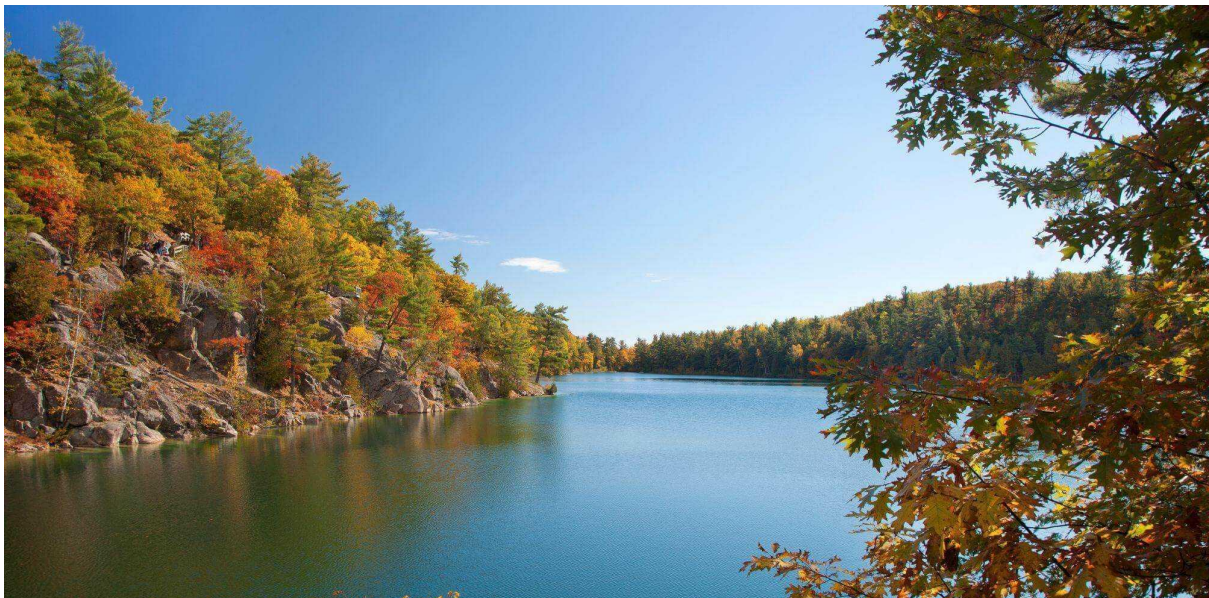


GATINEAU, JULY 14th, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

The population of the Outaouais has expressed its opinion on the PRMHH

Gatineau, July 14th 2021 - Last night was held the second public consultation in the framework of the implementation of the Regional Wetland and Water Management Plans (PRMHH) in the Outaouais. Many residents of the MRCs of Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, Pontiac, Collines-de-l'Outaouais and Papineau attended this public workshop and had the opportunity to speak out on this regional environmental conservation initiative!



Meech Lake, photo credit CCN

A new era for land use planning

PRMHH are a new legal requirement under the Act Concerning the Conservation of Wetlands and Water Environments adopted by the National Assembly in 2017. They aim to harmonize land use and wetland and water conservation, particularly to improve community resilience to climate change. The term "wetlands" refers to pounds, marshes, swamps and peat bogs, while hydric environments include lakes, rivers and streams.

The law stipulates that each MRC must produce its PRMHH by June 2022. In the Outaouais, the [MRCs of Papineau](#), [Collines-de-l'Outaouais](#), [La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau](#) and [Pontiac](#) have chosen to

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work together in a concerted effort to develop their respective PRMHHs. This joint initiative is coordinated by the [CREDDO](#).

A concerted and collective reflection

This public consultation process, carried out as part of the development of the PRMHH, was held by videoconference, with the prioritization of the issues on the agenda. This was followed by a collective reflection on the desired conservation orientations in the region. More than 30 minutes were spent answering questions from the participants, most of which concerned the development process and the aspects that are or are not covered by the PRMHH. The exchanges were dynamic and enriching. The participants provided numerous suggestions for actions they would like to see carried out in the region, particularly in terms of maintaining biodiversity and acquiring knowledge. Please note that this recorded consultation will soon be available on the CREDDO website and that we will be collecting comments from the population until the end of August.

The issues presented during the public consultation come from the analysis of the results of a survey in which the population was invited to participate last March-April, which were then improved by the different working committees (strategic, expert and coordination).

Thanks to the participation of the population, the Outaouais PRMHH reflect a common vision of the territory that highlights the issues and opportunities related to wetlands and water environments that affect them.

Madelaine Rouleau, project manager in sustainable management of natural environments at the CREDDO said: *"This consultation was essential for the continuation of the project. We are very happy to see such a great participation rate, which demonstrates the interest of the population towards the PRMHH. We will take into account the feedback and thoughts that were shared during the evening, and will continue to make it a collective project throughout its development!" (translated from French)*

Ariane Beaumier, coordinator for the environment of the MRC Collines-de-l'Outaouais: *"Wetlands and water bodies, which are recognized as playing vital role in natural ecosystems, are facing unprecedented anthropic pressures. The MRC Collines-de-l'Outaouais is sensitive to this issue and wishes to make the Regional Wetlands and Water Bodies Plan a strategic tool for its territorial development. In order to achieve this objective, consultation with citizens will be essential in helping to orient future decisions on conservation issues." (translated from French)*

Arnaud Holleville, director of the MRC Papineau's Planning Department adds: *"The MRC Papineau is making an important shift towards a more sustainable development vision for the MRC. This shift requires better consultation with the population and better protection of the environment. This public consultation brings us closer to this vision." (translated from French)*

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Jane Toller, Reeve of the MRC Pontiac adds: *"The protection and preservation of our natural resources is a top priority for us in the MRC Pontiac. Our residents and visitors take our wild and natural landscapes very seriously. The regional wetland and water plan is a very important step in the right direction."* (translated from French)

Chantal Lamarche, Reeve of the Gatineau Valley MRC concludes: *"The Gatineau Valley MRC is a vast territory of forests, lakes and rivers. It is an incredible playground for outdoor enthusiasts, as well as for those who practice hunting, fishing, hiking and vacationing. It is therefore essential that the current exercise for the conservation of these environments be carried out. The regional wetlands and waterways plan is an indispensable tool to ensure the sustainability of these resources."* (translated from French)

About the CREDDO

The CREDDO is a privileged interlocutor with the environmental, political and economic actors of the Outaouais region. Its primary mission is the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in a context of cooperation.

For more informations

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