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PRESS RELEASE

The public invited to contribute to the Regional Wetlands and Water Bodies Plans



Gatineau, March 18th, 2021 - The Outaouais amazes people from near and far with its rivers, lakes and other breathtaking natural environments. In order to balance the conservation of this natural wealth with land use, four MRCs and the Conseil régional de l'environnement et du développement durable de l'Outaouais (CREDDO) are launching a public consultation. Citizens are invited to contribute to this initiative that will shape land use planning for the next decade.



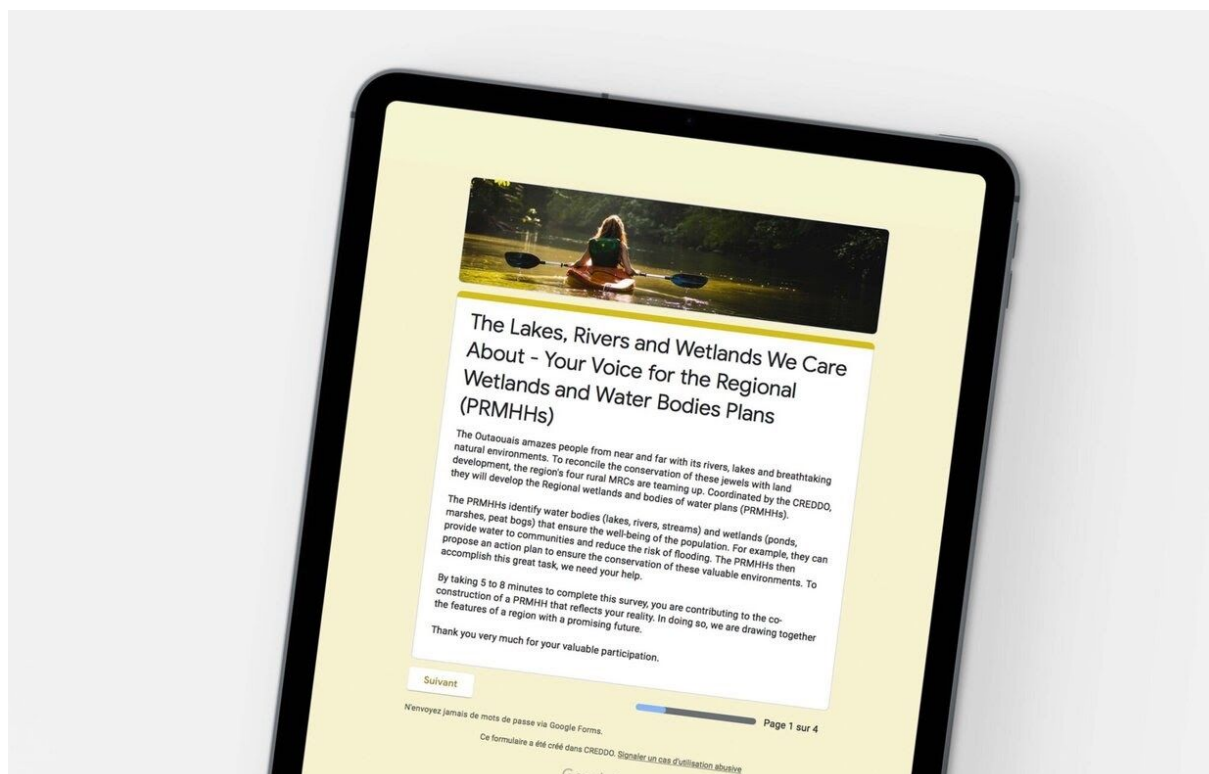
A new era for land use planning

This public consultation process is part of the development of the **Regional Wetlands and Water Bodies Plans (PRMHHs)**. These plans are a new legal obligation under the Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water adopted by the National Assembly in 2017. The purpose of the PRMHHs is to align land use and wetlands and water bodies conservation, notably to improve community resilience to climate change. The term "wetlands" refers to ponds, marshes, swamps and peat bogs, while water bodies include lakes, rivers and streams.

The law stipulates that each MRC must produce its PRMHH by June 2022. In the Outaouais, the MRCs of [Papineau](#), [Collines-de-l'Outaouais](#), [La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau](#) and [Pontiac](#) have chosen to work together in a concerted effort to develop their respective PRMHHs. This joint initiative is coordinated by the [CREDDO](#).

A collective project

In an effort to produce PRMHHs that reflect the realities of the people on the ground, the CREDDO and the MRCs are undertaking a vast public consultation. **"We are here to listen. The planning of the territory must be the result of a collaboration with the communities that inhabit it."** Madelaine Rouleau, CREDDO project manager, points out.



Until April 15, citizens are invited to provide their input through a [survey](#) available at www.creddo.ca/prmhh-en. The survey will be used to determine the elements that the population considers important for the preservation of the lakes, rivers and wetlands of the Outaouais. **Participatory workshops open to all are also planned for the spring of 2021.** Participants will be invited to share their vision of the territory in order to highlight the challenges and opportunities related to the wetlands and water bodies that concern them.

Actors from the agricultural, forestry, real estate and recreotourism sectors will also be consulted and called upon to actively participate in the development of the PRMHHs. **"We want to carefully consider everyone's needs. This is why strategic committees will be set up to bring together the various sectors of activity throughout the process,"** says Madelaine Rouleau.

About CREDDO

The CREDDO is a privileged interlocutor with the environmental, political and economic actors of the Outaouais region. Its primary mission is the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in a context of cooperation.

For more information

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