



Press Release

For immediate publication

4th Forum national sur les lacs : Engagement and Recommendations for Lake Health

Nearly 300 people gathered on June 7 and 8 to be informed, understand, equipped and mobilized for the health of Quebec's lakes. Indeed, during the 4th Forum national sur les lacs, organized by the Conseil régional de l'environnement des Laurentides (CRE), people present were invited to issue a recommendation for each group of actors (local residents, municipalities and experts).

To help them, many expert conferences and workshops have been presented during these two days, and this, on subjects as diverse as navigation, invasive plant species, the Forum d'action sur l'eau et le Plan d'action du ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), support capacity lakes, climate change, lake access, lake restoration technologies and more.

The Forum national sur les lacs 2023, under the theme Diving in to better understand them, brought together an impressive number of participants. This presence of associative circles, municipal, government and scientific clearly shows that it is time to take care of our plans water to preserve these jewels of biodiversity, that issues are indeed present throughout Quebec and that the actors want change," says Philippe Roy, President of the Conseil régional de l'environnement des Laurentides.

Recommendations for the health of lakes

The need for change was particularly evident during the final workshops or each category of actor had to make a recommendation that his group can make and that will have a significant impact on the health of lakes. This exercise made it possible to identify where each group can act, quickly and with the means at their disposal by having a strong impact.

"The recommendations can be used to mobilize Quebec towards unifying actions. We are therefore confident that this will advance the cause of lakes which, despite their central role, will be in the sustainable development of our society, do not get all the attention they deserve", adds Anne Léger, Executive Director of the Conseil régional de l'environnement des Laurentides.

More than 80 residents, associations and citizens joined their voices to say that they must mobilize within a unifying entity, the Fédération québécoise de défense des lacs et cours d'eau (FQDLC), and to rely on the strength of numbers to increase their political influence and make their voices heard.

Nearly 80 experts present chose support capacity as a priority for the health of our lakes. Taking into account the precautionary principle and already known good practices, the urgency to act has taken precedence over the need to define and evaluate it, although this remains an objective in the longer

term. Thus, they expressed the wish that the experts, according to their field of expertise, document, inform and support the various actors in the implementation of good practices already known.

The municipal and government sector has made three recommendations that will call for unite to defend these points. Indeed, about sixty representatives of this group hope that a reference framework be created for the harmonization of regulations on the washing of boats and washing methods, to mobilize to obtain powers related to the restriction navigation on water bodies and make it mandatory to report lakes affected by species invasive exotics and boat washing at the exit of these bodies of water.

A follow-up to these recommendations

It is important that the recommendations made at the Forum are implemented, since they represent the vision of people who have been informed and have reflected on the subject for 2 days in addition to consider the realities, issues and needs they experience on a daily basis.

To this end, CRE Laurentides undertakes to bring these recommendations to the responsible authorities for various reasons levels and to pursue its interventions in favour of the protection of the health of lakes with the Concerned. Finally, the proceedings of the 4th National Forum on Lakes will be published in the coming months.