



At a regular meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Stanstead Township held on the tenth (10th) day of November in the year town thousand twenty-five (2025), at the usual time and place of meetings.

Present: Ms. Johanne Fradette, Ms. Marie-Josée Filteau, Ms. Thérèse McCutcheon, Mr. Mario Cantin, Mr. Andrew Phaneuf and Mr. Brian Wharry.

All forming a quorum, under the chairmanship of Mayor Jean-Pierre Berger.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 25-11-116

8.5 PROTECTION OF LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG FROM LEACHATE ORIGINATING FROM THE COVENTRY, VERMONT LANDFILL

WHEREAS Lake Memphremagog is a natural and cultural jewel of the Eastern Townships, shared between Canada and the United States, and plays a fundamental environmental, cultural, economic, and social role for the surrounding communities;

WHEREAS this lake is a source of drinking water for more than 185,000 Canadians;

WHEREAS the municipalities of Sherbrooke, Magog, Potton, and Saint-Benoît-du-Lac draw their drinking water from Lake Memphremagog, and the municipalities of Austin, the Township of Stanstead, and Ogden are in its immediate vicinity;

WHEREAS the only landfill site in the State of Vermont is located at the head of Lake Memphremagog, in the town of Coventry, and the lake flows from south to north, from the United States into Canada;

WHEREAS this landfill generates significant amounts of leachate, containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS or "forever chemicals") and other toxic and hazardous pollutants;

WHEREAS the discharge of this leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed has been prohibited since November 1, 2019, thanks in particular to the sustained efforts of the organizations Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity (DUMP) and Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI);

WHEREAS the Memphrémagog RCM, as well as the Cities of Magog and Sherbrooke, formally opposed, as early as 2004, the treatment of Coventry's leachate at the Newport municipal wastewater treatment plant, and this opposition remains fully justified;

WHEREAS these same municipalities and the Memphrémagog RCM were successful in achieving an initial moratorium banning the treatment of leachate at the Newport wastewater treatment facility from 2004 to 2009;

WHEREAS action by representatives from the Memphrémagog RCM, the municipalities of Sherbrooke, Magog, and other lakeside communities, along with numerous environmental organizations, led to the permanent closure in 2010 of the Bestan landfill operated by Waste Management in Magog, explicitly aiming to protect Lake Memphremagog from a known source of pollution;

WHEREAS the National Assembly of Québec unanimously adopted, on June 3rd, 2021, a motion calling for the permanent ban of leachate discharge into the Lake Memphremagog watershed;

Resolution number 25-11-116

WHEREAS the Canadian Consulate General wrote to Governor Scott in April 2024 “to express Canada's concern about the application from Casella Waste Systems to amend its discharge leachate pretreatment permit for the Coventry landfill, particularly the proposal to attempt to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from leachate, (then) injecting (residuals) into concrete blocks and then burying them at Coventry landfill.

WHEREAS the Boundary Waters treaty of 1909, Article IV “It is further agreed that the waters herein defined as boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other.”

WHEREAS Health Canada issued drinking water quality guidelines for PFAS substances in August 2024;

WHEREAS the State of Vermont adopted in May 2024 the Environmental Justice Act (S.259), which recognizes the importance of marginalized populations in environmental decision-making, and that the population living within the Lake Memphremagog watershed represents 6% of Vermont’s total population;

WHEREAS despite the current moratorium, leachate could once again be discharged into the Lake Memphremagog watershed at the end of this period if the technology implemented by the landfill operator is effective in achieving Vermont’s regulatory standards;

WHEREAS treating leachate within the Lake Memphremagog watershed raises serious environmental, health, and ethical concerns, particularly as it could facilitate a new expansion of the Coventry landfill, increase the risk that treated leachate may again be discharged into the watershed, and raise the possibility that leachate from other landfills could also be treated on site;

WHEREAS the discharge of leachate, treated or not , into the Lake Memphremagog watershed poses a serious risk to public health, notably due to the persistent presence of toxic and hazardous pollutants such as arsenic, cadmium, and PFAS, a large family of thousands of chemical substances, many of which are recognized as endocrine disruptors, bio accumulative, toxic to reproduction, and proven or suspected carcinogens;

WHEREAS testing conducted in Lake Memphremagog has already revealed PFAS contamination in four species of fish in exceedance of EPA guidelines for consumption; and of PFOS in surface waters approaching the MCL of 4ppt.

