Table de concertation de la rivière des Outaouais

What is it?

TCO
Table de concertation
de la rivière des Outaouais

Context

In 2020, the the Ministry of Environment, Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks (MELCCFP) mandated the Regroupement des organismes de bassins versants du Québec (ROBVQ) to create a governance structure implementing integrated water resource management for the fluvial section of the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi in Quebec. The objective was to create an inter-regional forum for discussion and consultation on issues affecting the river, in line with the 2018-2030 Quebec Water Strategy and in response to orientation 7 of its action plan.

A working group composed of the ROBVQ, seven watershed organizations organizations (OBV) in the territory and the Table de concertation régionale Haut-Saint-Laurent - Grand Montréal was set up. Following public consultations and a brief portrait of the territory, the working group determined the recommended governance structure, as well as the four priority issues that need to be addressed:

Alteration of water quality	Floods
Destruction of wildlife and plant habitats	Destruction of wetlands

This initiative led to the creation of the 53rd integrated water management zone in Quebec, and the initiation of an integrated water resources management plan (PGI) for this zone. This process resulted in the creation of a collegial governance structure, the Table de concertation de la rivière des Outaouais (TCO), based on a consensus-building approach among water stakeholders in the area concerned, and tasked with ensuring integrated water management. Additionally, The TCO develops and maintains strategic territorial planning for the new Integrated Management Area of the Ottawa River (ZGIRO).

Montebello © TCO

Orientation 7. Ensure and strengthen integrated water resources management

Objectif 7.2 Maintain and strengthen intergovernmental and international cooperation to promote Québec's interests and foster integrated water management.

Mesure 7.2.4 Cultivate strategic partnerships

TCO's timeline

2020 The ROBVQ has been mandated by the MELCC to create a governance structure to implement integrated water management on the Quebec portion of the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi.

2021 A working group elaborates a summary portrait of the issues. Multiple consultations identified four priority issues, and the governance structure is determined.

2022 The TCO's constitution assembly is held on April 21, 2022. The TCO is overseen by the Rouge, Petite Nation and Saumon River watershed organization (OBV RPNS).

2023 A portrait and a diagnosis of the water resources in the ZGIRO are made.

2024 The strategic plan and the action plan are finalized.

Western chorus frog © No copyright
Endangered specie in Quebec

Quebec's integrated water resource management

Under the *Water Act,* adopted in 2009, the management of water resources and associated environments must be carried out in an integrated and concerted manner in designated hydrographic units [...] (*RLRQ, C-6.2 art. 13*). In Quebec, these include...
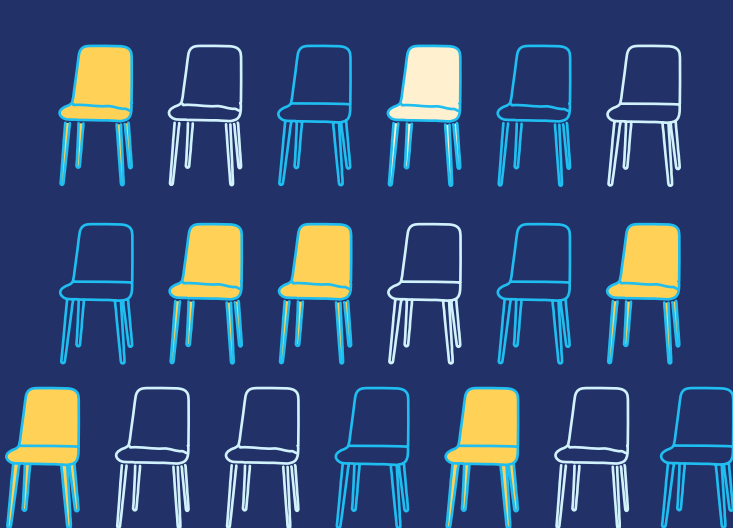
40 watershed management zones

12 St. Lawrence integrated management zones

1 Ottawa River integrated management zone

Constitution of the Table

The composition of the Table is intended to represent the various uses of water resources on the territory, as well as the territorial diversity of each of the sectors in the integrated management zone. It is therefore composed of 19 seats belonging to the following sectors:

Municipal sector (6)
6 MRC including Gatineau

Economic sector (6)
Agriculture, industries and businesses, hydropower generation, tourism and yachting, maritime transport, flexible seat

Community sector (6)
Culture and heritage, education and training, environment, outdoors, hunting and fishing, health, flexible seat

Indigenous communities' representative (1)

Pied-billed grebe © No copyright

Vision

" Bring the Ottawa River back at the heart of the decisions and concerns of the various stakeholders who have an influence on improving its integrity. "

Mission

Promote discussion and cooperation among local water stakeholders to achieve common objectives in relation to Ottawa River issues.

