

Administration portuaire de Montréal  
2100, avenue Pierre-Dupuy, aile 1  
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3C 3R5  
T 514.283.7011

Montreal Port Authority  
2100 Pierre-Dupuy Avenue, Wing 1  
Montreal, Quebec Canada H3C 3R5  
T 514.283.7011

October 6, 2020

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

**Object: Request for a Regional Assessment, St. Lawrence River from the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) / In reference to a letter from the MCK to the Honorable Jonathan Wilkinson dated July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Montreal Port Authority letter of support**

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

As one of the main stakeholders in the stewardship of the St. Lawrence River, the Montreal Port Authority (MPA) advocates the safe and sustainable use of this crucial waterway and of its watershed. In this context, the MPA supports generally the proposition of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (MCK) in its letter sent to you on July 29, 2020, to conduct a species-driven Regional Assessment (RA) (referred in MCK's letter as Regional Impact Assessment (RIA)) focused on Lake Sturgeon in the St. Lawrence River.

Since the beginning of the process regarding the Environmental Assessment of its Contrecoeur Port expansion with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, the MPA has always indicated that it would collaborate and support the conduct of regional assessments. This commitment is reflected notably by our active participation in the assessment of the cumulative effects of marine vessel activities in the St. Lawrence/Saguenay Rivers undertaken by Transport Canada and in which the MCK is also involved.

Although it is not MPA's role to determine the scope of a RA, the proposition of MCK in respect of the conduct of a species-driven RA focused on Lake Sturgeon management unit 12 (MU12) appears to be an interesting approach in the search to develop innovative tools to better understand the cumulative effects of activities in order for the future projects within the targeted area to benefit from the information gathered. From the MCK's proposition, we understand that a RA focused on one particular management unit of this species could simplify the analysis and could also contribute to grasp the effects of existing and future activities and development on the St. Lawrence River. This could in turn help future proponents and various stakeholders to better assess the impacts of their future projects in light of their added weight to the cumulative effects of development on this vital and fragile ecosystem. From the MPA's perspective, RAs have an especially promising value regarding the identification of

strategies that could be most efficient to offset the impacts of industrial activities on endangered species and delicate ecosystems.

Therefore, should your ministry decide to conduct a RA on the St. Lawrence River, the MPA will offer its collaboration to such RA in order to support this study in reaching its fruitful completion.

Most respectfully,

**PORT OF MONTREAL**

<Original signed by>

Sylvie Vachon  
President and Chief Executive Officer

c.c.: Chief Ross Montour (Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke)  
Paul Bird – VP, Contrecoeur (MPA)  
Claude Deschambault – Director, Environment (MPA)