

## P R E S S R E L E A S E

For immediate release

### Waste Management Plan (WMP) 2024-2031 of the MRC of Haut-Saint-François More Measures to Divert Waste from Landfills

**COOKSHIRE-EATON, May 28, 2024** — The draft revision of the WMP, submitted for adoption to the MRC council in February, has been presented to the Ministry of Environment and has been endorsed in its first reading. This demonstrates the excellent work done by the MRC's environment department team. The plan is now in effect. It includes 30 measures encouraging various ways to divert waste from landfills, reduce landfill costs, increase government royalties, and protect the environment. It redefines the roles of the MRC and its municipalities, reallocating skills, maximizing efficiency, and optimizing the use of public funds.

#### Some of the WMP's new features:

- Encourages municipalities and industries, businesses, and institutions (ICIs) in Haut-Saint-François to obtain the "ICI on recycle" certification from Recyc-Québec, a recognition program for proactive and committed ICIs to improve their waste management performance.
- Enhances eco-center services by improving local services (mobile and satellite ecocenters) and adding new accepted materials.
- Gradually bans single-use products (bags, straws, cups, etc.).
- Creates an in-house certification to promote eco-friendly restaurants.
- Encourages the management of construction – renovation – demolition (CRD) waste on sites.
- Studies various eco-tax options such as billing citizens based on the weight of waste sent to landfills or requests for additional bins.

The various measures will be gradually implemented. Additionally, each decision will undergo thorough analysis to ensure objectives are met efficiently and at minimal cost.

The MRC's environment committee, tasked with monitoring the WMP in collaboration with the environment department team, now includes representatives from the 14 municipalities of Haut-Saint-François. Its president, Prefect Robert G. Roy, adds: "The awareness efforts of the WMP confirm the role of the 'Mouvement J'y participe!' dedicated to waste reduction. Each of us in Haut-Saint-François has our part to play. Only in this way can we succeed in preserving our environment, reducing our waste management costs, and increasing the royalty revenues our municipalities receive. This can only be to our advantage as citizens."

*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.*

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