

**MAINTENANCE DREDGING PROJECT FOR THE CHANNEL BETWEEN HUDSON
AND OKA IN LAC DES DEUX-MONTAGNES**

COME VOICE YOUR OPINION ON MAY 12, 2003 IN HUDSON

Québec City, April 28, 2003 – The Commission for the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) (office for public hearings on the environment), with Ms. Nicole Boulet as Chairperson, will hold part two of the public hearings on the project proposed by the Ministère des Transports du Québec (Transport Ministry) to carry out dredging in the channel between Hudson and Oka in the lac des Deux-Montagnes, on **May 12, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., at the Hudson Community Centre, located at 394 Main Street in Hudson.**

Part two of the hearings will be devoted entirely to the presentation of briefs by individuals, municipalities, organizations or groups interested in voicing their opinion or offering suggestions to the Commission, as well as to orally-expressed public views.

Public participation is fundamental

Public participation is fundamental to the Commission. It provides an opportunity to hear the arguments and opinions of the community, before drafting the report that will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment, no later than August 7, 2003.

Writing a brief

A brief is a document designed to express opinions on, or concerns about, a given topic. It provides an opportunity to develop the arguments underlying a given viewpoint.

As a rule, a brief contains the following elements: a short description of the individual, municipality, organization or group submitting the brief; a short explanation of their interest in the project; opinions on the project as a whole, project-related concerns; and lastly, any suggestions or comments aimed at improving the project and enlightening the Commission. Those who decide not to write a brief may express their opinion orally during the public hearings. Oral presentations may be elaborated in the same manner as a brief.

These tips are guidelines only. They are also available in the Commission's website in the section *How to Participate*.

Presenting or submitting a brief

To ensure effective session planning, any individual, group or municipality wishing to voice an opinion, either in the form of a brief or orally, is asked to inform the coordinator of the Commission secretariat Ms. Monique Gélinas of their intention, by calling (418) 643-7447 or toll free at 1-800-463-4732.

To ensure briefs are received by the Commission prior to the public hearings, briefs for presentation must be submitted **no later than May 8, 2003** to BAPE, 575 rue Saint-Amable, bureau 2.10, Québec City, G1R 6A6, **attention of Ms. Monique Gélinas.**

Anyone wishing to submit a brief by e-mail should forward it to: HUDSON-OKA@BAPE.GOUV.QC.CA. An original copy must follow by regular mail. Once briefs are publicly released, copies are sent to the consultation centres and electronic versions are published on the Commission website at: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

Documentation available

Documents related to this project and transcripts from part one of the hearings are available for consultation at the following locations:

- ❖ **Oka municipal library, 183 des Anges, Oka;**
- ❖ **Municipality of Oka, 183 des Anges, Oka;**
- ❖ **Municipality of Hudson, 481 Main, Hudson;**
- ❖ **Kanesatake Mohawk Band Council, 681 range Sainte-Philomène, Kanesatake;**
- ❖ **Deux-Montagnes municipal library, 200 Henri-Dunant, Deux-Montagnes (free Internet access only);**
- ❖ **Guy-Bélisle municipal library, 80 Arthur-Sauvé, Saint-Eustache (free Internet access only);**
- ❖ **Main Library of the Université du Québec à Montréal, Pavillon Hubert-Aquin, 1255 rue Saint-Denis, local A.M. 100, Montréal;**
- ❖ **BAPE office in Québec City, 575 rue Saint-Amable, 2^e étage, bureau 2.10. .**

Documents are also available on the BAPE website at: www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

For further information, contact Ms. Monique Gélinas at (418) 643-7447 or 1- 800-463-4732 (toll-free), or by e-mail at: HUDSON-OKA@BAPE.GOUV.QC.CA.

SOURCE: Marielle Jean
Communications Advisor