

Brief to: Bureau d'audiences publique sur l'environnement

Re: Salmonix application

Date: Sept 24, 2026

From: Lionel LaCroix

Mr. Bénard, Mr. Lessard,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views in support of the proposed Salmonix land-based aquaculture project in Litchfield, Québec.

My late-father was raised in Fort-Coulonge. And, since the 1960s, my close personal connection with the local Pontiac MRC natural environment and my personal interest in environmental sustainability, more generally, has been shaped from many, many summer vacations and long week-ends spent here with my extended family. We swam, camped, fished, hunted and explored in and around the Pontiac. In addition, my extended family here in the Pontiac has also been closely connected to the land through their participation in the traditional land-based local economy, including: logging, trapping, farming and employment at the lumber and pulp and paper mills.

My earliest memories also include the era before environmental consciousness took hold. Memories such as the unavoidable stench of the pulp and paper mill while passing through Portage-du-Forte, the acrid smoke from open air garbage burning at the Coulonge town dump, the sheen of leaked fuel on the water's surface around boats tied up at their docks, seeing household waste being dumped into the Ottawa river and the log-choked the lower Coulonge River near Davidson.

Never-the-less, the Pontiac in all of its natural environmental splendor and the people who live here have always been very dear to me and my immediate family. And, it is for this reason and from this perspective that I make this BAPE submission.

I focus here on what the Salmonix project, if approved, can mean for surrounding communities within the Pontiac MRC, with an emphasis on environmental sustainability

First, having a new cutting-edge enterprise with world-class standards of food production and environmentally sustainability as an integrated part of the Pontiac will create a buzz and be a source of heartfelt pride for many, if not most, community members. And, every mouthful of fresh local salmon around local dinner tables will make visceral the meaning and significance of world class standards of environmental care and establish this squarely within the collective consciousness of the local community. After all, the way to a person's heart is through their stomach!

Second, as a retired educator, I know the inspiration that young people will take from seeing and learning about science, industrial technology and business in-action within their own local community. Specifically, by witnessing in-person and close-up the day-to-day workings of Salmonix and interacting with staff there, students' interest will be more than piqued in areas such as biology, chemistry, environmental science, environmental technology, and industrial and business operations. Their school learning will become more relevant to them, and some will be inspired to pursue study within these fields beyond high school, especially knowing the possibility of being able to applying these kinds of expertise in future careers close to home in the Pontiac.

Lastly, the Salmonix project will serve as a beacon for environmentally sustainable economic development within the Pontiac MRC. It will demonstrate, unequivocally, the viability of the Pontiac as a location for other leading edge companies to establish themselves and it will set a high standard of environmental sustainability practices for others to follow.

For these reasons, I encourage the government of Québec to support the Salmonix project.