

**Enbridge Pipeline 9B:
Greater Montreal asks the National Energy Board to require hydrostatic tests immediately**

Montreal, May 4th 2015 - Citizen group *Les Citoyens au Courant* from Vaudreuil-Soulanges Quebec applauds the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) for its resolution asking the National Energy Board (NEB) to order hydrostatic tests on Enbridge pipeline 9B immediately. Spokesperson for *Les Citoyens au Courant* Lorraine Caron says “we would like to thank the CMM, and its President Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, as well as the numerous other elected bodies, that have listened to the concerns of the public, and acted swiftly on this safety issue by adopting similar resolutions and forwarding them to the NEB”.

As a result, discussions including hydrostatic tests are now taking place between engineers and other experts from the NEB and from the CMM’s *Comité de Vigilance*, to determine the best way of ensuring the pipeline reversal project is safe before it goes into operation. These technical discussions should have taken place during the 2013 public hearings into the Enbridge 9B project, but were shut down by the NEB because of legislative changes introduced by the Harper government in 2012.

“We have been convinced by industry experts, including Richard Kuprewicz, US expert on pipeline safety, that hydrostatic testing is the only way to guarantee the 639km pipeline can withstand the pressure it will be subjected to, and the only way to find pinhole leaks and some types of stress corrosion cracking that could lead to rupture” says Katherine Massam of *Les Citoyens au Courant*.

“Our municipal officials have done their job by asking for these tests. Now we are expecting the Quebec government to do the same, by following the recommendations that the CAPERN made in December 2013, especially the one that pertains to carrying out hydrostatic tests to verify the integrity of the pipeline” adds Caron. The Quebec government promised to pursue the 18 recommendations made by this cross-party parliamentary Commission, and established the *Unité de vigilance permanente sur les hydrocarbures* whose first mandate is to follow up on these recommendations. According to Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Pierre Arcand on 22 April, the *Unité de vigilance* had its first meeting in October 2014 and its report on Enbridge 9B is due June 12 2015.

MNAs Bernard Drainville and Amir Khadir reminded the Quebec government of its responsibility in two motions presented to the Quebec National Assembly on 24 and 25 February of this year. These motions, adopted unanimously, reiterate that the recommendations made by the CAPERN should be respected and that a report should be published before the end of the current legislative session.

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SOURCE: Les Citoyens au Courant

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