

Annual Report 2017



*Fondation
Hydro-Québec
pour l'environnement*

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*Activity at Parc
Thomas-Chapais, Montréal
© Roxanne Mailhot*

*On the cover:
Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles,
Laval
© André Chevrier*



Message from Management

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement is proof of a tangible commitment to communities throughout Québec. Every year, the Foundation works with nonprofit organizations, municipalities, MRCs and band councils to protect, restore and enhance natural environments. They undertake sustainable initiatives that have positive social and environmental impacts in the communities. In this way, citizens learn about biodiversity and the ecosystems that surround them, and contribute to their preservation.

Since 2001, the Foundation has invested about \$15 million in the implementation of many projects. In 2017, it supported 16 organizations, injecting a total of \$738,250. In addition, a contribution of \$25,232 was made to nonprofit organizations under a new program, Fier de nature, that recognizes and promotes the socio-environmental commitment shown by Hydro-Québec employees. All of this funding was used to protect, develop and restore natural environments and to educate visitors and raise their awareness regarding the need to preserve this bounty.

The projects the Foundation funded in 2017 target land, forest and wetland environments, as well as bodies of water, in nine of Québec's administrative regions. The Foundation also supported some initiatives that focus on the importance of conservation and enhancement of urban environments.

In this report, we are proud to show the diversity of these initiatives and to celebrate all the partner organizations that are firmly dedicated to environmental conservation.

We also wish to thank the Foundation's Board members and staff; their enthusiasm and commitment enable us to pursue our mission to preserve Québec's natural heritage.

/s/ Stella Leney
President

/s/ Carlo Gagliardi
Executive Director



The Foundation

Mission

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help Québec communities develop a sense of ownership of their environment, enjoy it responsibly and pass on this natural heritage to future generations.

Objectives

The Foundation funds tangible initiatives in local communities across Québec whose environmental and social benefits serve community interests. The projects it supports are the result of collaboration at the local level and have the following aims:

- To protect, restore and enhance natural habitats
- To educate target publics about local environmental issues

These objectives go hand in hand: an environmental protection or rehabilitation project will have no enduring effect if the people who have an impact on the site do not feel concerned. Similarly, the message of an awareness-raising or educational activity will go unheeded if it does not give people a way to take action.

The Foundation supports projects that are likely to have direct, positive impacts on specific natural areas. Educational projects satisfy this criterion if they focus on changing the behavior of clearly defined target groups with respect to the natural areas they use. Educating the public about general environmental issues is not part of the Foundation's mission.

Principles

- Support local initiatives that reflect the desire of local communities to steward their environment
- Focus on joint projects that have the active support of a number of partners
- Fund initiatives with positive and tangible environmental and social impacts

Conditions of participation

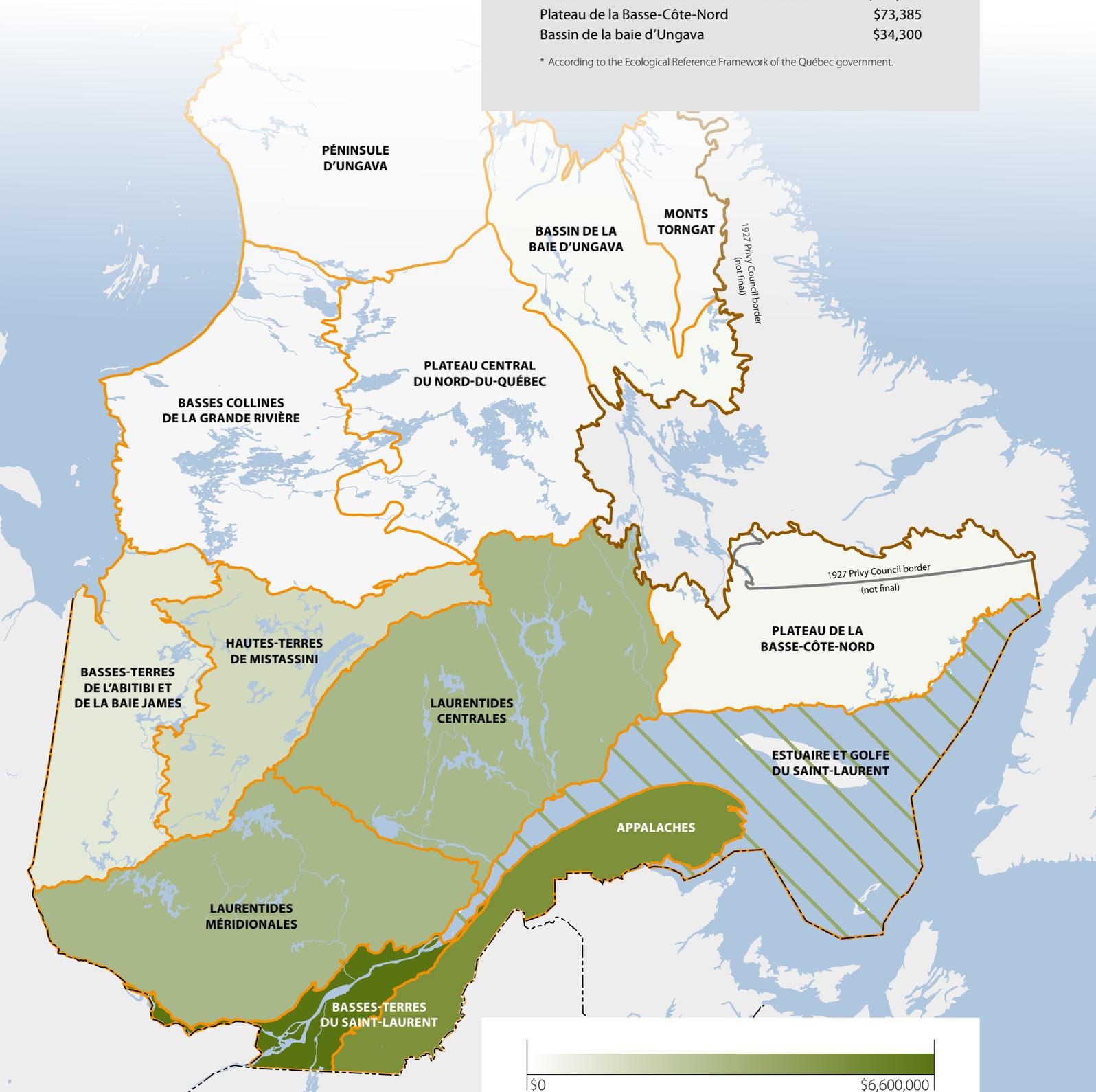
Within the limits of the funding allocated each year by Hydro-Québec, the following are eligible for a grant from the Foundation:

