

LE FLEUVE

NEWSLETTER
ST. LAWRENCE VISION 2000

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IN TUNE

A CHANGE IN FORMAT

This issue of the newsletter *Le Fleuve* is a break from previous issues. For close to two years now, each issue has been zeroing in on one of the seven components of the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 plan (SLV 2000). From now on, the newsletter will report more on the global developments of the various components and will attempt to inform all interested parties and the public concerned with the conservation of the St. Lawrence River of the initiatives and results accomplished.

For this issue, we met with the Chair of the new Advisory Committee of SLV 2000, Mr. Harvey Mead. Well-known in environmental circles in Quebec, Mr. Mead presents his vision of the committee's contribution to the endeavours of SLV 2000. Like the Advisory Committee, the Priority Intervention Zones program (or ZIPs, as they are known, due to the French acronym) is one concrete way citizens can participate in the protection and restoration of the ecosystem. It is undoubtedly one of the most original facets of SLV 2000.

You may also read up on the major findings of the large-scale survey carried out with shoreline residents on their perception of the state of the river, and learn about the assessment of interventions to reduce discharges of toxic effluents at the 50 priority industrial plants of the SLAP. Happy reading!

The Communications Harmonization Committee

LE FLEUVE, a Most Appreciated Newsletter

The Editorial Committee of the newsletter *Le Fleuve* heartily thank the some 130 people who took the time to answer the questionnaire of appreciation that was inserted in the March 1996 issue. Their answers helped us better appreciate your needs and expectations vis-à-vis the newsletter. Thanks to the helpful suggestions, we will be better able to improve its content.

In the light of the questionnaire's findings, the team at *Le Fleuve* was able to ascertain that the newsletter is read by a diversified public (business representatives, researchers, academics, students, environmental groups, conservation groups, consultants, journalists and so on)—in other words, people who are interested in the River as well as the implementation of the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 plan. Most respondents, or 86%, read the newsletter cover to cover and then pass it on to others. We might add that more than half of them say they are completely satisfied with the information contained in *Le Fleuve*. Indeed, over 50% reported that they were very satisfied with the format, the graphics, the themes and topics treated as well as the clarity and accuracy of the articles. Most respondents feel that the current number of pages is adequate. On the other hand, most respondents were dissatisfied with the frequency of publication of the newsletter and a sizable proportion (35%) would be inclined to subscribe to *Le Fleuve* even if it meant paying a modest price.

Despite the fact that many readers would like to see the newsletter appear more often, the human and financial resources available unfortunately do not allow this possibility. However, we are committed to meeting your expectations insofar as it is possible, by giving you the best possible coverage.

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An Encouraging Assessment



When the St. Lawrence Action Plan (SLAP) was unveiled in 1988, the federal and provincial governments had set themselves an ambitious objective indeed: reducing the discharge of toxic effluents at 50 priority industrial plants along the St. Lawrence and Saguenay rivers by 90%. The results show that the objective has been surpassed: there was a 96% reduction in all the toxic effluents discharged in 1995. Discharges of suspended particulates were reduced by 92% and the reduction in the demand in biochemical oxidation (BOD5) reached 96%.

"It is quite rare to see governments committed to the environment to such an extent," comments Gaéтан Duchesneau, a federal representative of the Protection Component of SLV 2000. "In addition, this was the first time that a list of priority industries was published. In 1993, we had already reduced toxic effluents by 74%; thanks to the continued efforts of the industries, we were able to surpass those objectives in 1995."

A voluntary approach in a spirit of partnership

The success of this operation to reduce the discharge of toxic effluents hinges on several factors, but the most important is without a doubt the measures taken by the 50 industrial plants chosen to reduce their waste. Their global investments in this area are estimated to approach the 750-million dollar mark. "The voluntary approach taken is one of the most positive aspects of the program," adds Mr. Duchesneau. "In the past decade, enormous strides have been taken by industries in terms of the environment."

Another important factor has been the concerted efforts of the federal-provincial governments in how operations were carried out. Specialists in pollution control techniques from both federal and provincial departments share the workload: visits to businesses and on-site activities are conducted by the Québec *Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune*, whereas Environment Canada takes care of the

technical support and any related informational aspects.

