

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For immediate release

### **Consultation on the Future of the Haut-Saint-François MRC: A Collective Commitment to Sustainable Development**

**COOKSHIRE-EATON, April 18, 2024** — The Haut-Saint-François MRC is pleased to announce the success of the recent consultation with local organizations, held on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Guy-Veilleux Hall in Cookshire-Eaton. This meeting marks an important step in formulating a strategic development vision over a 20-year horizon, as well as in revising the MRC's land use and development plan.

During this consultation, 31 participants representing various municipal, community, social, agricultural, forestry, and economic sectors actively contributed to reflecting on the territory's issues and identifying key words for the future vision. Under the direction of Isabelle Mercieca from the consulting firm Niska, the discussions were lively and constructive, allowing for a better understanding of the challenges and issues facing our community.

The next step in our participatory process is to actively involve the youth in our territory. Youth consultations will take place in schools throughout the months of April and May, following the same collaborative approach as that adopted with organizations, but tailored to young people.

Simultaneously, three citizen consultations will be open to the public on the following dates:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Guy-Veilleux Hall in Cookshire-Eaton;
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM at the municipal hall in La Patrie;
- May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Dudswell Community Center.

These meetings will provide residents with the opportunity to share their concerns and aspirations for the future of our region. Following these consultations, the MRC will begin developing the strategic vision project, with adoption expected in June.

A second public consultation is planned for September, leading to the official adoption of the strategic vision statement in the fall of 2024. The Haut-Saint-François MRC would like to thank all participants for their valuable contribution and commitment to the sustainable development of our territory.

Together, we are building a promising future for generations to come.

*The MRC du Haut-Saint-François comprises 14 municipalities (Ascot Corner, Bury, Chartierville, Cookshire-Eaton, Dudswell, East Angus, Hampden, La Patrie, Lingwick, Newport, Saint-Isidore-de-Clifton, Scotstown, Weedon, and Westbury) with a population of 23,653 inhabitants. Its council is formed by their mayors. The MRC provides services such as: public transportation, high-speed internet, recreation, mapping/geomatics, urban planning and inspection, watercourse management (safety of people and property), home renovation programs, eco-center, septic tank measurement and emptying, sale for non-payment of municipal taxes, intermunicipal fiber-optic internet network. Its responsibilities cover land use planning, property assessment, residual materials management plan, Récup-Estrie (in partnership with 5 other MRCs in Estrie), the Valoris eco-industrial park, public safety, fire risk coverage plan. The MRC is working on projects such as: preservation of the starry sky, the Marécage-des-Scots regional park, local road planning, Article 59 of the Act respecting the preservation of agricultural land and agricultural activities (land occupancy), the Agricultural Zone Development Plan (PDZA), and socio-economic development through its Local Development Center.*

– 30 –

**SOURCE :**

Danielle Jean  
Communications Advisor  
819 560-8500 ext. 2208  
[djean.cld@hsfqc.ca](mailto:djean.cld@hsfqc.ca)

**INFORMATION :**

Nathalie Laberge  
Director of the Planning and Urban Development  
819 560-8400 ext. 2118  
[nathalie.laberge@hsfqc.ca](mailto:nathalie.laberge@hsfqc.ca)