

**Enbridge Pipeline 9B:  
Citizens ask the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal to require hydrostatic testing**

**Montreal, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015** – Citizens from the Vaudreuil-Soulanges' collective "Les Citoyens au Courant" will attend the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) Council public meeting on 30 April, to ask Mayor Coderre to take the lead on the issue of Enbridge's Line 9B hydrostatic testing (water pressure testing) before 300,000 barrels per day of unconventional oil start pumping through prime agricultural land, water tables, highly populated areas (Toronto) and major rivers in Ontario and around Montreal.

Hydrostatic testing is required by law on any new pipeline or newly constructed pipe sections before going into service. It remains an essential safety test for existing pipelines that are subject to major changes like those about to be operated on the 40-year old Enbridge 9B pipeline. Hydrostatic testing is the only way of detecting pinhole corrosion leaks and some types of stress cracking corrosion that can lead to rupture. The last hydrostatic tests performed on the entire line 9 were in 1997. Now, Enbridge is not required to conduct them. The Company applied to the National Energy Board (NEB) for an exemption from conducting hydrostatic tests on the newly installed pipes in line 9B pumping stations. This was denied, but the Company successfully persuaded the NEB not to include these tests on the existing pipeline as a condition for giving approval. However, the NEB stated that it could eventually order hydrostatic testing of the existing pipeline should safety require it. Whilst the NEB maintains this position officially, during their visit to Montreal on February 26, its President and VP have endorsed Enbridge's arguments that in-line inspection is sufficient, and that hydrostatic testing may damage the pipeline.

The stakes are high: If a major rupture occurred under the Ottawa River, which provides much of Montreal metropolitan area's drinking water, 957,000 litres could be released over a period of 13 minutes, which is the maximum amount of time Enbridge claims it would take before closing the valves. Moreover, it was revealed during the NEB line 9B public hearings in 2013 that the company's leak detection system can only detect leaks greater than 588 litres per minute.

In Ontario, a number of groups and authorities have asked for such tests, including the Ontario Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Pipeline Landowners Association (OPLA). OPLA recently asked the NEB not to grant final 'leave to open' and instead, order Enbridge to replace line 9B with a new pipe to be located away from high consequence areas. Waterloo resident Louisette Lanteigne, who participated in both Line 9 phase 1 and Line 9B NEB hearings, secured documents using Freedom of Information that shows how NEB Hearing Manager for Oil Pipeline Applications told colleagues: "Having only final oral argument and no cross examination worked well in this case, due to the highly technical issues regarding engineering and integrity." Lanteigne states: "Enbridge builds, manages and maintains pipelines. To exclude cross examination on technical merits, engineering or structural integrity basically means we can't cross examine Enbridge at all. That's unreasonable and illogical and in my view, illegal."

Over the last two months in Quebec, an increasing number of municipalities along the pipeline have adopted resolutions asking the NEB to use its regulatory authority to force Enbridge to carry out hydrostatic tests on the entire pipeline. "Les Citoyens au Courant" wants Denis Coderre and the CMM to bring this regional municipal movement to a new level. "Mayor Coderre has proven himself to be a vocal champion of public safety with regards to this pipeline. Clearly, the NEB listens to Mayor Coderre and he has the political clout to bring this safety issue to the fore" says Lorraine Caron from Saint-Lazare Quebec, and member of "Les Citoyens au Courant". "Our drinking water is at risk, it's as simple as that", adds Caron.