- Projects that are in line with the Foundation's mission, objectives and principles
- Projects submitted by municipalities, MRCs, band councils, or nonprofit organizations duly registered in Canada and able to show that their projects are not personal or for profit but serve community interests

Breakdown of the Foundation's contributions (2001–2017)*

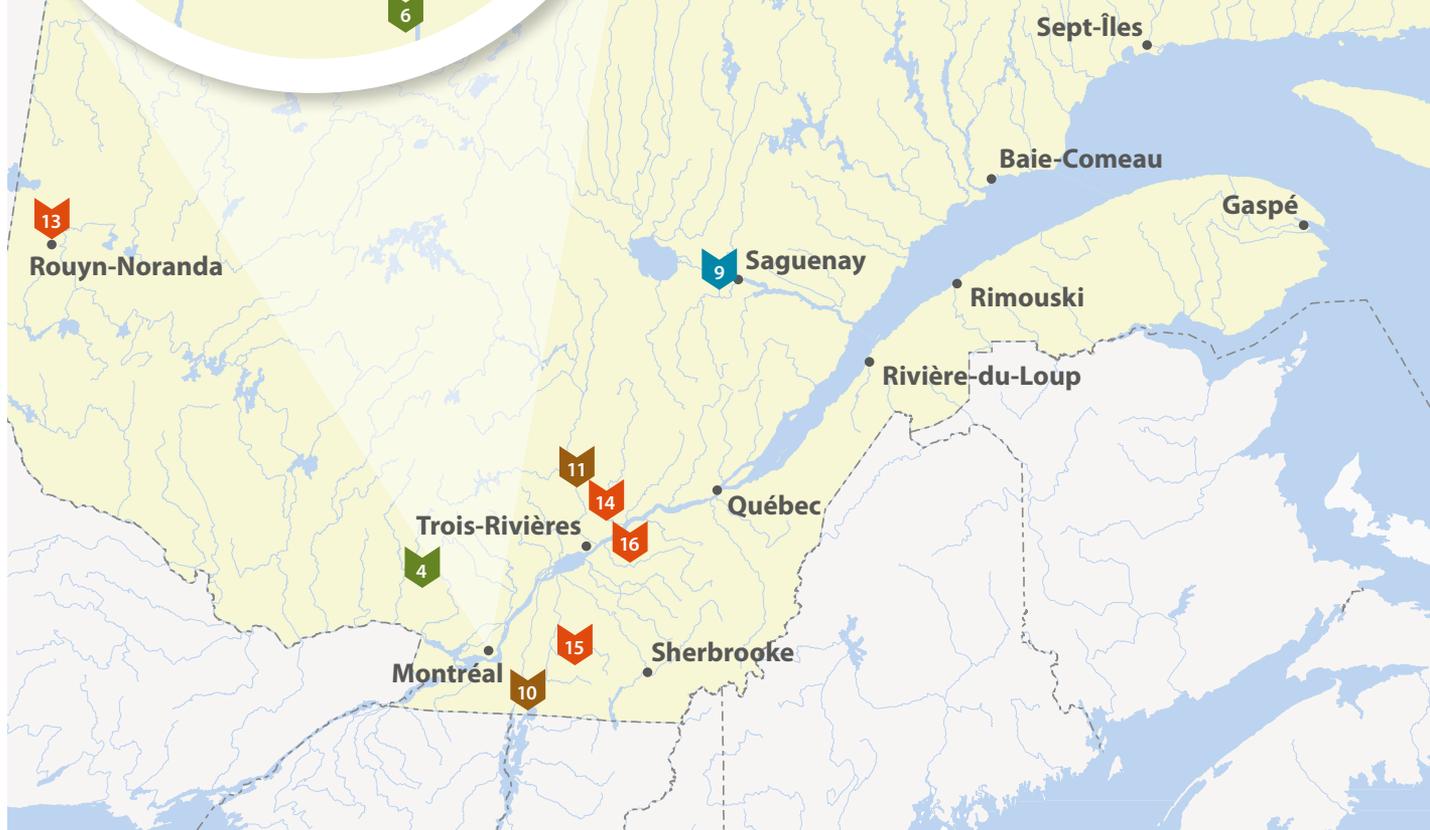
Basses-terres du Saint-Laurent	\$6,538,188
Appalaches	\$3,035,142
Estuaire et golfe du Saint-Laurent	\$2,252,321
Laurentides méridionales	\$1,447,519
Laurentides centrales	\$1,155,502
Hautes-terres de Mistassini	\$148,381
Basses-terres de l'Abitibi et de la baie James	\$140,750
Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord	\$73,385
Bassin de la baie d'Ungava	\$34,300

* According to the Ecological Reference Framework of the Québec government.



Geographical Distribution

of Projects Supported
by the Foundation in 2017





Path in Parc des Parulines



Lac Kénogami



Baie Trou à Barbotte



Rivière des Mille Îles

Lands and Forests

1. Protection, restoration, enhancement and education at Parc Thomas-Chapais
2. Improved access to the Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills and Gault Nature Reserve
3. Acquisition, consolidation and enhancement of Barachois-de-Fatima
4. Enhancement and interpretation of the 21st-century Laurentian forest
5. Conservation, restoration and enhancement of urban wildland habitats
6. Protection and enhancement of Parc naturel des Parulines
7. Ecological improvement of Parc des Bateliers

Rivers and Lakes

8. Shoreline restoration, awareness and education – Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal
9. Model shoreline buffer – Strategies for everyone

Wetlands

10. Site restoration and creation of a thermal refuge for turtles
11. Enhancement of Baie Trou à Barbotte in the Rivière Saint-Maurice

Awareness and Education

12. Discovery and preservation activities on the Rivière des Mille Îles
13. Stop the spread of non-native invasive species!
14. Preserving biodiversity and habitats in Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan
15. Model planting to control non-native invasive species and attract birds
16. Showcasing a Maddington Falls gem

Lands and Forests

Project	Area (ha)	Proponent	Expected Total Cost (\$)	Foundation's Contribution (\$)
Protection, restoration, enhancement and education at Parc Thomas-Chapais	15.2	Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur	57,762	47,200
Improved access to the Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills and Gault Nature Reserve	25	Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire	283,463	78,000
Acquisition, consolidation and enhancement of Barchois-de-Fatima	3.7	Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine	50,922	25,000
Enhancement and interpretation of the 21st-century Laurentian forest	145	Parc écotouristique de la MRC des Laurentides	243,967	95,000
Conservation, restoration and enhancement of urban wildland habitats	25	Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society	74,704	25,900
Protection and enhancement of Parc naturel des Parulines	23.85	City of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu	692,180	88,600
Ecological improvement of Parc des Bateliers	3.95	Comité Écologique du Grand Montréal	170,259	93,000
TOTAL	241.7		1,573,257	452,700

