awrence Vision 2000

An Action Plan to Conserve and Protect the St Lawrence and its Environment

Mission

To conserve and protect the St. Lawrence ecosystem with the goal of restoring the use of the River to citizens with a view to sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES



A proactive approach through prevention

In addition to continuing the St. Lawrence Action Plan's efforts to reduce industrial discharges to the River, St. Lawrence Vision 2000 will focus more on preventing pollution and conserving the St. Lawrence ecosystem.



A comprehensive approach to action

St. Lawrence Vision 2000 will encourage a more comprehensive approach to environmental management. Governments, local environmental groups and many other partners will work together to improve co-ordination of all actions taken with respect to the River.

Actions



New areas for action

While building upon the St. Lawrence Action Plan's accomplishments, especially those involving protection and restoration, St. Lawrence Vision 2000 opens up new areas for action, each destined to have a lasting impact on the St. Lawrence and its entire environment:

- Biodiversity
- Agriculture
- Community Involvement
- Health

Tributaries

St. Lawrence Vision 2000 will take action with respect to certain tributaries in Quebec. The following seven tributaries will receive particular attention:

- L'Assomption River
- Boyer River
- Chaudière River
- Richelieu River

- Saguenay River
- Saint-Maurice River

Decision-Making Assistance

Yamaska River

Action on toxic substances

St. Lawrence Vision 2000 plans to continue St. Lawrence Action Plan efforts to reduce discharges of toxic effluent into the environment, with the long-term objective of virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances into the River. Monitoring of the 50 priority industrial establishments under the St. Lawrence Action Plan will continue, and action will be taken with respect to an additional 56 industrial establishments along the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. In addition, funding will be available for technology development projects whose primary objective is the virtual elimination of toxic discharges.





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Health

Protect the health

of riparian populations

Assess the risks associated

with contaminants by

developing indicators of

exposure, among others

Prepare a report on

current knowledge

egarding contamination risks to the public

Develop and

communicate three

strategies for

reducing risk

Monitor contamination

of human tissues

Publish a report on

public health in

the 20 ZIPs



Ecosystem Conservation and Prevention

7 Components

Long-term Objectives

Preserve the biodiversity of the St. Lawrence ecosystem

Protect 7,000 hectares of habitat

Help maintain or restore 12 species that are threatened or in decline

Carry on the recovery plan for the St. Lawrence beluga

> Restore the smelt population in the **Boyer River**

Increase the productivity of five disturbed marine habitats

Establish a network to monitor the condition of the River

Publish a report on St. Lawrence biodiversity

Establish a plan to protect,

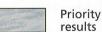
restore and enhance

coastal areas

21,2 M\$

6,4 M\$

Legend:



Main Results

results

Budget:

Government of Canada*: Government of Quebec: **Biodiversity**

Agriculture Prevent and reduce the

effects of pollution on the St. Lawrence ecosystem

Reduce by 50% the amount of pesticides in the L'Assomption, Boyer, Chaudière, Richelieu and Yamaska rivers

Establish watershed committees to set objectives for reducing agricultural pollution

Implement three plans for reducing the impact of agricultural operation

> 2.1 M\$ (Green Plan)

Community Involvement

Ensure public involvement in the protection and restoration of the St. Lawrence

Prepare 10 reports covering 18 Zones of **Primary Intervention (ZIPs)** to support participation in developing and implementing Remedial **Environmental Action Plans**

Provide funding and other support for 140 community projects

Prepare one report covering two ZIPs along the Saguenay River

6,5 M\$

Decision-Making Assistance

Improve knowledge egarding the ecosystem and disseminate this information to decision-makers

Publish a second report on the state of the St. Lawrence environment

Make four types of scientific and environmental information available to the public

Assess the input of contaminants from the Great Lakes and five tributaries and their mpacts on the ecosystem

Determine the proportion of atmospheric chemical contamination for 18 organic chemicals and 7 metals.

Monitor water quality in the River and 24 of its tributaries

> 10 M\$ 30 M\$

> 6,5 M\$ 19 M\$

Environmental Protection and Restoration

Protection

Reduce discharges of liquid toxic effluent and virtually eliminate ischarges of persistent toxic substances

Take action regarding 106 priority plants, 56 of which are new. in order to:

liquid toxic effluent with inadequate

Ensure optimal reduction of liquid toxic effluent discharges from plants in which treatment technologies have already been implemented

Assess toxic effluent scharges from regulated plants and establish corrective measures necessary to optimally reduce their impact

Provide funding and other support for 60 technology development projects designed principally to virtually

21,8 M\$

59,0 M\$

Restoration

Restore degraded sites in the St. Lawrence ecosystem

Reduce by 90% the discharges from plants waste water treatment

on receiving environments

9,4 M\$

Decontaminate the **Lachine Canal**

Set up six pilot projects for habitat restoration

Produce four development and restoration plans:

Three national wildlife areas:

- Cap Tourmente - lles de l'estuaire - Saint-François Lake

The islands under federal urisdiction between **Montreal and Sorel**

> Total: St. Lawrence

100 M\$

91 MS

* + \$1.1 million for communications

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Because everyone has a role to play in working to conserve and protect the St. Lawrence and its environment, St. Lawrence Vision 2000 provides a number of mechanisms for involving the population of Quebec in preserving the St. Lawrence:

- Advisory Committee
- Zones of Primary Intervention (ZIPs)
- Public consultations regarding health
- Community Interaction program
- Habitat Conservation Assistance program

ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP

To achieve its objectives, **St. Lawrence Vision 2000** will encourage active partnership among private sector firms, universities, environmental groups, research centres and local organizations.

St. Lawrence Vision 2000 is also the result of a co-operative initiative among several federal and provincial government departments:



- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans
- Health Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Heritage
- Federal Office of Regional Development



For Ouebec:

- Le ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec
- · Le ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
- Le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
- · Le ministère des Affaires municipales du Québec

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

The St. Lawrence Vision 2000 management style is typified by simple, flexible and effective management.

✓ A Management Committee, made up of representatives from the federal and Quebec governments, will direct all

St. Lawrence Vision 2000 operations.

✓ An Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from various sectors in Quebec, will advise the ministers signatory to the Agreement on St. Lawrence Vision 2000 orientations, management and operations.

✓ Measurable performance objectives have been set for each action area, so that the public can be kept regularly informed of progress.

St. Lawrence Vision 2000:

a true sustainable development challenge that concerns everyone.

Information: Governement of Canada Co-ordination Office St. Lawrence Vision 2000 Quebec 648-3444 1 800 463-4311

Gouvernement du Québec Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune Renseignements Généraux Québec 643-6071 1 800 561-1616