



Plan d'action  
**SAINT-LAURENT**  
2011-2026

# St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011-2026

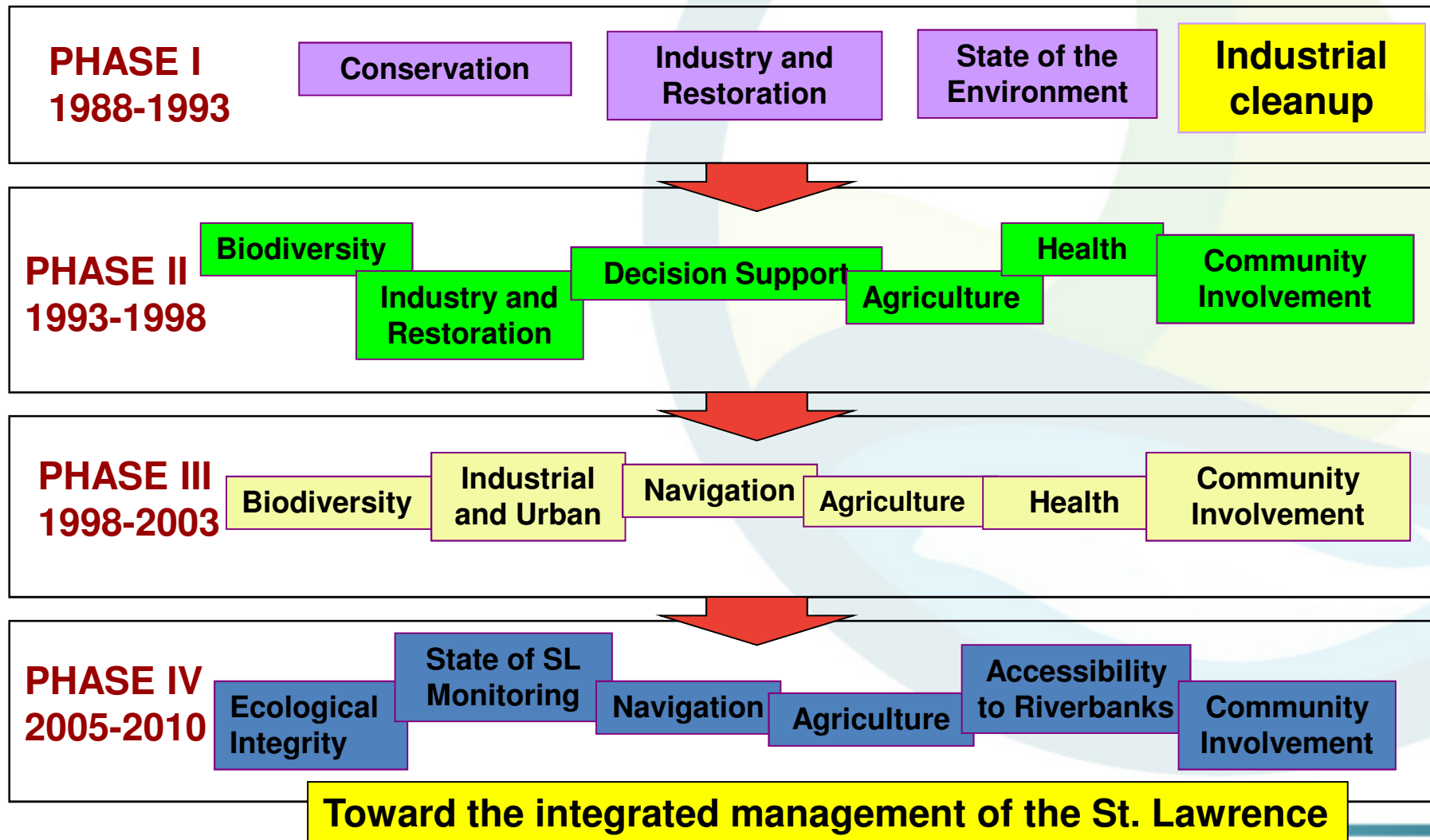
Presentation to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities  
Initiative



Québec City

June 28, 2012

# Canada/Quebec cooperation on the St. Lawrence River



## Over 20 years of intergovernmental collaboration

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### A sampling of the results:

- A 96 % reduction in the toxicity of liquid waste entering the river from the 50 major industrial polluters;
- Creation of the Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park, Quebec's first protected marine area;
- Protection of 116 000 hectares of natural habitat and adoption of measures to protect 48 species of flora and fauna;
- Reduction in ship speeds to limit erosion due to waves from passing boats in a vulnerable section of the St. Lawrence;
- Development of a community approach involving the population in protecting the river by creating 14 priority intervention zone (ZIP) committees that have carried out more than 400 St. Lawrence projects.

