

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WATER AND THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER REQUIRES CARE. SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFER YOUTHS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES AND HELPFUL PROJECTS. FOLLOWING IS A LIST:

Eau Secours!

The purpose of the “*Eau Secours!*” coalition is to demand and promote the responsible management of water from a perspective of public health, equity, accessibility, collective defence of public rights, improvement of citizenship skills and sustainable development of, and collective sovereignty over, this vital and strategic resource. The “*Eau Secours!*” coalition proposes several action-oriented theme files.

Information: www.eausecours.org/

David Suzuki Foundation

The David Suzuki Foundation developed *The St. Lawrence River: Our Living River* campaign to heighten public awareness of the treasures of the St. Lawrence River, main issues that pose a threat to the river and “blue gestures” that can help preserve this jewel of Quebec’s ecological heritage. During this campaign, some 30 river experts followed a course using a multimedia tool to better promote the campaign among Quebecers in their communities; *the health of the River is our health!*

Information: www.davidsuzuki.org/fr/champs-dintervention/oceans-et-eau-douce/

Le Regroupement national des conseils régionaux de l’environnement du Québec (RNCREQ)

The mandate of the RNCREQ is to act as a spokesperson for shared regional policy, play a consultative, leadership and informational role and provide resources and support to 16 regional environmental councils (CRE). The RNCREQ is involved in most major environmental files (climate change, energy, residual material and the management of water, forests and agriculture, etc.). Learn more about action taken by the CRE in your region and ways to become involved in the “*S’impliquer*” section of the website.

Information: www.rncreq.org

Le Regroupement des organisations de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ)

The Regroupement des organisations de bassin versant du Québec (ROBVQ) is a non-profit organization. It was established in November 2001 and recognized by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l’Environnement et des Parcs du Québec as the ministry’s primary spokesperson for the implementation of integrated water management in different watersheds in Quebec. The organization’s mandate consists of promoting governance and integrated management of individual watersheds throughout Quebec and bringing together and representing various watershed organizations.

Information: www.robvq.qc.ca

Les Zones d’intervention prioritaire (ZIP - areas of prime concern)

ZIP committees are local, collaborative organizations whose mandate consists in grouping together main users of the St. Lawrence within their territory and promoting joint action to solve local and regional problems affecting river ecosystems and their use. The joint action approach promoted by the Zip committees encourages the creation of opportunities for debate on projects where previously each party proceeded alone in their approach to decision makers. Thanks to the network of ZIP committees, the St. Lawrence now benefits from a new social resource that plays the role of intermediary, fosters cooperation, negotiates consensus and plans the use of the river environment.

Information: www.strategiessl.qc.ca/les-organismes/les-comites-zip



Photo : Antoine Baby

The Education and Water Monitoring Action Group (G3E)

Since 1989, the G3E has developed programs to encourage citizens of all ages to gain a greater understanding of natural aquatic ecosystems through the *Adopt a River* project. The program consists in observing the natural ecology of a river, analyzing certain water quality parameters and promoting action to solve an environmental problem at the local level. The program is intended for Grades 5 and 6 elementary students and Grades 7 and 8 high school students whose schools are located near watercourses that are part of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin. Is your school involved in the *Adopt a River* network? Are you interested in cooperating?

Information: www.g3e-ewag.ca/programmes/adopte/accueil.html

The Environment Canada Biosphere

The Environment Canada Biosphere offers a range of educational resources adapted to the needs and interests of students and teachers at the elementary and high school levels. Through play, experimentation and creation, students develop teamwork and cooperative and problem solving skills that they can apply to the protection of the environment. Activities can take place at the Biosphere, in your school or in natural surroundings!

Information: www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere/default.asp?lang=Fr&n=8AB791CF-1

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW)

The ISW, based in Montréal, is an international non-governmental organization. It was created in 1990 in the context of the Decade for Water and Sanitation. The mission of the ISW is to promote access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation among poor populations. The mission of the ISW also consists of blending “bottom up” and “top down” approaches aimed at application and innovation in the decentralization of political choices and financing mechanisms. The ISW has developed know-how in the water sector that encompasses support for capacity building among local populations, the development of institutional synergy and building capabilities, awareness-raising and information campaigns that promote integrated water resource management by watershed, and the optimization of regional alliances and support for global networks.

For information: www.sie-isw.org/en

Université de Moncton

The interdisciplinary program entitled *Une pilule pour l'environnement?* is intended for Grades 7 and 8 students in Quebec. The purpose of the program is to educate students on the problem of pharmaceutical and personal hygiene products in watercourses, a problem that affects many aquatic species. The pedagogical approach to this issue involves problem solving. Students are invited to provide care for watercourses where pharmaceutical and personal hygiene products referred to as “pills” are present.

Information: www8.umoncton.ca/littoral-vie/batisseurs/pilule.htm

Vu du large

Vu du large is a collection of documents on different themes related to the St. Lawrence River and its coastal inhabitants. The state of health of this expanse of water, marine biotechnology, climate change and new halieutic resources are among the subjects broached in a unique, contemporary way.

Information: www.vudularge.ca/index.html

Water - Tips and caveats

The Environment Canada website proposes many kinds of action that can be taken to ensure better use of water at school, at home, in the garden or yard and in natural surroundings. The Take action section of the website proposes different means to exercise responsible citizenship with regard to water. The information presented will help you to determine individual and group action that you may choose to take.

Information: www.ec.gc.ca/water/fr/info/pubs/primer/a6