Parc Thomas-Chapais, Montréal



Walkers at Parc Thomas-Chapais, Montréal

Protection, restoration, enhancement and education at Parc Thomas-Chapais

A living biodiversity laboratory, Parc Thomas-Chapais has enjoyed local community support for its protection and enhancement since 2013. Located in Montréal's Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough and covering just over 15 hectares, this large green space includes a remarkable woodland, crisscrossed by trails that allow visitors to observe forest plants and wildlife. The park boasts a diversity of birds and high-quality stands of species of interest, such as black maple, bloodroot and white trillium. However, with citizens largely unaware of the park's high ecological value, some user behaviors, such as vandalism, setting fires and dumping waste, are putting a strain on the ecosystem. In addition, the spread of buckthorn, an invasive plant species, is threatening the undergrowth and, therefore, the woodland's rich ecology.

The organization Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur, which manages the Éco-quartier Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, aims to educate citizens about the importance of urban woodlands and the park's protection. With funding from the Foundation, the group designed educational tools and organized citizen-based buckthorn control activities. The organization also installed interpretation panels and closed some of the trails by planting trees. The hope for Parc Thomas-Chapais is that it will take on a pivotal role in the ecological network and become an important link in the green corridor at the eastern end of Montréal.



Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills

Improved access to the Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills and Gault Nature Reserve

Since 1972, the Centre de la Nature du mont Saint-Hilaire (CNMSH) has overseen the conservation of one of the last old-growth forests in southern Québec. This forest welcomes over 250,000 visitors a year. The CNMSH manages McGill University's Gault Nature Reserve and the properties acquired in the Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills, a buffer zone between the reserve and nearby residential areas. Since 1999, an additional 90 hectares of natural area adjacent to the reserve has been protected, creating the Réserve naturelle du Piémont-du-Mont-Saint-Hilaire.

The Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills are crossed by a main trail, which gives the area's residential neighborhoods access to the mountain. As the trail has become more and more popular, the CNMSH wanted to reduce the impacts of heavy traffic and uncontrolled use of this path. With funding from the Foundation, the organization will continue its enhancement initiatives in the area. The CNMSH's work focuses on preventing habitat deterioration from erosion and harmful behaviors, while protecting the area's natural bounty and its many ecosystems, which are unfortunately declining in number. The site's ecological integrity will be preserved by closing some access paths, improving existing trails and installing signs. Awareness activities will also be organized to guide visitors and encourage behavior that respects the CNMSH's conservation mission. This will enable the park's users to play an active role in protecting this exceptional natural environment.

Lands and Forests

Acquisition, consolidation and enhancement of Barachois-de-Fatima

Created in 1997, the Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (SCÎM) preserves private natural areas on the islands. Over the years, it has acquired more than 40 properties and protected over 200 hectares of natural environment.

With funding from the Foundation, the SCÎM purchased a 3.7-hectare property adjacent to land already under its protection in Fatima, on the Île du Cap aux Meules. The new property consists of coastline covered by prairie-type vegetation. The acquisition will contribute to the creation of a conservation corridor, as part of a three-year collective stewardship project to protect a 100-metre-wide strip around the lagoon. This stretch of shallow water provides a wide variety of prime bird habitats. In fact, 171 bird species have been observed there, including such rare species as the short-eared owl, horned grebe and Nelson's sparrow.

Thanks to the purchase of the property, this environmental gem will be made accessible to the public. The organization will mark a trail, plant the area and install interpretation panels to educate visitors about the importance of protecting the remarkable diversity of the islands.



Eastern milksnake, Montréal



New planting, Barachois-de-Fatima

Enhancement and interpretation of the 21st-century Laurentian forest

Located in Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré, the Centre touristique et éducatif des Laurentides (CTEL) covers 1,770 hectares of public land. The site is composed mainly of forests, lakes and low mountains, the distinctive features of the Laurentian landscape. It is a great location to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, such as hiking, canoe camping, fishing and kayaking. The CTEL has been managed by the Parc écotouristique de la MRC des Laurentides (PEMRCL) since 2013.

In recent years, the significant demographic growth in the region has increased the site's popularity. As a result, the PEMRCL is undertaking a number of initiatives that include the construction of a loop trail to channel visitor traffic, development of an educational program and the installation of panels at 10 interpretation stations. The Foundation's support will also be used to create a permanent exhibit on Laurentian forest habitats. Not only will this investment help limit the negative effects of the site's growing popularity, it will promote access to nature, protection of a natural area and public awareness.

Conservation, restoration and enhancement of urban wildland habitats

Greater Montréal is the only place in Québec where populations of Dekay's brown snake are found. Considered at risk in the province, this rare species lives in open spaces such as vacant lots and clearings, and its numbers have been declining rapidly due to urban development. The Ecomuseum Zoo – Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society endeavors to protect reptiles and amphibians, as well as the environments where they live.

For the second phase of a project to protect habitats—including Dekay's brown snake and eastern milksnake habitats in the Montréal area—the Ecomuseum Zoo will expand its enhancement and restoration activities to three green spaces: Île-de-la-Visitation Nature Park, Refuge faunique de Deux-Montagnes and Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville. With renewed funding from the Foundation, the Zoo will improve natural snake habitats and provide sites—such as underground hibernation shelters—to help maintain snake populations. In addition, an educational video will be made available online, explaining the important role of Dekay's brown snake in the urban ecosystem as both a predator of garden pests and prey for a number of mammals and raptors. The Zoo also intends to produce educational tools that debunk false beliefs related to these rare species of non-venomous snakes and encourage citizens to coexist more harmoniously with these reptiles.





Laurentian forest, Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré

Protection and enhancement of Parc naturel des Parulines

Parc naturel des Parulines is a 26-hectare plot of land on the outskirts of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu; it is a mosaic of natural environments, some of which have become rare in the area. The site includes grasslands and shrublands, wetlands, a pond and a mature plant community containing linden and shagbark hickory trees over 70 years old.

With the growing popularity of outdoor recreation, many land and forest sites in Montérégie are subject to pressure and Parc naturel des Parulines is no exception. The park's sensitive ecosystems are being disturbed by unauthorized off-road vehicle traffic and the presence of improvised walking trails—situations that are not conducive to the site's conservation.

