



Angliers

Béarn

Belleterre

Duhamel-Ouest

Fugèreville

Guérin

Kipawa

Laforce

Laniel (TNO)

*Latulipe-et-
Gaboury*

Laverlochère

Lorrainville

Moffet

Nédélec

*Notre-Dame-
du-Nord*

Rémigny

*St-Bruno-
de-Guigues*

*St-Édouard-
de-Fabre*

*St-Eugène-
de-Guigues*

Témiscaming

Ville-Marie

*MRC de
Témiscamingue*

Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan

Because you have expressed your concerns about the preservation of Lake Kipawa, the MRC de Témiscamingue (Regional County Municipality of Témiscamingue) would like to clarify its intentions regarding this question that is of the utmost importance to us all: the protection of one of Québec's most beautiful bodies of water.

It must be clear that the MRCT has exactly the same concerns as the vast majority of those who signed the petition, specifically: maintaining the water quality of Lake Kipawa.

The MRC de Témiscamingue and the local communities are committed to preserving Lake Kipawa and considering the issue of sustainable development around it. The municipality is also seeking to clearly identify measures that can be applied to ensure the protection of the lake in the long term.

Because of its huge inherent potential and numerous users, a number of key issues must be considered in any development of the lake: water quality, resort/recreational facility development, the presence of First Nations groups, the preservation of lake trout stocks, protection of the land, energy development, tourism development, mining development, etc.

Using a profile of the territory and an assessment of the existing situation, the **Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan** will make it possible to define the key issues, set objectives and establish an action plan for the preservation and sustainable development of the Lake Kipawa area.

This project will be implemented following a method that fosters the participation of local stakeholders and entrusted to a well-known, independent organization whose primary mandate is the protection of the watersheds in our region: l'Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue (OBVT).

The MRCT would like its citizens to see this management plan, not as a threat, but as an opportunity to meet at a common table to discuss the issues involved in managing this magnificent body of water.

It must also be noted that until the creation of the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan, there was no formally established forum for discussions related to the concerns of the shoreline residents or for implementing action plans to address the problems of water quality and the preservation of the biological environment of Lake Kipawa. Moreover, the Municipality of Kipawa has been requesting such a plan for several years now.

Furthermore, the existing moratorium has not been successful in solving the problems of the shoreline residents around Lake Kipawa: decreasing fish catches, the degradation of the lake's water quality, the arrival of blue-green algae and the introduction of invasive exotic species. It is of extreme importance, therefore, that action be taken, and the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan is one step in that direction.

The MRCT and its partners the Department of Natural Resources Québec, (le ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec) and the Conférence régionale des élus will be investing over \$100,000 in developing this plan, which will be completed by the spring of 2014. The next step will be the creation of an action plan that can be used to implement the recommendations resulting from the regional consultations.

The MRCT would also like to point out that it participated in the creation of the Opémican National Park project that will offer permanent protection of the highest level available in Canada for a significant portion of the shores of Lake Kipawa and many of the most vulnerable sites.

www.opemican.com

We hope that this letter provides sufficient information to reassure you as to the merits of this plan. We invite you to stay abreast of the upcoming steps in the regional consultation process and send us your comments or suggestions. All the documents related to the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan are in the public domain and available on the OBVT web site at www.obvt.ca/activites/concertation. You will also see that most of the documents have been translated into English.

Arnaud Warolin, Prefect

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OBVT
Organisme
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