would directly support improvements to resilience to extreme weather and/or boost water quality in the basin, while contributing to economic and housing development across the province.

Based on surveys, consultations, and discussions with our members, we strongly believe that such a program will help address gaps in existing provincial and federal infrastructure programs. With a Fall Economic Update looming in the coming weeks,

we are hoping to collect letters of support to further help us in further making the case to the Ontario Government that such a program would provide value to municipalities and complement existing infrastructure programs.

Letter of support and other ways to build support

You will find a letter of support template. If you represent a community that would be eligible under the proposed GLRIF (i.e., a municipality with a population of 100,000 or less) and are able and willing to provide a letter of support, we would greatly appreciate your contribution. Here are additional details on completing the letter of support:

- The letter has placeholders highlighted in yellow for staff to fill in your municipality's name and other details
- We have provided two options for you to provide more information to support our case for the GLRIF:
 - Option 1 – if your municipality has a project that you believe would be eligible under the GLRIF that cannot be funded under existing programs or has been declined via other programs, please include details on that project
 - Option 2 – if you are unsure about projects that would be eligible at this stage but are facing climate resilience and/or water quality challenges stemming from storm/wastewater infrastructure, please fill in details on those challenges.
 - What we are looking to accomplish here is to demonstrate that there are gaps/funding shortfalls with existing infrastructure programs and show that there is a pipeline of projects that could be funded should a GLRIF be implemented
 - Whichever option your municipality selects, please make sure to remove the placeholder for the other option in your final letter
- Please return your final letter in PDF format to mayor.siscoe@glslcities.org and CC phillipe.murphy-rheaume@glslcities.org. We will collect all letters of support and send them to the Ontario Government

Phillipe (Phil) Murphy-Rhéaume (He/Him | Il/Lui)

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