WHEREAS numerous scientific studies have demonstrated that landfill leachate contains high concentrations of heavy metals, PFAS, volatile organic compounds, and other emerging contaminants that are not fully removed by conventional wastewater treatment processes, making their release into a drinking water source unacceptable;

WHEREAS elected officials on both sides of the border share a moral duty of mutual respect and shared responsibility in preserving the Lake Memphremagog watershed;

THEREFORE, it is moved by Thérèse McChutcheon and unanimously resolved:

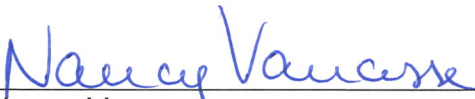
1. **THAT** the Township of Stanstead formally and permanently opposes the treatment of leachate from the Coventry landfill at the Newport municipal wastewater treatment facility or at any other existing or future location within the Lake Memphremagog watershed;
2. **THAT** the Township of Stanstead invites the elected officials of the City of Newport to act in solidarity with Canadian lakeside communities by refusing to receive these wastewater discharges, whether treated or not;
3. **THAT** the Township of Stanstead reiterates its commitment to protecting Lake Memphremagog, its ecosystems, and its water quality, in accordance with the precautionary principle;

Resolution number 25-11-116

4. **THAT** a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The members of the City Council of Newport, Vermont; Mr. Rick Ufford-Chase, Mayor and all council members, 222, Main Street, Newport, Vt 05855 Rick.UffordChase@newportvermont.org
- The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources; c/o Mrs. Julie More, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3901
- Honorable Governor of Vermont, Mr. Phil Scott, Pavilion Building, 209 State Street, Montpelier, Vt. 05609;
- The Québec-Vermont Steering Committee on the “Cooperation Agreement on Environmental Management of Lake Memphremagog and its Watershed”; c/o Mrs. Ariane Orjikh, General Manager, 51, Cabana, Magog (Québec) J1X 2C4
- The Memphrémagog RCM; Mr. Dominick Faucher, Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, 455, rue MacDonald, bureau 200, Magog (Québec) J1X 1M2, d.faucher@mrcmemphremagog.com
- Québec’s Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks; Mr. Bernard Drainville, Ministre de l’Environnement, de la Lutte Contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parc, 674, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 30^e, Étage, Québec, (Québec) G1R 5V7 ministre@environnement.gouv.qc.ca
- The Member of the National Assembly for the riding of Orford; Mr. Gilles Bélanger Orford County Deputy, 2389, rue Principale Ouest, Suite 100, MGOG (Québec) J1X 0J4 Gilles.Belanger.ORFO@assnat.qc.ca
- The federal Members of Parliament for the ridings of Brome-Missisquoi, Sherbrooke, and Compton-Stanstead;
 - The Honorable Mr. Louis Villeneuve, Riding of Brome-Missisquoi louis.villeneuve@parl.gc.ca
 - The Honorable Mrs. Élisabeth Brière, Riding of Sherbrooke, M20 2640, rue King Ouest, Sherbrooke, (Québec) J1J 2C3 Elisabeth.Briere@parl.gc.ca
- The organizations:
 - Casella, 21 Landfill Lane, Coventry, Vt 05825
 - MCI, c/o Mrs. Ariane Orjikh, General Manager, 51, Cabana, Magog (Québec) J1X 2C4

I, the undersigned Nancy Vanasse, Acting Director General and Clerk Treasurer, of the Township of Stanstead hereby certify that the above extract is true.



Nancy Vanasse
Acting Director General and Clerk Treasurer
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Canton de Stanstead, QC
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