



# Statement from Durham Regional Chair and CEO Gerri Lynn O'Connor

JUNE 14, 2018

## Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference in Ajax

**Whitby, Ontario** – As a longstanding member of the [Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative](#) (GLSLCI), the Region of Durham is pleased to welcome delegates to the annual conference being hosted by the Town of Ajax this week. The Cities Initiative brings together municipalities from Ontario, Quebec, and the United States with a common interest in this invaluable freshwater resource.

The growth of the Cities Initiative outreach and influence has been remarkable thanks to the passion and dedication of its leaders and membership. The result is a vigorous bi-national, bilingual voice advocating for effective stewardship of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

As a supplier of drinking water for more than 650,000 residents, the Region of Durham takes water quality very seriously. The Region works closely with our five conservation authorities, eight area municipalities and other agencies to understand, manage and protect our water resources.

Collaboration is also critical in preparing and protecting our communities and our infrastructure in the face of a changing climate. Durham Region is a leader in this effort. It's timely that building resilience to climate change is a key theme at this year's conference.

The Region looks forward to participating in the newly formed Mayors' Council on Nature and Communities that will help connect people to nature in their own communities.

We congratulate the Cities Initiative for their work in building awareness, sharing knowledge and developing strategies for the protection, restoration and resilience of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

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