



Press Release

For immediate publication

At the 4th Forum national sur les lacs, participants were invited to reflect on the 2 days, to a promising recommendation for their group (residents, municipalities and scientists/experts).

It was to be a recommendation whose implementation does not depend on not from other stakeholder groups and would have a significant impact on the health of the lakes. During the final workshop, participants were gathered by group of actors to emit from 1 to 3 recommendations related to a chosen theme.

Group of residents' associations and citizens

87 people (Citizens, lake associations, board members of environmental associations, etc.).

Three priority areas were identified by this group: increasing influence policy of local residents and their associations, the acquisition and transmission of knowledge and aquatic invasive species.

The increase in political influence was the first choice of more than half of the people present. To achieve this, three proposals were made, namely to mobilize within an entity unifying and to rely on the strength of numbers, to challenge and meet with MPs and elected officials and to send a petition to the government on requests for supervision for the navigation.

A show of hands, almost unanimously, underscored the willingness of this group to join the Fédération québécoise des lacs et cours d'eau (FQDLC) to represent them and thus increase their political power.

The recommendation of the lake associations and residents present at the forum is therefore to mobilize within a unifying entity that is the FQDLC and rely on the strength of numbers.

Group of scientists, organizations and consultants in environment 80 people (Biologists and experts from ministries, consulting firms, organizations environmental, scientific and academic).

Several elements were proposed by this group as being prioritized for the health of the lakes in Quebec. In order, the carrying capacity of lakes and invasive alien species received the most support, although navigation, climate change and stormwater management were also mentioned.

Despite the fact that the support capacity stood out, the discussions oscillated between two points of view. On the one hand, the need to define and evaluate it emerges, segmenting it into specific elements (phosphorus, number of boats on a lake, etc.) or rather considering it as a whole, although it is an arduous and long-term work. On the other hand, the need to act quickly is mentioned: the support capacity is certainly exceeded in several plans water and good practices are known.

The urgency to act took precedence during the vote, taking into account the precautionary principle. Importance develop and implement means, in particular for modelling and the establishment of objectives and criteria for protection emerged. For the people on the ground, the importance of documenting, informing and accompanying so that good practices already known to be deployed has been named as an element of primary importance.

The recommendation of the environmental scientists, organizations and consultants present at the forum is therefore to act quickly by documenting, informing and accompanying in order to apply the precautionary principle and to deploy on the ground the good practices already known. This must be done keeping in mind the need to assess the longer-term carrying capacity of lakes.

Group of municipalities, RCMs and governments

68 people (Municipal employees, municipal elected officials, employees of RCMs, employees of departments.

Discussions in this group unfolded slightly differently. Washing boats, navigation restriction and invasive alien species each have resulted in recommendations.

Indeed, this group suggests creating a reference framework to harmonize regulations on boat washing and washing methods, to mobilize to obtain powers in connection with the restriction of navigation and to make mandatory the declaration of affected lakes by invasive alien species and boat washing at the exit of these plans water.

Since government representatives were part of this group, the need for Regulation has been heard. However, it will be important for municipalities to wear these recommendations to a federating body, such as the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ), the Fédération québécoise des municipalités (FQM) or the Fédération canadienne des municipalités (FCM) to ensure mobilization and have more influence with government authorities.