Protecting Drinking Water
It’s Everyone’s Business

Let’s act now. Let’s act together.

Michelle Morin-Doyle
Québec Metropolitan Community’s member
Challenge for the Common Good

- Protecting water sources
  - Public health
  - Environmental protection
  - Financial consideration
Province of Québec

Over 200 municipalities are currently under a boil-water or drinking water avoidance advisory.
Province of Québec

- Myth: Water is inexhaustible!

- Province of Quebec ranks among the largest consumers of drinking water in the world

  Average of **593 litres** per day per person

  **Ontario: 407 litres** per day per person
Health Check of Water Sources
Lake Saint-Charles

- Water reservoir for over 300,000 Québec City citizens
- The lake has aged rapidly
Rise of Lake’s Salinity Due to Road Salt
Rise of Aquatic Plant Communities

From 2007 to 2012: X 8
Cyanobacteria Outbreaks
Elected Official’s Challenges

• Provide sufficient amounts of quality drinking water

• Individual and collective issue

• The more contaminated the water, the more costly it is to treat
Accelerated Urban Development
Wastewater Treatment Plant at Lac-Delage
Scientific Knowledge

• Since 2009:
  • 42,000 samples from 8 watercourses and lakes
• We must change our approach to:
  – Urban development
  – Wastewater management
  – Road salt management
  – Responsible consumption
Challenging Land Use Planning
2016 By-Law

- Five vulnerability zones based on biophysical characteristics
- No construction on slopes of more than 15%
- Building with septic system prohibited
- Vegetation cover from 50% to 70%
- Total protection within a 500-metre radius of the lake
Courageous Decisions for the Common Good

- Preventive role
- Immediate impact
- Social acceptability
Courageous Decisions for the Common Good

- General population’s support
- Based on recognized scientific data
- By-law limits certain types of development
- Mobilization of municipal stakeholders
Comprehensive Approach to Protect Water Sources

• Perfect our scientific knowledge
• Mobilize all stakeholders
• Inform and raise awareness
Why put off until tomorrow what must be done today?

Let’s act now!
Let’s act together!