



TOM MRAKAS  
MAYOR

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 29, 2023**

**MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON BEING NAMED YORK REGION'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**

"I am extremely honoured that today York Regional Council appointed me as their representative to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a binational coalition of over 200 municipal and regional mayors and officials from the United States and Canada, working together to protect and restore these vital water bodies. These lakes and rivers – which make up the largest watershed in the world – supply approximately 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater, serve as a source of drinking water for 40 million people, and form the foundation of a strong regional economy.

I take this appointment as York Region's representative extremely seriously given the importance of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin. Our active participation in this initiative signifies our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and underscores the importance of collective action in tackling regional environmental challenges, particularly in the face of climate change.

Together, we will continue to champion the protection of our precious natural resources, promote sustainable practices, and work towards a brighter future not only for Aurora, but also for York Region, the province and the entire country."

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