

Consultation publique sur la Réserve écologique de l'Île-Brion des Îles-de-la-Madeleine**PUBLIC CONSULTATION BEGINS ON OCTOBER 2**

Québec, September 12, 2018 – The commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE), chaired by Marie-Hélène Gauthier, seconded by commissioner Julie Forget, is pleased to announce the beginning of the *Consultation publique sur la Réserve écologique de l'Île-Brion des Îles-de-la-Madeleine*. The consultation will take place on **October 2, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., Îles-de-la-Madeleine local time**. It will be held in the main hall of the **Cap-aux-Meules Community Centre** at 460, Chemin Principal, Cap-aux-Meules.

Sessions will continue on subsequent days, as needed by the general public and the commission. They will be broadcasted by livestream on the BAPE's website: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

A simultaneous interpretation service will also be available throughout the public sessions, so that everyone understands discussions, whether they take place in French or in English.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

The Île-Brion Ecological Reserve was created in 1988 to integrally and permanently protect an exceptional and representative ecosystem of the Îles de la Madeleine Archipelago (Quebec). In addition, the island offers habitats for three plant species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable, and shelters a number of endangered bird species.

Given an increasing population of grey seal, the Maritime Community of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine asks for modulations in Île Brion's protection status in order to regulate certain activities in compliance with the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*. More specifically, the commission will analyze the possibility of changing the boundaries of the ecological reserve and altering the protection status of the beach areas.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

On August 15, 2018, under section 44 of the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, Québec's Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, Isabelle Melançon, asked the BAPE to organize a consultation at which the general public can express their opinions on the issues arising from the Maritime Community's request, and then to report back to the Minister on its observations and analysis.

The Maritime Community of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and a number of invited resource persons will be present at the consultations to assist the commission with its analysis.

Interested individuals and groups can submit their concerns, opinions and suggestions to the commission, either at the public consultation, in the form of a brief or verbal intervention, or in writing until midday on October 19, 2018, using the online form: [Dépôt de mémoire](#).

The commission has a maximum period of three months to complete its mandate. The BAPE's report must be submitted to Isabelle Melançon, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, no later than December 21, 2018. The Minister then has 15 days to publish the report.

WHERE CAN THE DOCUMENTATION BE CONSULTED?

The documentation related to this public consultation is available to the general public at the **Bibliothèque Jean-Lapierre, 37, Chemin Central, Havre-aux-Maisons** and at the **Point de service de Grande-Entrée, 214, route 199, Grande-Entrée**. The complete file is also available at the BAPE offices in Québec City, at 575, Jacques-Parizeau, Suite 2.10, and on the BAPE website at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca, under the heading *Mandats en cours*.

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

Public participation is essential for the inquiry commission. Starting October 2, 2018, 7 p.m. until October 5th, 2018, 5 p.m. you may submit questions to the commission using the electronic form provided for that purpose. The commission will consider the questions received and may submit them to the Maritime Community and the invited resource persons. The electronic form and details of how online questions are processed will be available on the BAPE website at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

WHAT IS THE BAPE?

The role of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) is to provide information to guide government's decision-making by submitting an analysis to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, based on the 16 principles of the Sustainable Development Act.

To carry out its mission, the BAPE provides the general public with all relevant information on a project or questions that are submitted by the Minister, and takes into account the concerns and questions brought to its attention. The BAPE's opinions are the result of a rigorous inquiry and analysis of the ecological, social and economic aspects of projects.

For additional information, please contact Lynda Carrier, the Commission Secretariat coordinator, or Julie Olivier, the communications advisor, by calling 418 643-7447 or (toll-free) 1 800 463-4732. You may also contact the commission by e-mail at the following address: reserve-ecologique-ile-brion@bape.gouv.qc.ca.