Activities are broken down into six phases:

1. Conducting an inventory for each of the 50 plants.
2. Analysing the properties of the discharged toxic substances of prime concern.
3. Ascertaining the desirable environmental objectives in terms of protecting all the uses of the watercourses.
4. Determining the effluent standards in terms of the best technologies which are economically feasible.
5. The clean-up work *per se*.
6. The follow-up phase to verify whether the results of the clean-up work meet the pre-established effluent standards.

With the voluntary approach used, let us say that in the past, 50% of the costs of the effluent property analysis studies were assumed by the industries. Now that there are 56 additional plants on the list of the SLV 2000 plan, the industries are voluntarily bearing 75% of the costs.

The Chimiotox Index: A practical tool born out of necessity

One of the major concerns of researchers was finding a practical solution that allowed for a comparison and integration of a wide variety of data from the analyses of toxic substances. Effluents were evaluated in terms of 120 substances or more; a method for integrating analysis results was needed that would take into account the relative importance of each substance, in order to arrive at the overall measurement of the extent of toxic effluent discharges.

The Chimiotox is a mathematical tool aimed at evaluating a global index of the discharge of toxic substances into the environment. Based on the findings of the toxic substance property analysis, expressed

To do so, some excellent suggestions were offered and many readers proposed interesting topics to be discussed. For example, we were asked to incorporate more data on the research projects under way and on the intervention projects of other organizations involved with the St. Lawrence. Readers would also like to see us deal with present-day environmental projects as well as the outcomes achieved within the framework of SLV 2000.

We will not list all the suggestions given, only to say that we will take them into account in coming issues. In addition, it was suggested to add a "letters to the editor" column where readers could comment on subjects of importance to them. We find this proposal interesting and would like to follow up on the idea immediately by asking you to send in any reactions or comments you might have for a column to appear in the upcoming issue of December 1996. The deadline to do so is November 1st.

We thank you again for your participation as well as for your steadfast interest toward the protection of the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries.

The Editorial Committee

primarily in the form of a daily discharge, and then weighted using a toxicity factor inherent to each substance, we obtain one Chimiotox unit. By adding together the units of each substance, we can obtain a Chimiotox index for each plant. The sum of all these indices gives us a global index for each of the 50 priority industrial plants. That is how we have been able to monitor the progression of results and see to what extent the set objectives have been attained.

Fact sheets on the 50 priority industrial plants

The Protection Component of SLV 2000 has also allowed researchers to produce a compilation of fact sheets for each priority industrial plant, with a view to distributing them in a loose-leaf binder. "This publication has no equivalent elsewhere in Canada," remarks Gaétan Duchesneau. "For each plant, we can find out which clean-up measures have been implemented to reduce the toxicity of effluents, which objectives and standards are to be met, as well as what must still be done to completely eliminate persistent toxics. We hope that the firms use these fact sheets to publicize their pollution control efforts in their respective circles."

The SLV 2000 Advisory Committee

The SLV 2000 Advisory Committee, whose creation was announced June 6th last, will be the eyes and ears of the public in order to relay their concerns in regard to the implementation of SLV 2000.

Presided over by Harvey Mead, a personality well-known in Quebec for his commitment to protecting the environment, the Committee has the mandate of advising the federal and provincial administrators on the guidelines and intervention approaches of SLV 2000. The Committee also has free reign to broach any topic that might have an impact on the extension of the federal-provincial agreement. Composed of thirty or so people from all socioeconomic sectors, the Committee is representative of all the publics interested in the River's conservation. Many are, in fact, very active on the local scene and well-informed on the day-to-day reality of the River and the riparian communities.

"Interventions by the Committee will take three forms," Mr. Mead points out. "We will give our opinion on the guidelines and intervention approaches, of course, but we

will also be very much interested in the relations SLV 2000 develops with its partners. In addition, we will comment on the results achieved within the scope of SLV 2000, for these results make up an important part of the assessment of interventions that will have been accomplished during the two five-year plans."

