

Application deadline: Open until filled

Position Available: Senior Advisor for External Relations

The Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission is an interstate compact agency created by eight Great Lakes states and authorized by Congress. The Commission is authorized to lead the Great Lakes Basin in the development and implementation of policy that promotes as well as protects the waters and resources of the Great Lakes Basin. By its nature the Commission serves a collaborative convening role within the Great Lakes Basin. To successfully fulfill that role the Commission must build consensus and maintain solid working relationships among a wide range of jurisdictions, agencies and partner organizations. Those relationships necessarily begin with Great Lakes states and provinces and extend to federal and local agencies, tribes and first nations, industry and advocacy organizations, and many other groups. Learn more about the Great Lakes Commission at www.glc.org.

The Opportunity

The Commission seeks a highly motivated individual with demonstrated skills and experience to develop and lead the Commission's external relations program. The successful incumbent will report directly to the Commission's executive director and will serve as the agency's lead staff for external relations strategy. The incumbent will advise and assist the agency's executive director in building successful working relationships with elected and appointed officials and with key agencies and organizations at the state, local and federal levels.

The Candidate

The successful candidate must meet the following requirements:

- A completed degree in public policy or law, public administration, natural resource management, urban or regional planning, or a related field. Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree, Juris Doctorate or other advanced education preferred.
- A minimum of three years demonstrated leadership-level work experience in public policy, government relations, state and federal lobbying, or a closely related field.
- Keen knowledge of the Great Lakes Basin and demonstrated commitment to the region.
- Solid grasp of policy issues facing the Great Lakes Basin and Great Lakes states and provinces.
- Exceptional interpersonal communication skills, including the ability to communicate with diverse audiences and build constructive relationships even under challenging circumstances.

- Ability to develop short and long-term political strategy, including the ability to build relationships, communicate, and negotiate within a complex interjurisdictional environment.
- Ability to build coalitions to accomplish specific, targeted policy outcomes.

Desired Skills and Qualifications

The most competitive candidates will clearly demonstrate the following:

- Current experience working with state and federal officials and staff across the Great Lakes region.
- Leadership experience on public policy issues relevant to the Great Lakes Basin, including but not limited to, water quality and resource management (drinking water, aquatic invasive species, stormwater management, infrastructure), habitat restoration, infrastructure finance and construction, maritime navigation, land use (conservation and development), economic and community revitalization, regional planning and other economic, environmental and natural resource policy issues.
- Ability to successfully convene and cultivate constructive working relations with diverse and opposing constituents, while also negotiating on behalf of the agency or issue.
- Professional maturity and leadership, working alone and in teams to accomplish objectives.
- Fluency in French and English languages.
- Knowledge of and experience in maritime transportation.
- Experience in negotiation, mediation or facilitation.

Roles and Responsibilities

In close consultation with the executive director, this position will work directly with state and federal elected officials, officers and chiefs of staff in the Great Lakes Basin to:

- Build solid, positive relationships with the Commission, its Board, external partners and GLC staff.
- Implement the Great Lakes Basin Compact.
- Build awareness of the Commission's policy priorities and their value to states and provinces.
- Communicate the Commission's position on state and federal legislation relating to the Compact.
- Assess, develop and capture strategic opportunities for the Commission at local, state, federal levels.
- Develop and implement the Commission's external relations strategy.
- Conduct outreach and schedule meetings with external partners as needed to successfully implement the Commission's external relations strategy.
- Advise on agency-wide external communications and outreach strategy and protocols.
- Identify priority areas for Commission engagement across the Great Lakes Basin.
- Deliver the Commission's annual policy agenda and related budget requests to the governors, premiers and legislatures in each state and province.
- Establish internal practices that support and implement the GLC's external relations priorities.
- Assist with the development and distribution of strategic communications.
- Assist with the assessment and strategic structuring of the Great Lakes Commission as a recognized, trusted and effective interstate compact commission and interstate compact agency in the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.

The incumbent will report directly to the Commission's executive director and serves as an integral part of the Commission's leadership/management team. This position may be asked to hire, supervise or manage one or more professional and support staff positions.

Work Environment

This position works in an office environment with a diverse staff team that includes appointed and elected officials, water scientists, biologists, environmental and civil engineers, infrastructure specialists, economists, political and social scientists, facilitators, public policy advocates, administrative staff and others. The External Relations Advisor is based in the Commission's Ann Arbor office. This is a full-time position and part of the Commission's staff and senior management teams. The position will require periodic travel within the Great Lakes Basin and occasional travel to Washington, D.C.

Competitive Compensation Package

The Commission offers a competitive compensation package, including salary and a comprehensive benefits package. The Commission's benefits package includes generous leave time, medical/dental/vision insurance, and other competitive benefits. The salary and benefits for this position will be set based on skills and experience.

To Apply

Thank you for your interest in the Great Lakes Commission. This recruitment will remain open until filled; the Commission will begin reviewing applications immediately. Top candidates will be invited to interview by phone and in person. Please send a current resume, a brief cover letter and three to five current professional references by email to the Commission's deputy director Tom Crane at vacancy@glc.org.

All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Note: The Great Lakes Commission strives to create an inclusive, diverse and non-discriminatory workplace. The GLC is an equal opportunity employer; the GLC complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination. It is the policy of the Great Lakes Commission that no person shall be discriminated against, as an employee or as an applicant for employment because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, gender, height, weight, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, political affiliation, disability, genetic information, or any other attribute that is unrelated to a person's ability to perform the duties of a job or position.