Parc naturel des Parulines is the first milestone in an ambitious network of parks and natural spaces that the city of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu wants to establish and protect for the benefit of the community and the environment. The Foundation's funding will enable the city to enhance the park with marked trails, access paths and boardwalks. Additional enhancements include interpretation panels and educational activities to raise citizens' awareness of the park's ecological significance, the fragility of its ecosystems and the importance of long-term conservation of the site.

Parc naturel des Parulines, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu



Ecological improvement of Parc des Bateliers

Parc des Bateliers, bordering the Rivière des Prairies, contains one of the rare riparian forests on the island of Montréal. This five-hectare green space owned by the city of Montréal is located in the Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough and attracts many people who live and work in the area. Encompassing an area with mature trees, a young forest and a green riparian area, this natural urban site is home to rare and at-risk species, such as butternut, shagbark hickory and black maple. However, the presence of invasive non-native plants, like buckthorn, is interfering with regeneration of the woodland and threatening its ecological integrity. In addition, high traffic in the park and the proliferation of unauthorized trails are putting undue strain on the environment.

With funding from the Foundation, the Comité Écologique du Grand Montréal (CÉGM) will restore degraded areas by closing trails and planting trees. They will also install nesting boxes for wood ducks and purple martins and bat shelters to promote the diversity of the park's wildlife. Finally, to mobilize citizens, the CÉGM will create an interactive interpretation trail. The goal: to educate visitors about the conservation of natural urban areas as well as the park's bounty and the importance of preserving its environmental components.



Parc des Bateliers, Montréal

Rivers and Lakes

Project	Number of Rivers and Lakes	Proponent	Expected Total Cost (\$)	Foundation's Contribution (\$)
Shoreline restoration, awareness and education – Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal	2 rivers	Comité ZIP des Seigneuries	165,331	34,600
Model shoreline buffer – Strategies for everyone	1 lake	Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay	147,828	49,500
TOTAL	3 rivers or lakes		313,159	84,100

Aquatic grass bed in Lac Kénogami



Demonstration Japanese knotweed control site

Shoreline restoration, awareness and education – Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal

Japanese knotweed is a pernicious plant that invades natural environments and is very aggressively colonizing the shores of the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River), particularly in the greater Montréal area. The rapid growth of this non-native plant and the aggressive spread of its colonies are threatening the integrity of the riparian ecosystems and habitat quality for a number of wildlife species. In cooperation with other regional organizations, the Comité ZIP* des Seigneuries has developed four demonstration Japanese knotweed control sites and will roll out an awareness and education program in an effort to prevent the proliferation of this invasive species and its destructive impact on biological diversity.

Funding from the Foundation has been instrumental in developing a variety of tools (interpretation panels, fact sheets, videos and information meetings) in connection with the restoration of these shoreline environments along the Fleuve Saint-Laurent and Rivière des Prairies. Municipalities, contractors, citizens and those who use these sites for recreation can learn about the problem and be motivated to adopt practices that control Japanese knotweed and prevent it from spreading in natural environments.

* Zone d'intervention prioritaire [area of prime concern]



Riparian buffer at Lac Kénogami

Model shoreline buffer – Strategies for everyone

Aquatic habitat quality depends to a large extent on riparian buffers, an essential strip of land along the water's edge that is colonized by trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. The ecological functions of vegetated shoreline, including filtration, erosion control and mitigation of flood impacts, maintain the balance of the aquatic ecosystem. Lac Kénogami, the drinking water source for the city of Saguenay, is a huge lake (55 km²), and has become a hotspot for vacationers and recreational activities. Deterioration of the lakeshore, however, is increasing nutrient input, a predisposing factor in eutrophication and the proliferation of blue-green algae.

Dedicated to the restoration, protection and enhancement of the region's aquatic environments and its water, the Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay wants to help Lac Kénogami lakeshore residents improve the quality of their riparian buffers and protect the natural lake environment. Two model riparian buffers, a companion guide, videos, interpretation panels and a Web site are among the educational tools that the organization is developing with the Foundation's financial support. The objective is to increase awareness among lakeshore residents and the Saguenay population in general about the importance of protecting the shoreline and preserving its ecological role.

Wetlands



Project	Area (ha)	Proponent	Expected Total Cost (\$)	Foundation's Contribution (\$)
Site restoration and creation of a thermal refuge for turtles	0.4	Nature Conservancy of Canada	170,000	50,000
Enhancement of Baie Trou à Barbotte in the Rivière Saint-Maurice	27.5	Bassin Versant Saint-Maurice	30,315	9,000
TOTAL	30.26*		200,315	59,000

* Includes wetlands (2.36 hectares) covered by a lands and forests project in Parc naturel des Parulines in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

Thermal refuge for turtles at Reynolds pond



Baie Trou à Barbotte

Site restoration and creation of a thermal refuge for turtles

The Baie Missisquoi area at the north end of Lac Champlain is home to the province's only known remaining population of eastern spiny softshell turtles. Designated as a threatened species in Québec, these turtles inhabit aquatic environments, using the shoreline for sun basking, feeding and laying their eggs. Located on a former 45-hectare farm in Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville, Reynolds pond is part of the Baie Missisquoi hydrographic system and an important habitat type that is rare in the region: a place teeming with food, where the water is calm and warmer than in Lac Champlain.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has a mission to protect this site in perpetuity. It is inhabited by many wildlife species (reptiles, waterfowl, fish, frogs and toads) including the eastern spiny softshell turtle, snapping turtle and northern map turtle. These reptiles are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, and their survival is threatened by habitat loss and alteration.

The NCC has embarked on a project to restore these priority sites, essential for maintaining the area's reptile populations. The Foundation's funding will be used to develop a pool, dunes and channels in Reynolds pond to optimize the turtles' habitat. In addition, an interpretation station will be built near this natural environment and information panels put up to raise community awareness about the precariousness of the habitats and the importance of protecting them for sensitive species.



Eastern spiny softshell turtle

Enhancement of Baie Trou à Barbotte in the Rivière Saint-Maurice

The organization Bassin Versant Saint-Maurice (BVSVM) coordinates sustainable water management over a vast area in the Mauricie region. It mobilizes key players and informs the public of what can be done to improve the condition of the aquatic ecosystems. The BVSVM owns a 27.5-hectare site which is known as Baie Trou à Barbotte by hunters, anglers, boaters and bird watchers. The organization will implement a conservation and enhancement plan to reduce pressure on this ecologically significant natural environment.

In fact, this Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac property alone encompasses 18% of the wetlands in the MRC de Mékinac. Plant diversity is substantial here, with spawning and rearing grounds for several fish species and a nesting area suitable for some 50 bird species.