## ✓ Continuity – A Partnership of Over 20 Years

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Canada–Quebec Agreement on the  
St. Lawrence 2011–2026  
(St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011–2026):

*Continuity with previous phases of the  
St. Lawrence Plan*

# ✓ St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011–2026

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## A 15-year partnership

- provides a long-term view
- provides for continuity and consistency of action

# Government Participants

## Canada

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Environmental Inspection Agency
- Parks Canada Agency
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Canadian Space Agency
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Health Canada
- Transport Canada
- Public Works and Government Services Canada

## Quebec

- Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire du Québec
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
- Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs du Québec
- Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec
- Ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec
- Ministère du Tourisme du Québec
- Ministère des Transports du Québec

## Highlights of the SLAP 2011–2026

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- Implementation of a 2011–2016 Joint Action Program
- Continuation of the State of the St. Lawrence Monitoring Program
- Creation of the Numerical Environmental Prediction Program
- Implementation of the integrated management of the St. Lawrence
- An agreement of about \$ 70 M/5 years



# 2011–2016 Joint Action Program

- **Three priority issues**
  - Biodiversity Conservation
  - Sustainable Use
  - Improved Water Quality
- **A crosscutting issue**
  - Climate Change
- **10 orientations, 48 joint projects**
- **Four concertation themes**
  - Navigation
  - Agriculture
  - Climate Change
  - Marine protected areas
- **Community Interaction Program renewed**



# Biodiversity Conservation

## **1. Identify, protect, restore and enhance environments of ecological importance**

### **Project examples:**

- Implement three marine protected area projects

## **2. Prevent the introduction and control the spread of invasive alien species**

### **Project examples:**

- Develop concerted action and response plans in the event of detection

## **3. Assess the impact of climate change on ecosystems**

### **Project examples:**

- Assess the impact of climate change on high marsh areas of the freshwater estuary and develop protection strategies for species at risk

# Sustainable Use

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## **4. Promote sustainable management of fishery resources**

### Example of projects:

- Implement a network designed to promote exchanges in the management of fishery resources

## **5. Identify and enhance public access sites**

### Example of projects:

- Develop electronic information and awareness tools relating to sustainable uses of the St. Lawrence

## **6. Maintain and promote sustainable navigation**

### Examples of projects:

- Maintain concertation committees on navigation and dredging for the purpose of the integrated management of the St. Lawrence

## **7. Promote sustainable management of water levels and flows**

### Examples of projects:

- Study the impacts of climate change on water supplies

# ✓ Improved Water Quality

## 8. Reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution

### Examples of projects:

- Management of agricultural streams in the floodplain of Lake Saint-Pierre

## 9. Improve contaminated sediment management tools

### Examples of projects:

- Establish a decision-making framework for the assessment of contaminated sediments and their impact on the environment with the objective of establishing remediation criteria

## 10. Assess the presence and effects of toxic substances on the ecosystem

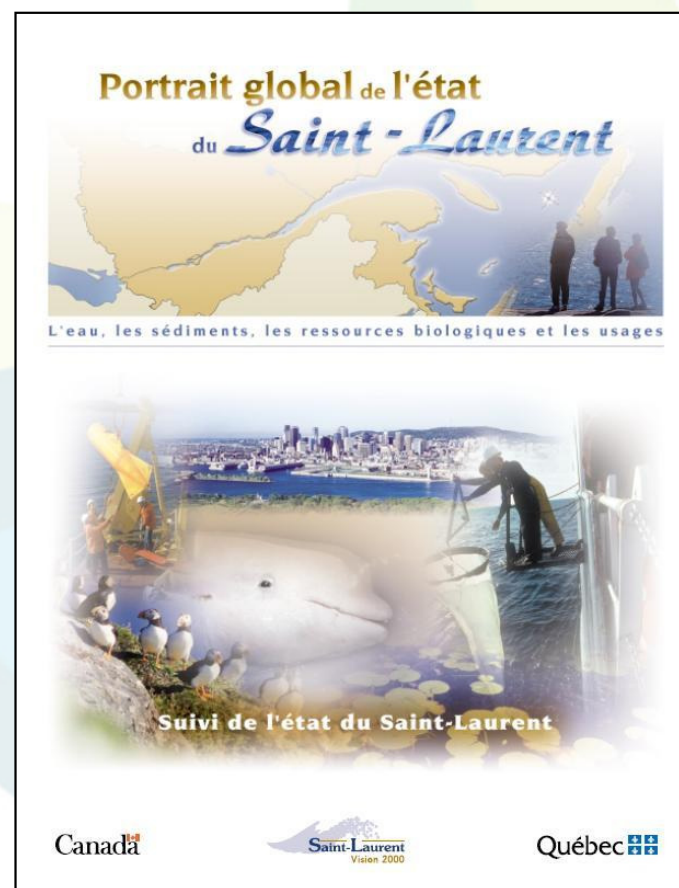
### Examples of projects:

- Assess the environmental and health risks of municipal effluent in the Quebec City region

# State of the St. Lawrence Monitoring Program

Existing program under which...

