

Message from the Premier of Québec

The renewal of the Lake Champlain 2017 Action Plan:
International cooperation in the service of sustainable development

Encouraged by the successful collaborations forged over the years, Québec, alongside the states of Vermont and New York, seek to pursue this engagement by renewing the action plan to restore and protect the waters and natural resources of Lake Champlain. Entitled *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*, this plan is and will remain an inspiring model of sustainable development policy and the integrated management of water resources.

This action plan was revised thanks to the efforts of the Steering Committee of the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), whose role is set out in the *Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Cooperation on the Management of Lake Champlain among the Government of Québec, the State of New York and the State of Vermont*, which has been in effect since 1988. Québec is a member of this Steering Committee and, as such, intends to continue to actively play a role in the integrated management of the Lake Champlain Basin.

The objectives set in the 2017 version of the *Opportunities for Action* plan are the result of broad consultations conducted with interested organisations. They also include comments and recommendations made by residents concerned with the restoration and protection of the Basin's ecological resources, while maintaining the vital economic activity that is so essential to the region. The 2017 Action Plan suggests a number of actions in line with this concern therefore encouraging the development of a prosperous, united and involved community.

Sustainable development and the fight against climate change are both integral parts of Québec's new International Policy "Québec on the world stage: involved, engaged, thriving" and this document highlights the importance of regional collaborations such as the Lake Champlain collaboration.

It is therefore with great enthusiasm that the Government of Québec congratulates and thanks the LCBP for their hard work and signals its desire to once again actively participate, alongside its partners, in the management of Lake Champlain and its basin to the benefit of current and future generations.



Philippe Couillard