The BSVM wants to reduce user-induced pressure on this fragile environment, particularly on the spawning grounds and bird nesting sites. It has accordingly decided to control user traffic as well as raise awareness about the site's bounteous plant and animal life. Thanks to the Foundation's support, the BSVM is also developing a variety of awareness-raising tools, including an educational kit with two activities and an information brochure, to give users a better understanding of this natural environment and of what can be done to preserve it. In addition, an information panel at the entrance to the site will provide visitors with a useful map of the wetlands, a schedule of activities and good practice guidance.

Awareness and Education



Project	Proponent	Expected Total Cost (\$)	Foundation's Contribution (\$)
Discovery and preservation activities on the Rivière des Mille Îles	Éco-Nature	116,500	66,500
Stop the spread of non-native invasive species!	Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue	40,670	25,000
Preserving biodiversity and habitats in Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan	Parc de la rivière Batiscan	33,646	25,900
Model planting to control non-native invasive species and attract birds	Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin	17,130	13,550
Showcasing a Maddington Falls gem	Municipalité de Maddington Falls	66,565	11,500
TOTAL		274,511	142,450

Educational activity on the Rivière des Mille Îles



Body of water and invasive non-native species, Abitibi

Discovery and preservation activities on the Rivière des Mille Îles

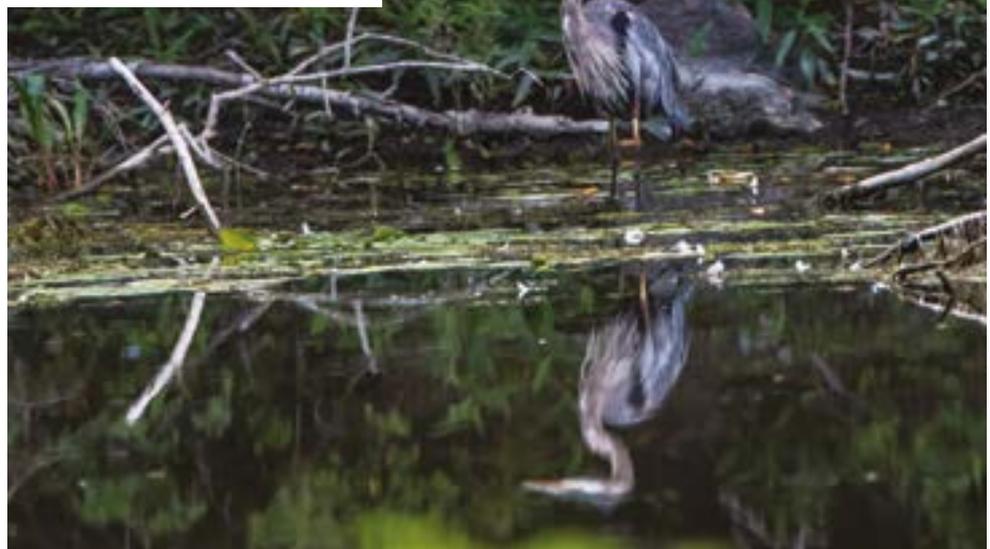
For 30 years, Éco-Nature has managed Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles (PRMI) and been committed to protecting, conserving and enhancing the river and its tributaries. With islands, swamps, marshes and riverbanks, PRMI comprises a number of natural environments known for their exceptional biodiversity. It is the largest protected wildlife area in Greater Montréal, a vast archipelago of 101 islands stretching over 42 kilometres and including one of Québec's few wildlife sanctuaries. The park is home to many species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish, some of them designated as threatened or vulnerable in Québec.

Éco-Nature works in close cooperation with the surrounding municipalities to offer a variety of environmental education and ecotourism activities every year to the park's 150,000 visitors. Éco-Nature's goal is to showcase the park's rich and unique ecosystem and also to raise awareness about deterioration of the natural environment. To this end, the organization will develop a range of digital tools to inform visitors and encourage them to help protect this outstanding ecological sanctuary. With the Foundation's funding, the new visitor centre will be equipped with interactive terminals, and giant screens will broadcast multimedia presentations on the park's wealth of plant and animal life. Visitors will also be invited to participate in a digital rally to discover the river and its habitats and learn about the many initiatives spearheaded by Éco-Nature.

Stop the spread of non-native invasive species!

Non-native invasive species (NNIS) pose a real threat to the lakes and rivers in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and controlling them is a major challenge. The establishment of an NNIS has a major impact on biodiversity because it disrupts the food chain or alters the natural environment. Climate change makes northern ecosystems susceptible to the establishment of southern species, and the growth of pleasure boating and recreational fishing opens the gates for non-native invasive species. The Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT) has undertaken a large-scale regional awareness-raising campaign to put a stop to the proliferation of invasive species in the area's lakes and rivers.

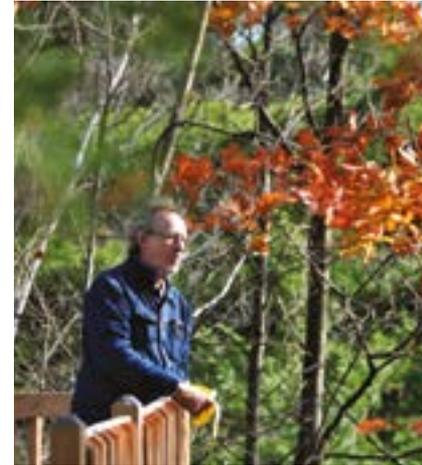
CREAT will use the Foundation's funding for a variety of initiatives. Television spots, brochures, information panels, workshops and training sessions are among the tools the organization will use to educate target audiences. The Foundation is thus helping to create favorable conditions for the success of this ambitious awareness-raising campaign about non-native invasive species.