- 21 indicators are monitored by five departments: EC, DFO, PCA, MDDEP and MRNF
- a picture of the state of the St. Lawrence is released every five years
- a forum, “St. Lawrence Rendez-vous,” is held every three years



## Numerical Environmental Prediction Program

New program designed to ...

- Pool and integrate numerical models developed by EC, DFO and MDDEP in order to gain a better understanding of the St. Lawrence ecosystem
- Develop integrated, compatible tools to support water management decision making and planning for the St. Lawrence and its watershed

## Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence

*The Act to Affirm the Collective Nature of Water Resources and Provide for Increased Water Resource Protection*, adopted in June 2009 by the Quebec government:

- confirms the legal status of water as a shared resource;
- recognizes the St. Lawrence as a hydrographic unit of outstanding significance; and
- confirms Quebec's interest in implementing the integrated management of the St. Lawrence.

# ✓ Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence

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Two implementation tools

- Forum on the St. Lawrence
- Regional Round Tables



# ✓ Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence

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## The Forum on the St. Lawrence

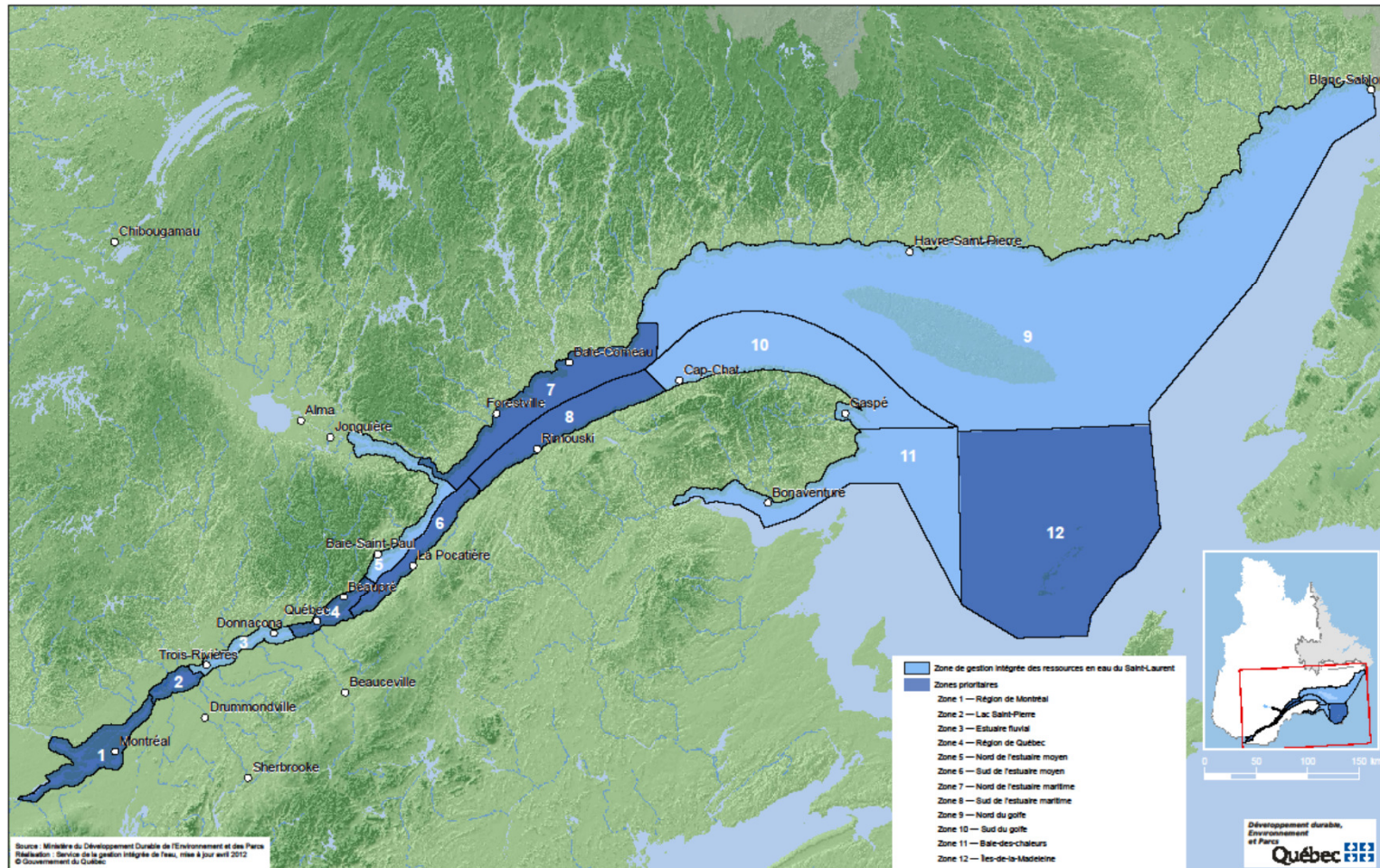
- provide all stakeholders with a yearly opportunity for concertation
- discuss crosscutting issues
- share information, ideas and solutions
- submit any opinions to the Agreement Steering Committee
- **First Forum: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