The systematic recourse to the public's participation in the ongoing government activities, today firmly entrenched in the advisory and decision-making process, is nonetheless relatively recent. Indeed, when launching the St. Lawrence Action Plan back in 1988, and even though the public was well-mobilized regarding the objectives and issues at stake in the protection and restoration of the River, not much room was given to such consultation. The setting up of the organization *Stratégies St-Laurent* (St. Lawrence Strategies), in 1988, and the financial support of private foundations in the first three years, gradually filled in the vacuum. What is more, the Assessment Report of the SLAP baldly stated that the public's participation had to be assigned a formal structure within the process.

"The major strength of the Committee comes from its composition," interjects Harvey Mead. "With no civil servants or researchers from SLV 2000, the Committee is well-positioned since it is not involved in the everyday work. Therefore, it will be objective in lending assistance to the parties involved, helping them to understand the concerns and wishes of citizens in the actions to take and prioritize regarding the St. Lawrence. The Committee includes people from the municipal sphere, the farming community, industries and unions, young people, experts and Native people. I believe that we have been able to gather together a group that is both well in tune with reality and whose numerous contacts will be a plus in



The Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Mr. Harvey Mead, flanked by the two co-chairs of SLV 2000, Mr. George Arsenault, Assistant Deputy Minister at Wildlife Resources and Parks at the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune du Québec, and Mr. François Guimont, General Director, Quebec Region, at Environment Canada, at the announcement of the creation of the Committee and the official presentation of the State of the Environment Report on the St. Lawrence River, at the Biosphere, on June 6, 1996.

the formulation of opinion papers that we will be presenting to the governments”.

The Committee, whose work officially got under way last June 12th, after one preliminary meeting in April, proposes to hold four plenary meetings per year. In-between these meetings, the formation of small and therefore flexible sub-committees will allow for the advancement of specific issues on which the Committee would like to present opinion papers. “We have already formed two sub-committees that are to be presenting reports to the October plenary session,” Harvey Mead points out. “The first one will focus on the first two years of SLV 2000 (1993–1994 and 1994–1995), while the second will delve into the relations between the St. Lawrence Action Plan (1988–1993) and SLV 2000 (1993–1988). We hope to present, as early as this fall, an opinion paper on one of these issues, or perhaps both.” We might point out that the committee meetings are public and that the documents prepared by the committee will be made available to those who would like a copy.

One of the major concerns of Mr. Mead is the time that elapses between the completion of on-site research and data collection and the publication of reports. “The SLAP Assessment Report was published three years after the end of the five-year plan, whereas SLV 2000 had already accomplished two years of work. We are hopeful that these delays will shrink by the end of the SLV 2000 Plan so that a possible Phase III could be started up a little easier.”

The annual operating budget of the committee was set at \$80,000, an amount that is currently being administered by the *Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature (UQCN)*. Harvey Mead, who is also the Chair of the UQCN, has agreed not to intervene in any matter related to the St. Lawrence at the board of director meetings of that agency.

The ZIP Program

A Group Effort

The Priority Intervention Zone Program, better known as the ZIP Program, is without a doubt the most visible manifestation of the involvement of riverside communities in an effort to protect and conserve the St. Lawrence River.

Based on a better understanding of the river environment with a view to promoting local conservation and restoration initiatives, the ZIP Program has benefitted, since 1989, from the expertise of *Stratégies Saint-Laurent (SSL)*, an agency specially created to back the riverside communities’ efforts at mobilizing and participation.

An original strategy

“When the St. Lawrence Action Plan (SLAP) was started up in 1988, it was noticed that the federal and provincial governments left no room for public participation in how the SLAP was being carried out”, remarks Marc Hudon, Chair of *Stratégies Saint-Laurent (SSL)*. “That is why the *Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature (UQCN)*, along with its partners, founded SSL. During the early years of the SLAP, the first ZIP committees were set up. With the renewal of federal-provincial agreement that led to the adoption of the second five-year plan, St. Lawrence Vision 2000, the governments acknowledged the need for this platform of participation. As part of the Community Involvement Component, monies were earmarked so that SSL would be able to support the actions of citizens in favour of various sectors of the river.”