Great blue heron, Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles



Awareness and Education

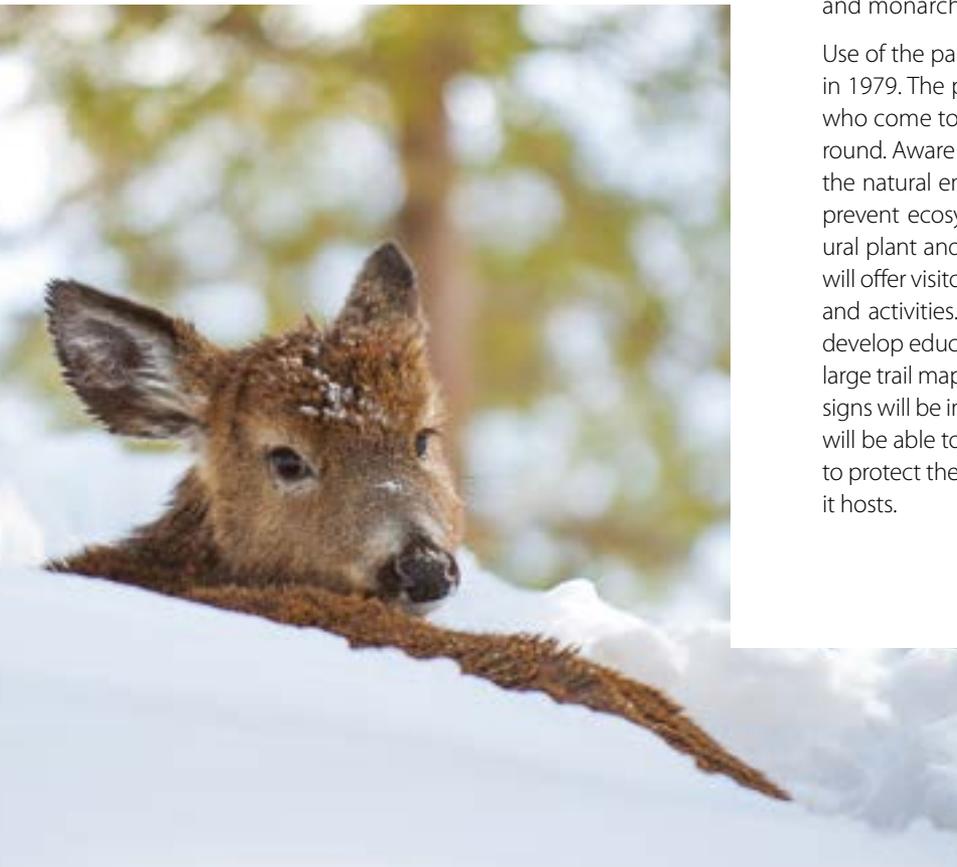


Visitor to Maddington Falls

Preserving biodiversity and habitats in Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan

Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan covers some 400 hectares and is traversed by the Rivière Batiscan. It offers the attractions of both an exceptional natural environment and the rich historical heritage of the Mauricie region. With past support from the Foundation, the organization Parc de la rivière Batiscan has developed wildlife habitats, especially for bats and monarch butterflies.

Use of the park has increased every year since it first opened in 1979. The park now attracts tens of thousands of visitors, who come to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities year round. Aware of the impact that such user traffic can have on the natural environment, Parc de la rivière Batiscan wants to prevent ecosystem deterioration and safeguard its rich natural plant and animal life. To promote conservation, the park will offer visitors informal evening presentations, guided tours and activities. Funding from the Foundation will be used to develop educational materials for these activities. In addition, large trail maps will be put up at the three park entrances and signs will be installed along the trails to channel traffic. Visitors will be able to enjoy their experience in nature while helping to protect the environment and the plant and animal species it hosts.



White-tailed deer, Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan



Falls on the Rivière Bécancour, Maddington Falls

Model planting to control non-native invasive species and attract birds

Occupying 450 hectares on the outskirts of the city of Granby, the Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin (CINLB) is a renowned bird-watching site. However, annual bird monitoring in the area shows a steady decline in certain species. The main causes are habitat deterioration and reduced plant biodiversity stemming from woodland proliferation of buckthorn and other non-native invasive species.

With funding from the Foundation, the CINLB has created an educational plot containing plants that produce the berries birds love to eat. Located in front of the CINLB's visitor centre, this model green space with its 16 information panels is designed to raise visitor awareness about the problems caused by non-native invasive species and the importance of diversified bird feeding habitats. A variety of communication tools for park visitors have also been developed (Web site, posters and reference guide). The CINLB encourages property owners in Granby and the surrounding area to create garden spaces with vegetation that attracts birds and to help control the proliferation of these harmful species.

Interpretation panel, Granby



Showcasing a Maddington Falls gem

The Rivière Bécancour waterfalls are among the main natural and historical attractions of the municipality of Maddington Falls. This rural village in the Centre-du-Québec region is committed to protecting and showcasing its natural environment and sites of historical importance. The lovely view from the Maddington Falls municipal offices showcases a panorama of waterfalls, the river, a wetland and forest. Much of the land along the river belongs to the municipality and offers top-quality habitats where a wide variety of plants flourish, including Provancher's fleabane, a member of the daisy family and considered a threatened species in Québec.

The municipality first built a lookout to channel visitor traffic and provide a spectacular view. Funding from the Foundation will be used to develop education and awareness tools on the importance of protecting local plant and animal habitats. Five interpretation panels are to be put up at this popular site to inform citizens and visitors about the different local ecosystems and their biodiversity and encourage people to protect them. The municipality will thus achieve its goal of protecting and showcasing a Maddington Falls gem.

Review of Operations



Planting activity, Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Grant Distribution by Class

Project Categories	Number of Projects in 2017	Number of Projects since 2001	Amounts Granted to Partners (\$) in 2017	Amounts Granted to Partners (\$) since 2001
Lands and Forests	7	82	452,700	5,711,358
Rivers and Lakes	2	62	84,100	3,098,457
Wetlands	2	66	59,000	3,927,363
Awareness and Education	5	62	142,450	2,088,310
TOTAL*	16	272	738,250	14,825,488

* Projects selected under the Fier de nature program, for which contributions totaled \$25,232, are not included.



Citizen engagement, Parc Thomas-Chapais

Since its inception in 2001, the Foundation has granted \$14.83 million in funding to 272 projects with an estimated total value of \$48.62 million.

The framework for reviewing grant applications submitted to us has always reflected our desire to support initiatives that have substantial impacts on the conservation of Québec's natural heritage.

The tables at right show the projects funded by the Foundation in each project class since 2001, with the area and type of environment.

Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Lands and Forests

Area of Lands and Forests Targeted by the Projects

Period	Area (ha)
2017	216.70
Total since 2001	11,183.46*

* Some land and forest areas have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. In these cases, the areas concerned have been included in the table only once.

Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Rivers and Lakes

Number of Rivers and Lakes Targeted by the Projects

Period	Number of Rivers	Number of Lakes	Total Number of Rivers and Lakes
2017	2	1	3
Total since 2001	79	67	146*

* Some rivers and lakes have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. These cases have been included in the table only once.

Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Wetlands

Area of Wetlands Targeted by the Projects

Period	Area (ha)
2017	30.26
Total since 2001	9,102.76*

* Some wetlands have benefited from several projects funded by the Foundation. In these cases, the areas concerned have been included in the table only once.

