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St. Lawrence 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
- Decision-Making Assistance
- 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
- 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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7 Components

Long-term Objectives

Main Results

Legend:



Budget:

Government of Canada*:
Government of Quebec:

Ecosystem Conservation and Prevention

Environmental Protection and Restoration

Biodiversity

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\$

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 operations

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 regarding 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 impacts 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

30 M\$

19 M\$

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 regarding 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

10 M\$

6,5 M\$

Protection

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

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

Reduce by 90% the liquid toxic effluent discharges from plants with inadequate waste water treatment

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

Assess toxic effluent discharges from regulated plants and establish corrective measures necessary to optimally reduce their impact on receiving environments

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

21,8 M\$

59,0 M\$

Restoration

Restore degraded sites in the St. Lawrence ecosystem

Decontaminate the Lachine Canal

Set up six pilot projects for habitat restoration

Produce four development and restoration plans:

Three national wildlife areas:

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

The islands under federal jurisdiction between Montreal and Sorel

9,4 M\$

Total:
St. Lawrence
Vision 2000

100 M\$

91 M\$

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:

For Canada:


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


For Quebec:


- 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.

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