“Home to 20 per cent of the world’s fresh water supplies and one of its most dynamic regional economies, the success of the Great Lakes region is crucial to the future of our two countries. The Council of the Great Lakes Region will propel forward the states and provinces of our region, advancing the key issues that will grow our economy, protect our environment, and improve the wellbeing of our citizens.”

Gary Doer, Canadian ambassador to the United States

“The Great Lakes are the heartland of North America and support one of the most vibrant regional economies in the world. We look forward to the Council of the Great Lakes Region to help provide a united voice and convening authority for the eight states and two provinces of the region.”

David Jacobson, former United States ambassador to Canada
What is the Council of the Great Lakes Region?

The idea of the Council of the Great Lakes Region was formed in 2011 when over 250 regional leaders from government, business, labour, non-profit, and academic communities within the Great Lakes and around the St. Lawrence River came together in Detroit and Windsor for the Great Lakes Summit. The Summit sought better ways of working together across the border and throughout the region, and many policy areas were identified where stronger regional collaboration and voice were needed when it comes to building the region’s future economy, preserving a healthy ecosystem, and deepening cross-border and cross-sector collaboration and partnerships. Regional leaders at the Summit were equally clear that gaps in regional leadership, knowledge sharing, and advocacy needed to be filled, but that no one organization existed to bring these interrelated binational interests together and speak to the region’s priorities.

How we operate

The Council is a member-based organization led by an independent Board of Directors, with guidance from a larger Advisory Board. Both Boards represent the diversity of regional interests and member organizations. The Council’s activities include preparing major research papers, developing region-wide strategies, hosting networking events and conferences, managing an online social and organizational networking space for the region, and convening cross-sectoral dialogues and coordinating public outreach campaigns on issues of broad interest to the region. The organization is funded primarily from three sources—sponsorships, memberships and project specific funding.

Get in touch

For more information about annual membership and sponsorship options, or if you have a project or an event idea, contact Mark P. Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Council of the Great Lakes Region, at ceo@councilgreatlakesregion.org or councilgreatlakesregion.org/membership.

THE GREAT LAKES PROVIDE DRINKING WATER TO
40 million households in the U.S. and Canada

THE GREAT LAKES CONTAIN ABOUT
20% of the world’s surface freshwater supply

THE GREAT LAKES ACCOUNT FOR
28% of combined Canadian & U.S. economic activity

THE REGION ACCOUNTS FOR
77% of R&D in the U.S. & Canada

THE REGION CONTRIBUTES APPROXIMATELY
USD $232 billion to Canada-U.S. trade

THE REGION SUPPLIES
46 million JOBS

THE REGION IS HOME TO
105 million people,
OR NEARLY 30% of the combined U.S. & Canadian workforce.

THE REGION IS HOME TO
20% of the world’s surface freshwater supply

THE REGION IS HOME TO
20 of the top 100 universities in the world

THE REGION ACCOUNTS FOR
29% OF COMBINED CANADIAN & U.S. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

LESS THAN 1% OF THE WATERS OF THE GREAT LAKES IS RENEWED ANNUALLY BY PRECIPITATION, SURFACE WATER RUNOFF, AND INFLOW FROM GROUNDWATER SOURCES

THE GREAT LAKES- ST.LAWRENCE REGION HAS A GDP OF USD $5 TRILLION (NON-FARM ECONOMY)

THE REGION ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN 3,500 species of plants & animals inhabit the Great Lakes basin. THE VARIETIES OF WILDLIFE AND HABITATS MAKE THE BASIN A UNIQUE & COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM.
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