The ZGIRO in figures is...

- The Quebec fluvial section of the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi

- A territory of **1,845 km²**

- **38** municipalities, including **4** unorganized territories and **1** indigenous community

- **6** MRCs and **3** administrative regions

- An unceded Algonquin territory, inhabited by the **Timiskaming** Algonquin community and used by **4** other indigenous communities

- Over **600 km** of river, from the Première-Chute dam to the Carillon dam

- **10** major tributaries, including the Kipawa, Gatineau and Rouge rivers.

- **204 km²** of wetlands

- **103** species of wildlife and plants at risk, including the Blanding's turtle and the American eel

- **23** dams, **2** reservoirs and **7** hydroelectric power plants

- **19** wastewater treatment plants

- **24** drinking water treatment plants serving some **320,000** people

Blanding's Turtle © No copyright
Endangered specie in Canada

Fish sampling © OBV-RPNS

Mandate

Coordinate the development of an integrated management plan (PGI) and the implementation of the associated action plan.

Mobilize water stakeholders.

Exchange information on new initiatives and issues concerning the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi.

The integrated management plan (PGI)

The PGI is a strategic territorial planning tool that combines the elements needed to understand the issues related to the water resources of the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi. Produced in accordance with the water resources management reference framework,[1] the PGI supports and guides local stakeholders in identifying actions to ensure the sustainable use of the region's water resources.

The process led to a diagnosis of the ZGIRO territory, focusing on the four priority issues identified during public consultations. Based on this diagnosis, eight major orientations, 21 objectives and over 80 actions were identified!

1. Gouvernement du Québec. (2022). *Cadre de référence de la gestion intégrée des ressources en eau*. 46 pages.

2023	2023	2024	2024	2024
Portrait of water resources	**Diagnostic**	**Strategic plan** Vision, orientations, objectives and performance indicators	**Action plan**	**Follow-up plan**

Priority issues & orientations

Alteration of water quality

Orientation 1.1 Reduce contaminant and sediment inputs at source

Orientation 1.2 Improve knowledge on water quality

Floods

Orientation 2.1 Reduce the impact of flooding on riverine communities

Orientation 2.2 Optimize communication between stakeholders during flood management

Destruction of wetlands

Orientation 3.1 Prevent the loss of wetlands

Orientation 3.2 Preserve and restore wetlands

Destruction of wildlife and plant habitats

Orientation 4.1 Maintain biodiversity and ecosystem integrity

Orientation 4.2 Limit the introduction, spread and invasion of exotic terrestrial and aquatic species

A consultation process with water stakeholders ensured an alignment of the actions identified in the action plan with local priorities, as well as with the actions set out in various existing planning tools in the ZGIRO. Here are a few examples:

- Water Master Plans of watershed organizations

- Water Management Plan (Ville de Gatineau)

- MRCs agricultural zone development plans

- MRCs Regional wetlands and water bodies plans

- Development Plan of the Commission de la capitale nationale

Yellow Pond-lily © No copyright

Seating at the Table*

- A term of office lasts two years, except for the municipal sector. For the process of appointing municipal representatives, the term of office is aligned with the procedure established in each MRC.

- A representative may serve several consecutive terms.

- For the economic and community sectors, representatives are elected by the stakeholders in their respective sectors at the stakeholder assembly.

- The TCO meets approximately four times per year.

- Decisions made through concerted efforts are based on an agreement between all representatives

*Operating rules are available on request.

Red-throated loon © No copyright

Why become a water stakeholder partner of the TCO?

- **Participate and integrate a network** of stakeholders involved in integrated water management.

- **Represent the concerns of your sector** in relation to the integrity of the Ottawa River | Kichi Sibi.

- **Stay informed** about projects and the latest news in the ZGIRO.

- **Have access to personalized support** from the Table's coordination team (e.g. help with the text and/or graphics of your communication tools, support with funding applications, referral to appropriate grants, contact with key players, etc.).

- **Provide visibility** to your projects.

Légende
- Zone de gestion intégrée de la rivière des Outaouais
- Réseau hydrographique
- Barrages
- Municipalités
- Réseau routier

Zone de gestion intégrée de la rivière des Outaouais

TCO — Réalisation 2023

Limites de la zone de gestion intégrée de la rivière des Outaouais

0   25   50 km

1:1 250 000
NAD 83 Québec Lambert

Références
Barrages : CEHQ , s. d.
Municipalités : Ressources naturelles Canada, 2022
Réseau hydrographique : MERN, 2019 ; MRNF, 2022
Réseau routier : MERN, 2022