

Message from the Premier of Québec

The 2022 renewal of the *Lake Champlain Action Plan* Strength in partnership

The Lake Champlain Basin has long been extremely important to Quebecers. Situated on both sides of our shared border, the Basin extends into Québec through the Rivière Richelieu and the St. Lawrence River basin. Along with our friends in Vermont and New York State, we benefit from the extensive natural resources and economic dynamism linked to this outstanding geographical asset.

With these shared benefits come shared responsibilities. It is our duty to protect and support this region that is world-renowned for its pristine beauty. The challenges are multiple, starting with the fight against climate change and the protection of biodiversity. Human security is also at the root of our concerns, especially in the wake of the significant flooding that has occurred in recent years.

Building upon longstanding and fruitful partnership, Québec, Vermont, and New York State are pursuing their commitments and renewing the action plan to restore and protect the waters and natural resources of Lake Champlain. *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin* is the fifth edition of the plan. Once again, it is serving as an especially inspiring model of sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

The revision of the action plan has been carried out through the ongoing efforts of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee, whose role is defined in the *Vermont–New York–Québec Environmental Cooperation Agreement on the Management of Lake Champlain*, which has bound the governments of Québec, Vermont, and New York State since 1988.

The objectives of the 2022 LCBP action plan have been established through an even broader consultation of the interested stakeholders. The action plan takes into consideration the recommendations of individuals concerned with the restoration and protection of the basin's natural resources, while preserving the region's essential economic activities. The plan thus proposes initiatives that encourage the development of a prosperous, united, and engaged community on both sides of the border.

It is therefore with great enthusiasm that the Québec government thanks and congratulates the LCBP team and Steering Committee for their efforts and once again commits to participating very actively, along with its partners from Vermont and New York State, in the management of Lake Champlain and its basin for the benefit of current and future generations.



François Legault