



Memphremagog  
Conservation inc.

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DUMP, SUPPORTED BY MCI, APPEALS CONSTRUCTION OF “FOREVER” CHEMICALS TREATMENT PLANT ON LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG**

**Magog, Québec, January 23, 2023** - A proposed pollution treatment plant on Lake Memphremagog to treat toxic “forever” chemicals at the Coventry landfill site is being opposed by a grassroots environmental group. DUMP (Don’t Undermine Memphremagog’s Purity) has filed a formal appeal to the Vermont Environmental Court in opposition to the permit, issued last month, that is the first step toward a “pilot project” to be built near the private Casella landfill in Coventry. The proposed plant would pretreat toxic PFAS (“forever” chemicals) from the landfill’s leachate.

MCI has been an active member of this group since 2018 and fully supports this appeal.

Note that it was this same group of Vermont and Quebec volunteers who negotiated a moratorium preventing the treatment of leachate in the Lake Memphremagog watershed with the private owner of the landfill site in November 2019, thus forcing the treatment of the leachate to take place outside of the Lake Memphremagog watershed. This moratorium ends in 2026.

Also note that the runoff from this landfill site in Coventry, Vermont continues to pollute the international waters of Lake Memphremagog and poses a danger for this source of drinking water for more than 175,000 Canadians.

“The siting of the plant would allow a foot in the door for additional development at the landfill,” said DUMP executive director Henry Coe. “It’s irresponsibly sited at the edge of extensive wetlands. Even more disturbing, the site is on a tributary to an international drinking water reservoir serving 175,000 Canadians. Traces of PFAS have been found in the drinking water intake from the pumping site in Lake Memphremagog of the City of Sherbrooke.”

“The international and universal environmental precaution principle is essential to the preservation of the quality and security of Lake Memphremagog’s drinking water,” said Johanne Lavoie, president of Memphremagog Conservation. “This is the reason that MCI is working with DUMP to act immediately, before it is too late. MCI is working to protect our children and future generations. We expect no less from our elected officials. MCI is counting on them.”

“MCI is thinking of our Federal elected officials (The Honorable Mélanie Joly, Foreign Affairs Minister, Minister responsible for international waters, the Honorable Steven Guilbeault, Environment and climate change Minister, the Honorable Pascale St-Onge, Member of Parliament for Brome-Missisquoi and the Honorable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Member of Parliament for Compton-Stanstead), our Provincial elected officials (Mr. Gilles Bélanger, Member of the National Assembly for Orford and Mr. Benoit Charette, Minister of Environment, the fight against climate change, wildlife and parks) and finally our

municipal elected officials. These Canadian elected officials are the only ones from our side of the border with the financial means to force respect for our fundamental rights for pure water, and are accountable for the results. "

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Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) is a non-profit organization working for the protection, conservation and improvement of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed for the benefit of current and future generations. MCI works in concert with various regional and governmental stakeholders, as well as with citizens, to carry out concrete actions. MCI relies mainly on scientific knowledge to inform, raise awareness and empower the various stakeholders to ensure the environmental health of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed.

**Source:**

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