



**Memphremagog
Conservation inc.**



PRESS RELEASE

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Attention Publicity directors

The International Joint Commission is examining opportunities to address nutrient enrichment and improve the quality of the water in Lake Memphremagog

May 11, 2018 - On October 19, 2017, the International Joint Commission (IJC) was asked by the Canadian and American governments to examine the various problems linked to nutrient loading in Lake Memphremagog and Missisquoi bay on Lake Champlain and to come up with recommendations on ways to increase our efforts to reduce the nutrient loading coming from the watersheds.

The IJC is looking to Memphremagog Conservation Inc (MCI) and the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) to undertake this study. MCI, based out of Magog, Quebec, has worked for more than 50 years to improve Lake Memphremagog's water quality. MWA in Vermont was created in 2007 and has a mission to protect and improve the waters of the Memphremagog Watershed

MCI and MWA will carry out this project with the Conseil de gouvernance de l'eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF) and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This strong binational effort will allow for the collection of all the information and data available on nutrient loading in the watershed, on both sides of the border.

"We are looking forward to working with our partners to produce this report and to the opportunity to make recommendations that will lead to on-the-ground project implementation to meet our water quality goals," says Kendall Lambert, Administrative Director of MWA.

Consultation with various experts, organizations, municipalities and other governments, as well as a review of the literature will provide a snapshot of the current state of the watershed, and support a review of current management efforts to target nutrient loads in Lake Memphremagog and ways these can be strengthened. Preliminary results from this study will be presented and revised in a binational workshop planned for early 2019 and then made available for public consultation. The project will provide recommendations on ways to consolidate and improve the current efforts to reduce concentrations of nutrients and the proliferation of aquatic plants and cyanobacteria that they cause by the end of 2019.

"Hosting a binational science workshop with MWA and Quebec's Conseil de gouvernance de l'eau des bassins versants de la rivière Saint-François (COGESAF) is one of the ways we hope to strengthen collaborative efforts between federal, provincial and state agencies and work toward integrated approaches to managing watershed resources," says Ariane Orjikh, General Manager of MCI.

The International Joint Commission's work plan is available on the IJC's web site:
<http://ijc.org/fr /LCLM>

-30-

About MCI: Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) based in Magog, Quebec, is a non-profit organisation formed of volunteers, working since 1967 for the protection of the environmental health and natural beauty of Lake Memphremagog and its watershed. With the strength of its membership, it works to ensure that all residents of the region can benefit from and enjoy a healthy lake, for today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

About MWA: Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) based in Newport, VT, is a non-profit organization formed in 2007 and is dedicated to the preservation of the environmental and natural beauty of the Memphremagog Watershed and to ensuring its protection for generations to come.

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