

## COURTESY TRANSLATION

December 8, 2009

Mr. David Naftzger  
Secretary, Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council  
c/o Council of Great Lakes Governors  
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1850  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Subject : Progress report on the implementation of Québec's Water Management and Water Conservation and Efficiency Programs**

Mr. Naftzger,

As representative of the Government of Québec, signatory of the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, please find attached the progress reports on the Water Management and Water Conservation and Efficiency Programs, in accordance with Article 300 of the Agreement. Though this article is not yet in force in Québec, we would like to keep the partners of the Agreement informed about the progress and advancement of our programs. We also wish to adhere to, as much as is possible, the timeline for the implementation of the Compact that began on December 8, 2008.

However, as the measures necessary for the prohibition of diversions are not yet in force, it is not possible for us to send you the inventory of existing water withdrawals (Baseline).

I remain available to discuss your questions and comments, and to provide you with further information.

With my very best regards,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Yvon Maranda, Ph. D.  
Representative of the Government of Québec  
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body

Encl. Report

c. c. Mr. Charles Laroche, Assistant Deputy Minister, Water, Air and Climate Change Branch, ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs

Mrs. Madeleine Paulin, Deputy Minister, ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs

Mr. Peter Johnson, Program Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors

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### **Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement**

#### **Quebec Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Review**

The following information shall be included in the Water Conservation and Efficiency Program reports submitted by the States and Provinces to the Regional Body and Compact Council pursuant to the requirements in the Agreement Article 300 and the Compact Section 3.4.1.

#### **1. Lead agency/agencies and contact person(s).**

The ministère du Développement durable, l'Environnement et des Parcs (MDDEP) is responsible for the implementation of the Agreement in Québec.

Mr. Yvon Maranda, Head of the Integrated Water Management Section, is the Designee of Premier Jean Charest on the Regional Body.

Mr. Yvon Maranda, Ph. D.  
Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs  
Direction des Politiques de l'eau  
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 8<sup>e</sup> étage  
675 Boul. René Lévesque Est, Boîte 42  
Québec, Qc  
G1R 5V7

E-mail : Yvon.Maranda@mddep.gouv.qc.ca  
Telephone : (418) 521-3885 # 4117  
Fax : (418) 644-2003

#### **2. Status of the State or Province's Water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives. If developed, include State or Provincial goals and objectives or link to electronic version.**

The provisions of Article 709, paragraph 2 of the Agreement are not in force in Québec, as the measures necessary for their implementation have not been completed. For this reason, Articles 300 and 304, with the exception of paragraph 1 of the Agreement, are not yet in force in Québec (see Water Management Program Report). However, Québec would like to keep the Parties of the Agreement informed about progress in work related to Water Conservation and Efficiency Use.

Based on objectives developed in co-operation with the Partners of the Agreement, the Integrated Water Management Section of the MDDEP is currently working on

establishing Water Conservation and Efficiency Use goals and objectives for the territory of Québec under the Agreement. A number of actions may stem from meeting these objectives, and this, in its totality, will be the government of Québec's proposal for Water Conservation and Efficiency Use in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement. The goals and objectives should be drawn up and completed to be submitted for government approval by the end of summer, 2010. These goals and objectives should be adopted in fall, 2010.

### **3. Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Overview.**

#### **a) Citations to State/Provincial Water Conservation and Efficiency Program implementing laws, regulations and policies.**

- An Act to affirm the collective nature of water resources and provide for increased water resource protection, (S.Q. 2009, c. 21)  
<http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=5&file=2009C21A.PDF>
  - Division VI amending provisions Environment Quality Act, §2. — Special provisions applicable to water withdrawals from the St. Lawrence River Basin (Articles 31.101 and 31.102)
- Quebec Water Policy (<http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/eau/politique/index-en.htm>)

#### **b) Summary description of the State's or Province's Water Conservation and Efficiency Program including what elements are voluntary and mandatory.**

Even though Québec has not yet developed its Water Conservation and Efficiency program in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, it adopted the National Water Policy in 2002. This water management policy contributes to respecting the commitments made by virtue of the Agreement.

The commitments of the National Water Policy related to Water Conservation and Efficiency Use:

43. Urge all municipalities to achieve an infrastructure renewal rate of 0.8% per annum, and a rate of 1% per annum by 2012. (in order to encourage responsible management practices) (in progress).
45. Achieve a 25% rate of infrastructure rehabilitation over replacement (in progress).
46. Develop a mechanism for determining the cost of water services (in process).
47. Develop appropriate tools to measure water services management performance (in progress).
48. Increase Québec's expertise in water services by promoting the use of new technologies and best practices (in progress).

49. Develop a Québec strategy for drinking water conservation, making the allocation of any financial assistance to municipalities contingent upon their adoption of measures to conserve water and reduce leakage (in progress).

50. Establish a water-conservation program in government buildings (in progress).

Water Conservation and efficiency measures are undertaken locally by municipalities. The government offers financial support to some non-governmental organisations (NGO), such as *RÉSEAU environnement*, which has promoted water conservation through publications, conferences, and their Web site ([www.reseau-environnement.com](http://www.reseau-environnement.com))

The government of Québec also provides financial support to small municipalities for the replacement or improvement of their water treatment and purification infrastructures.

Some municipalities have adopted regulations and have notably implemented restrictions with regards to the watering of lawns and gardens.

c) **For each of the regional objectives identify how the State/Provincial program is consistent with the regional objective. More details for each objective are available at [http://www.glsregionalbody.org/Docs/Resolutions/GLSLRWRRB\\_Resolution\\_6-Conservation-Efficiency.pdf](http://www.glsregionalbody.org/Docs/Resolutions/GLSLRWRRB_Resolution_6-Conservation-Efficiency.pdf) and can be referenced below.**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- **Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.**
- **Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.**
- **Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among State and Provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.**
- **Develop science, technology and research.**
- **Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.**

4. **Description of how the State or Province promotes Environmentally Sound and Economically Feasible Water Conservation Measures.**

**5. Description of the State or Provincial Water conservation and efficiency program implementation timeline and status.**

The work related to the development of the Water Conservation and Efficiency program and the assessment strategy of the program in accordance with the Agreement should begin in winter 2010-2011.