Awareness and Education

Natural Environments Targeted by the Foundation's Partners

Period	Number of projects*	Projects Related to Lands and Forests	Projects Related to Rivers and Lakes	Projects Related to Wetlands
2017	5	3	2	0
Total since 2001	62	23	30	22

* A project may involve several types of environment.

Review of Operations



Bloodroot

Planting day, Montréal



Protection of threatened and vulnerable species or species likely to be so designated

The biological diversity guidelines¹ adopted by the Québec government in 2013 are based on the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020* and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.² These government guidelines aim to achieve concrete results with respect to the conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity for present and future generations.

In 2017, 16 threatened, vulnerable or vulnerable to harvest species and 15 species likely to be so designated, according to the classification in the *Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species*,³ benefited from projects supported by the Foundation.

Since 2001, the Foundation has contributed to the protection of 64 of the 116 plant and animal species designated threatened or vulnerable under this Act (as at October 28, 2017).

In addition, from 2003 to 2005, the Foundation supported a project to bring striped bass back to the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River). This fish, extirpated in Québec in the mid-1960s, was reintroduced using stocks from the Miramichi River.

Number of Threatened or Vulnerable Species Targeted by Foundation-Funded Projects since 2001*

Extirpated community	1
Threatened, vulnerable or vulnerable to harvest	64
Species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable	166

* Each species is counted only once although some have benefited from several projects. Species status reflects the designation in effect when the project involving it was accepted by the Foundation.

1. www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/orientations/orientations.pdf [in French only]
2. Adopted in October 2010 at the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan.
3. Act adopted by the Québec government in 1989.



Eastern spiny softshell turtle

Foundation's Contribution to the Protection of Plant and Animal Species in 2017

THREATENED, VULNERABLE OR VULNERABLE TO HARVEST SPECIES

Plants

SPECIES	SPECIES STATUS	PARTNERS
black maple	v	1, 7
bloodroot	vh	1, 5
Canada wild ginger	vh	1, 2, 6
green dragon	t	5
large-flowered bellwort	vh	1
ostrich fern	vh	6
white trillium	vh	1

Birds

SPECIES	SPECIES STATUS	PARTNERS
<i>anatum</i> peregrine falcon	v	2, 3, 6
Caspian tern	t	3
horned grebe	t	3
least bittern	v	5
piping plover	t	3
roseate tern	t	3
yellow rail	t	3

Reptiles

SPECIES	SPECIES STATUS	PARTNERS
eastern spiny softshell turtle	v	10
northern map turtle	v	5, 7, 10

NUMBER OF SPECIES: 16

SPECIES LIKELY TO BE DESIGNATED THREATENED OR VULNERABLE

Plants

SPECIES	PARTNERS
American bladdernut	2
butternut	2, 6, 7
shagbark hickory	2, 6, 7

Birds

SPECIES	PARTNERS
chimney swift	7
common nighthawk	3
Leach's storm-petrel	3
Nelson's sparrow	3
<i>rufa</i> red knot	3
rusty blackbird	3
sedge wren	5
short-eared owl	3

Reptiles

SPECIES	PARTNERS
Dekay's brown snake	5
eastern milksnake	2, 5
northern watersnake	5

Amphibians

SPECIES	PARTNER
pickrel frog	2

NUMBER OF SPECIES: 15

Partners – 2017 Projects

- 1 Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur
- 2 Centre de la nature du Mont Saint-Hilaire
- 3 Société de conservation des Îles-de-la Madeleine
- 4 Parc écotouristique de la MRC des Laurentides
- 5 Saint-Lawrence Valley Natural History Society
- 6 City of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
- 7 Comité Écologique du Grand Montréal
- 8 Comité ZIP des Seigneuries
- 9 Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay
- 10 Nature Conservancy of Canada
- 11 Bassin Versant Saint-Maurice
- 12 Éco-Nature
- 13 Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- 14 Parc de la rivière Batiscan
- 15 Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin
- 16 Municipalité de Maddington Falls

Definitions

- t = Threatened: species whose extirpation is feared.
- v = Vulnerable: species whose survival is precarious, but for which extirpation is not expected.
- vh= Vulnerable to harvest: species subject to harvest pressure owing to its commercial value.

Financial Statements

Management's report

The financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement as well as all information contained in this report fall under the responsibility of Management and are approved by the Board of Directors. This responsibility involves choosing the appropriate accounting policies that comply with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

To fulfill its responsibilities, Management maintains a control system designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the protection of assets, the accounting of transactions and the reliability of the financial statements.

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement acknowledges its responsibility in managing its affairs in accordance with the governing legislation.

The financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement have been audited by independent auditors KPMG LLP in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Canada. The auditors' report discusses the nature and extent of this audit and expresses their opinion.

/s/ Carlo Gagliardi

Executive Director

Montréal, Québec

March 27, 2018

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Directors of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Foundation's Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessment of the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement as at December 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

/s/ KPMG LLP *

Montréal, Canada
March 27, 2018

* CPA auditor, CA, public accountancy permit No. A129444



Statements of financial position

In Canadian dollars	As at December 31, 2017	As at December 31, 2016
Assets		
Cash	800,975	659,860
Contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec	34,187	27,058
Interest receivable	785	352
Total assets	835,947	687,270
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 3)	16,055	15,810
Net assets		
Subject to internal restrictions for environmental projects	1,267,017	1,193,780
Unrestricted	(447,125)	(522,320)
Total net assets	819,892	671,460
Total	835,947	687,270

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board,

/s/ Stella Leney
President

/s/ Armand Couture
Director

Statements of operations

Years ended December 31

In Canadian dollars	2017	2016
Revenue		
Contributions from a special fund	882,327	62,183
Interest income	3,201	6,001
Donation	—	—
Total revenue	885,528	68,184
Expenditure		
Environmental projects		
Approved during the year	287,290	407,341
Approved during previous years	402,955	288,047
Total expenditure	690,245	695,388
General overhead and project management	46,851	51,723
Total	737,096	747,111
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenditure	148,432	(678,927)

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statements of changes in net assets

Years ended December 31

In Canadian dollars	Subject to internal restrictions for environmental projects	Unrestricted	2017 Total	2016 Total
Balance, beginning of year	1,193,780	(522,320)	671,460	1,350,387
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenditure	(690,245)	838,677	148,432	(678,927)
Internal restrictions for environmental projects approved in 2017	771,982	(771,982)	—	—
Transfer to unrestricted net assets	(8,500)	8,500	—	—
Balance, end of year	1,267,017	(447,125)	819,892	671,460

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



Statements of cash flows

Years ended December 31

In Canadian dollars	2017	2016
Operating activities		
(Deficit) excess of revenue over expenditure	148,432	(678,927)
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Interest receivable	(433)	282
Contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec	(7,129)	(6,183)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	245	454
Net change in cash	141,115	(684,374)
Cash, beginning of year	659,860	1,344,234
Cash, end of year	800,975	659,860

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to financial statements

Years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

The Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement (the "Foundation") was constituted on January 19, 2001, under Part III of the *Québec Companies Act*.