But what is a ZIP Committee? A ZIP Committee is not started up by accident. In fact, it is a multisectorial consultation table grouping all the regional intervenors, in particular, municipalities, environmental groups, groups with socioeconomic missions, businesses and citizens alike who take to heart the solving of problems related to the utilization, the quality of natural habitats and the contamination of their portion of the St. Lawrence River. “It is due to the fact that this table must be born of the interest in the community that we have observed that

certain sections of the River, such as the Charlevoix reach, the portion located between Montreal East and Lake St-Pierre or the lower North Shore, are still not designated as territories of ZIP committees,” points out Marc Hudon. “SSL is not there to set up the committee, but rather to promote its formation based on efforts made by the local population. Many regions, because they have a tradition of cooperation, are more densely populated, or experience problems that are more closely related to the condition of the river, formed their ZIP committee more quickly than others. That does not mean that the other regions are not interested, the dynamics of the situation are simply different.” Currently, there are ten active ZIP committees: those of Haut-Saint-Laurent, Ville-Marie, Est de Montréal, Lac Saint-Pierre, Québec and Chaudière–Appalaches, Saguenay, Alma–Jonquière, Baie-Comeau, Côte-Nord du Golfe and Baie des Chaleurs.

A three-staged development

In each sector where it is present, the ZIP program stipulates the stages that must lead to the preparation of an Ecological Remedial Action Plan (ERAP), which is the fruit of the reflection and cooperation of the intervenors to improve their portion of the River. These stages fall under three major concerns.

The Environmental Assessment of Information Report is first of all carried out by a federal-provincial team. Each Report is divided into four parts: the biological aspects, physicochemical aspects, socioeconomic aspects and health-related aspects. The Report is a summary of all the information which will be used as a basis for discussion by all members of the sector’s ZIP committee. “Often,” underlines Mr. Hudon, “the data behind the summaries existed

before, but had never been compiled or organized. The riverside populations must see to it that the data is updated to reflect the interventions that have taken place in their region." The ZIP committees refer to this report and to other interventions from their community in order to pave the way for the following stage, the public consultation, within a two-year period.

A public consultation is organized by the ZIP Committee and brings together citizens who may also, based on their region's environmental assessment, make a public commentary, suggest recommendations and specify their priorities as to the uses they would like to see recovered or improved.

Finally, the *Ecological Remedial Action Plan*, or ERAP, is drawn up by the ZIP committee within two years following the consultation, following on the priorities that were specified. Within the framework of SLV 2000, it is expected that the ten ZIP committees will have tabled their ERAP. "We do not foresee the creation of new ZIP committees for the time being, since they most likely would not have enough time to table their plan by the end of 1998", adds Marc Hudon. "No two plans are identical because the issues at stake in each sector are quite different from each other." Let us look at the scope of these differences from three ZIPs that are located far away from each other.

The Haut-Saint-Laurent ZIP

The Haut-Saint-Laurent ZIP (Upper St. Lawrence) is located around Lake Saint-Louis, between the Ontario border and the Mercier bridge in Montreal West. Formed in 1993, and having carried out its public consultation in March 1994, it is the first sector to have tabled its ERAP, which was officially released on June 5, 1996. "The problems raised and the solutions proposed during the consultation process were grouped according to five themes...", reports Claire Lachance, coordinator. "...Pollution, health, recreational tourism and development, natural resources, and information and awareness campaigns. We then drafted 19 technical fact sheets that were validated during one work session, on March 16, 1996."

Many projects are already under way in the region, such as that of the protection of the Îles de la Paix, designated a priority, or that of the preparation of a pedagogical

guide intended for elementary school teachers.

The Saguenay ZIP

The Saguenay sector has many specific features. First of all, it is laid out around a tributary of the St. Lawrence and is not a section of that river; it is also a highly industrialized sector, primarily due to its many aluminum factories and paper mills. "The public consultation process that took place last February brought together more than 200 people", points out the ZIP coordinator Ghislain Sylvain. "Held jointly with that of the Alma-Jonquière ZIP, the consultation designated 17 priorities that will form the basis of the ERAP. We will divide them into five themes: water purification and promotion, human health, recreational tourism, and the use of the shorelines and wildlife habitats." Undoubtedly, the flooding experienced by the population over the summer will lead to an even closer involvement of residents over the coming years.