# ✓ Integrated Management of the St. Lawrence

## Regional Round Tables

- 12 Round Tables gradually set up by the Quebec government to cover the entire St. Lawrence by 2026
- Between 2011 and 2016, seven Regional Round Tables are to be set up:
  - **Montreal**
  - **Lake Saint-Pierre**
  - **Quebec City**
  - **Northern lower estuary**
  - **Southern lower estuary**
  - **Magdalen Islands**
  - **Southern upper estuary**
- Regional organizations will be mandated by the Quebec government to coordinate and facilitate the Round Tables in order to develop and implement a RIMP
- All stakeholders, including **the ZIP committees**, will be involved in the work of these tables

# St. Lawrence concertation areas





## Involvement of municipalities is essential

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- Consultation process to appoint a coordinating body
- Participation in Regional Round Tables
  - Concertation
  - Representation of municipal "decision makers"
- Participation in drafting and implementing the Regional Integrated Management Plan (RIMP)

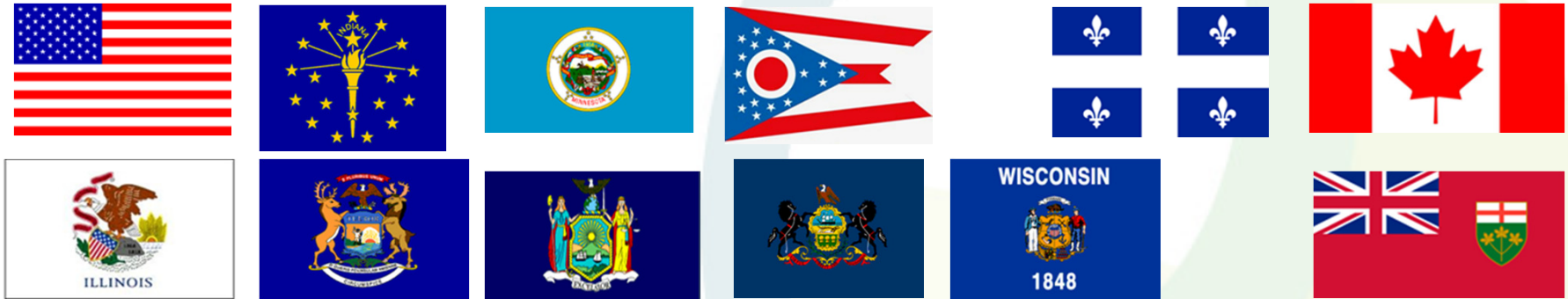


## ✓ Other intergovernmental initiatives

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SLAP is complementary to other Great Lakes  
and St. Lawrence watershed initiatives

## One watershed – twelve governments



- Management of a complex watershed: 2 federal governments and 10 federated states
- USA and Canada: decentralized federations
- Federated states have greater jurisdiction in several areas, including water and land management

## A common border – from conflict resolution to cooperation



- 1909/Boundary Waters Treaty - International Joint Commission
- 1959/Opening of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway System
- 1972/Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement



## A common watershed / cooperation between federated states



- 1955/Great Lakes Commission
- 1983/Council of Great Lakes Governors
- 1985/Great Lakes Charter
- 2005/Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and creation of the Regional Body

# Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement



- Signed by eight Governors of riparian states bordering the Great Lakes and the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec
- Main objectives: prohibit the transfer of water outside the watershed, better framework for taking samples from the watershed
- "Compact" ratified by the American Congress and President in 2007
- Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body

 Please visit: [www.planstlaurent.qc.ca](http://www.planstlaurent.qc.ca)



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Biodiversité



Usages



Qualité de l'eau

#### Actualités | [Toutes les actualités](#)



29 octobre 2011

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#### Historique

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Canada

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**Thank you!**