Its mission is to contribute to the long-term enhancement and protection of the environment; to promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of fauna, flora and natural habitats; and to support local needs for stewardship of the environment. As at December 31, 2017, its Board of Directors is composed of five Hydro-Québec officers and five outside directors.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that is exempt from taxes within the meaning of the *Income Tax Act*.

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the *CPA Canada Handbook*.

a) REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Foundation uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions and donations are recognized as revenue when they are received and as receivables if the amount can be reasonably estimated and payment is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year in which the related expenditures are incurred.

Revenue from the Hydro-Québec special fund consists of contributions from the fund and interest paid on the fund. Interest income is recognized as it is earned.

b) EXPENDITURE RECOGNITION

Expenditures related to environmental projects are recorded when the expenditures are incurred by the organizations and approved by the Foundation.

Overhead expenses are recorded as services are received.

c) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation measures financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value on initial recognition. It subsequently measures all financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include cash, interest receivable, contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment if there is any evidence of a potential impairment loss. The amount of the decline in value is recognized in the results as an impairment loss. A previously recognized loss can be reversed. Such reversal is recognized in income in the year in which the reversal occurs.

d) RESTRICTIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Environmental projects approved by the Board of Directors are restricted subject to the signing of a grant agreement between the Foundation and the organizations.

2. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Interest rate risk

Cash bears interest at a variable rate; consequently, fluctuations in interest rates will have an impact on the Foundation's interest income.

Credit risk

The Foundation's cash is held by a financial institution with high-quality credit ratings. As a result, the Foundation considers that this counterparty's risk of non-performance is negligible.

Fair value

The carrying value of interest receivable, contributions receivable from Hydro-Québec and accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximates their fair value due to their short-term maturities.

3. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Foundation received a contribution of \$800,000 (nil in 2016) from the fund reserved by Hydro-Québec. The total net assets of this fund were \$6.2 million as at December 31, 2017 (\$7 million in 2016). The interest generated by this fund during the year is reserved for the Foundation. Total interest income of \$82,327 (\$62,183 in 2016) was earned in 2017.

In addition, the Foundation incurred administrative overhead expenses from Hydro-Québec totaling \$23,830 (\$28,210 in 2016), none of which are included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at December 31, 2017 (nil in 2016). Services provided by the various administrative units of Hydro-Québec for the benefit of the Foundation are billed on the basis of actual costs under agreements between the Foundation and these units.

Board of Directors 2017

Bumblebee on pearly everlasting, Îles-de-la-Madeleine

Stella Leney

President, Fondation Hydro-Québec
pour l'environnement
Vice-President – Corporate Affairs
and Secretary General
Hydro-Québec

Michel Bérubé

Director

André Besner

Director – Environment
Hydro-Québec

Armand Couture

Director

Chantal d'Auteuil

General Director – Association
des biologistes du Québec

Francine Émond

Director

Claude Grondin

Director – Wildlife Initiatives
Fondation de la faune du Québec

Gilles Lemieux

Regional Director – Manicouagan
and Director – Production
Hydro-Québec Production

Louise Pelletier

Director

Myriam Truchon

Director – Regional Affairs
and Communities
Hydro-Québec



For more detailed information on the mission, priorities and operations of the Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement or on the projects it supports, please visit: www.hydroquebec.com/fondation-environnement/

Any comments on this report or its content can be sent to the Foundation at the address below:

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[Page 5] *Parc des Parulines, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu*: Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. *Lac Kénogami, Saguenay*: Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay. *Baie Trou à Barbotte, Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac*: Bassin Versant Saint-Maurice. *Awareness activity, Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, Laval*: André Chevrier.

[Page 6] *Parc Thomas-Chapais, Montréal*: Roxanne Mailhot, Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur.

[Page 7] *Access path, Mont Saint-Hilaire foothills*: Ludyvine Millien. *Path at Parc Thomas-Chapais, Montréal*: Daniel Chartier.

[Page 8] *Eastern milksnake, Montréal*: Pierre-Alexandre Bourgeois. *New planting, Barachois-de-Fatima, Île du Cap aux Meules*: Véronique Déraspe, Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

[Page 9] *Forest at Centre touristique et éducatif des Laurentides, Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré*: Pierre Morin. *Path at Parc naturel des Parulines, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu*: Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. *Parc des Bateliers, Montréal*: Comité Écologique du Grand Montréal.

[Page 10] *Aquatic grass bed, Lac Kénogami*: Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay.

[Page 11] *Demonstration Japanese knotweed control site, Montréal*: Geneviève McHugh. *Riparian buffer, Lac Kénogami*: Organisme de bassin versant du Saguenay.

[Page 12] *Reynolds pond, Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville*: NCC.

[Page 13] *Eastern spiny softshell turtle*: Lyne Bouthillier, ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs. *Baie Trou à Barbotte on the Rivière Saint-Maurice, Saint-Roch-de-Mékinac*: Bassin Versant Saint-Maurice.

[Page 14] *Educational activity on the Rivière des Mille Îles*: André Chevrier.

[Page 15] *Great blue heron, Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles*: André Chevrier. *Body of water invaded by non-native species, Abitibi-Témiscamingue*: Bianca Bédard.

[Page 16] *White-tailed deer, Parc de la Rivière-Batiscan*: Martin Savard. *Visitor at the Maddington Falls lookout*: Martine Hamel.

[Page 17] *Interpretation panel, Granby*: Centre d'interprétation de la nature du lac Boivin. *Falls on the Rivière Bécancour, Maddington Falls*: Martine Hamel.

[Page 18] *Planting activity, Barachois-de-Fatima, Île du Cap aux Meules*: Véronique Déraspe, Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

[Page 19] *Citizen engagement, Parc Thomas-Chapais*: Mathieu Langlois, Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur.

[Page 20] *Planting activity, Parc Thomas-Chapais, Montréal*: Mathieu Langlois, Y'a QuelQu'un l'aut'bord du mur. *Bloodroot, Parc Thomas-Chapais*: Gilles Vaillancourt.

[Page 21] *Eastern spiny softshell turtle*: Lyne Bouthillier, ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

[Page 28] *Bumblebee on pearly everlasting, Barachois-de-Fatima, Île du Cap aux Meules*: Véronique Déraspe, Société de conservation des Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

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