The Baie des Chaleurs ZIP

Founded in 1991 in New Richmond, the Baie des Chaleurs ZIP covers a vast territory, stretching from the estuary of the Restigouche River to the bay of Gaspé, in other words, covering close to half of the Gaspesian peninsula. "The ZIP is located in a marine environment," mentions the coordinator, Michel Chouinard, "...so that the biological problems are very different. In addition, the ecosystem of the bay is shared between Quebec and New Brunswick, where most of the industrial pollution originates. There is one more particularity: the bay is very different depending on whether one is in the eastern basin, on the Gulf side—the water is deep there—or in the western basin, where the shallow water is a real spawning ground for the multitude of marine species found there."

The Environmental Assessment of this ZIP is still being prepared and the public consultation is yet to come; it is scheduled for March 1997. "We will have to make a special effort in order to reach people during the consultation process, for the territory is quite vast. Many meetings and public assemblies are expected to be held over the coming year", Michel Chouinard adds.

Vox pop – The St. Lawrence River – for Life

Within the framework of the symposium on the St. Lawrence River, co-organized by the Association des biologistes du Québec (ABQ) and St. Lawrence Vision 2000.

Does the future of the St. Lawrence River concern you? Do you have any specific ideas on the priority issues and the type of actions that should be pursued as a priority by all the government and private intervenors? Do you have any recommendations to make regarding the methods and tools that could lead to an increased participation of citizens in the protection, conservation and restoration of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries?

The *Association des biologistes du Québec (ABQ)* and the partner departments of St. Lawrence Vision 2000 invite you to take part in the vox pop organized on the Internet site of the symposium on *The St. Lawrence River – for Life*, to be held on October 31, and November 1 and 2, 1996, at the Hilton Hotel in Quebec City.

Send us a short piece describing your vision of the future of the River, addressing it to the Internet site of the symposium, at the following address: multim.com/colloqueABQ-SLV2000.html (one page maximum). The viewpoints transmitted for this event will be summarized and presented at the plenary session "Future Outlook" at the closing of the symposium. Any person participating in this call for opinions must indicate his or her name, address and affiliation, if any.

You can read all the information concerning the upcoming symposium on *The St. Lawrence River – for Life*, participate in the vox pop and take note of the preliminary program by visiting the Internet site of the symposium.

Registration forms for the symposium may be obtained from the secretariat of the ABQ by phoning (514) 279-7115, or from the coordination office of St. Lawrence Vision 2000, at (418) 648-3444.

Reflections on the St. Lawrence – Riverside Communities Speak Up

In an effort to learn how the riverside communities make use of the St. Lawrence River and what kind of relationship they have with it, the Health Component of SLV 2000 went to the source by interviewing 18,236 people aged 15 and over who live along its shore and as part of the health survey carried out on the uses and the perception people have of the St. Lawrence. During the many telephone conversations, shoreline residents were asked if they drank their tap water, if they swam in the St. Lawrence River, if they ate fish caught in the River, and so on. Since an initial analysis of the data from the survey was carried out last March, the survey has given us a glimpse of a global portrait of the riverside population. The results were compiled in a brochure entitled *Reflections of the St. Lawrence – Riverside Communities Speak Up*.

A word about the methodology: the shoreline residents questioned were from the regions of Montréal, Laval, Montérégie, Lanaudière, Mauricie-Bois-Francs, Quebec City, Chaudière-Appalaches, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Côte-Nord. These ten administrative regions formed ten strata of sampling, for which steps were taken to have 1,000 respondents per strata, in order to be able to compile a report for each region. An eleventh stratum was created with the municipalities of all the River's tributaries. The twelfth stratum was comprised of municipalities of the Saguenay region. Below is an account of the findings of this first large-scale survey carried out exclusively on the river basin.

Drinking water is still appetizing

The survey shows that tap water is still popular. Seventy-two percent of residents report they usually drink water from the tap. Among those, 89% say they are satisfied with the odour and almost the same proportion (87%) are satisfied with its taste. Only one resident out of seven filters or



purifies his or her drinking water with a domestic water treatment system. And what about bottled water? It is popular with one out of four people. When asked if it was risky to drink water from the tap, 83% answered that the risks linked to drinking tap water were either low or non-existent. However, among the minority who believe there are risks, 40% think the risks are greater if the water comes from the River.

Strolling, swimming or boating

The St. Lawrence River is also the scene of a variety of recreational activities. On this topic, the survey informs us that 1.7 million shoreline residents stroll along the shores of the St. Lawrence. But they are not only pedestrians; in fact, 200,000 shoreline residents also like to swim in the River, and those who live in the regions of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Côte-Nord go in for swimming the most.

Why swim in the River? Three-quarters of the bathers swim to cool off or for the exercise, whereas others practise activities such as water skiing, windsurfing, and scuba diving. Nevertheless, the number of swimmers would be much higher if residents were told that the water of the St. Lawrence River was of good quality, since one out of

every three riverside dwellers answered that, if that were the case, he or she would swim in it. This is quite surprising, however, since most of those people do not swim in another natural site...

Still on the topic of recreation, the survey tells us that one out of every five shoreline residents likes to cruise down the river; one-third of them prefer boating along the St. Lawrence rather than on a lake or another river. Why the St. Lawrence? Simply for the beauty of the natural surroundings and for the huge expanse of it.

Go fishing? O.K. But eat my catch? That depends...

We also discovered that sportfishing is popular with riverside residents and that 260,000 of them fish in the River. Half of sportfishers eat their catches, especially in the regions of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Côte-Nord. When residents are asked whether the fish caught is dangerous to their health, half say yes. On the other hand, one out of five has no such worries. The risks perceived are mostly attributed to industrial and chemical contamination.

Risks: a matter of perception

The analysis of the survey data shows that users are aware of the risks associated with the sport they practise. Knowing the risks does not make them more careful; on the contrary, the residents tend to minimize the risks, preferring to refer to personal experiences and observations rather than relying on recommendations from the authorities. Another interesting fact: there are more people who minimize the risks related to the activities practised in the River than there are users. This leads us to believe that it is the difficulty certain shoreline dwellers have in getting access to the River that might explain their low level of participation in activities.

To encourage shoreline residents to resume their previous uses of the River, the survey indicates that we must continue our decontamination efforts and informing people of the improvements made, since the poor reputation of the St. Lawrence seems to influence the perception of risks to the public. Therefore, it is important to pinpoint the strategies to reduce risks and publicize them among riverside dwellers so that the River may take the place in their lives it had in days gone by.

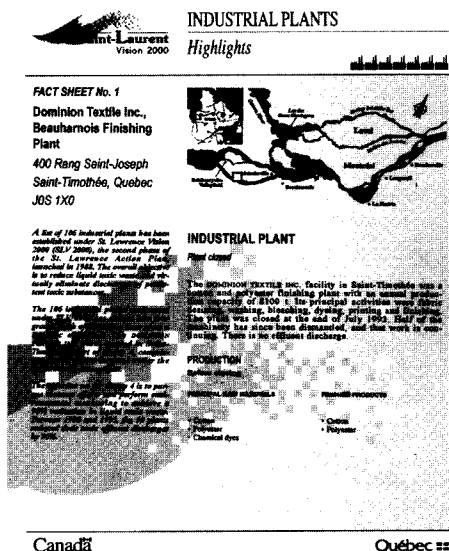
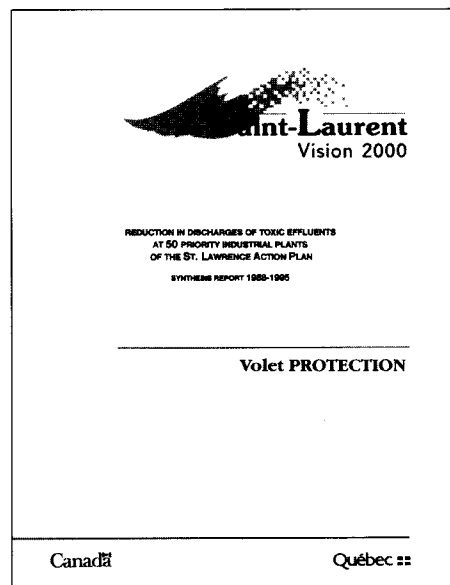
Being more familiar with the types of relationships that shoreline residents entertain with the River was an essential step. By using such findings as a departure point, other analysis and studies will undoubtedly be carried out over the coming years to assess the impact of various communication strategies and to monitor the changing use of the River over time.

This investigation was conducted by the *Centre de santé publique de Québec* for the Health Component of SLV 2000. The survey per se was carried out by the Groupe Léger & Léger in the Spring of 1995. The brochure, *Reflections of the St. Lawrence – Riverside Communities Speak Up*, is available from the Communications Branch of Health Canada, at (514) 283-2306.

INDUSTRIAL PUBLICATIONS

Implementation Plan of the SLV 2000 partnership in response to the recommendations of the St. Lawrence Beluga Recovery Plan, July 1996

You may obtain a copy of this publication from Fisheries and Oceans, Maurice-Lamontagne Institute, Communications Branch, 850, route de la Mer, C.P. 1000, Mont-Joli, Quebec, G5H 3Z4, tel: (418) 775-0526, or from the Coordination Office of St. Lawrence Vision 2000, 6th Floor, 1141, Route de l'Église, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, G1V 4H5, tel: (418) 648-3444.



Industrial Plants: Highlights

This series of fact sheets was produced in the context of activities carried out as part of the Protection Component of St. Lawrence Vision 2000. It is a summary of data reporting on the reduction in discharges of toxic effluents at the industrial plants that were designated as priority plants at the beginning of the St. Lawrence Action Plan (SLAP) in 1988.

Reduction in Discharges of Toxic Effluents at the 50 Priority Industrial Plants of the St. Lawrence Action Plan—Synthesis Report 1988-1995

Le Centre Saint-Laurent—Publications de recherches—1994-1995

You may obtain a copy of both these publications (the second in French only) from the documentation centre of the St. Lawrence Centre, by phoning (514) 283-9503.

Collège Le Saint-Laurent pour la Vie

21st SYMPOSIUM OF THE ASSOCIATION DES BIOLOGISTES DU QUÉBEC

October 31,
November 1 and 2, 1996

(514) 279-7115
(418) 648-3444

AGENDA

- **September 18, 1996**

Tabling of the Environmental Assessment report of the Baie-Comeau sector, within the scope of the Priority Intervention Zone (ZIP) Program.

- **October 4 and 5, 1996**

A public consultation organized by the Baie-Comeau ZIP Committee, following the tabling of their regional assessment report.

- **September 30 and October 1 and 2 1996**

The *Septièmes entretiens Jacques Cartier. 1996 River and Heritage Symposium* on the theme "Rivers: Why Protect and Enhance Them?" The symposium will be held in Quebec City, on September 30 and October 1, and in Montreal from October 1 to 4, 1996. For information, contact Martine Bugeaud: (418) 649-8228.

- **October 9 to 11, 1996**

The international forum *Major Works and Sustainable Development*, to be held at the Le Reine Elizabeth Hotel. To obtain the preliminary program and the registration form, phone: (514) 848-6100. Internet site: http://www.mlink.net/udd_usd/index.html

- **October 13 to 23, 1996**

An international convention on nature conservation at the Montreal Convention Centre. For information, phone: (514) 287-9107.

- **October 31 and November 1 and 2, 1996**

A symposium entitled *The St. Lawrence River – for Life*, co-organized by St. Lawrence Vision 2000 and the *Association des biologistes du Québec*. For information, contact Clément Dugas at (418) 648-5777 or Yvan Bédard at (418) 644-3055.

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Reflections of the St. Lawrence – Riverside Communities Speak Up

Mr. Gaston Pelletier
Health Canada
Tel: (514) 283-5809

Reduction in the discharge of toxic effluents: An Encouraging Assessment

Mr. Gaétan Duchesneau
Environment Canada
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LE FLEUVE

N E W S L E T T E R
St. Lawrence Vision 2000

Le Fleuve is published by all the St. Lawrence Vision 2000 partners. It is distributed free of charge to individuals, companies and organizations concerned by the protection, conservation and restoration of the St. Lawrence River. To subscribe, you may contact Nancy Lainé at Environment Canada, 1141, route de l'Église, 6th floor, P.O. Box 10,100, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4H5. Tel: (418) 648-3444.

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