

To:

- Brian Davidson <brian.davidson@belham.ca>;
- Fédération des Lacs de Val-des-Monts

Hello and thank you for your request. Attached below (*in italics*) is my response to the Federation of Lakes' questions submitted on October 6, 2021. I thank everyone for your consideration and support at the upcoming municipal elections!

Bonjour et merci pour votre demande. Vous trouverez ci-joint (*en italique*) ma réponse aux questions de la Fédération des lacs soumises le 6 octobre 2021. Je vous remercie pour votre considération et votre soutien lors des prochaines élections municipales!

QUESTION 1

In 2019, the Municipality added a professional biologist to its staff. At the time, the mayor stated that the biologist would carry out all of the tasks and provide the services previously provided by the biologist working for the Federation des Lacs.

- Do you support this statement made by the mayor at that time?
- Will you act to specifically include of all of these activities in the Val-des-Monts biologist's responsibilities?

Regarding the contract for the staffing of a biologist at the municipality of Val-des-Monts, all previous documentation regarding funding and task allocations will first have to be reviewed in order to provide an adequate response to this question. However, if there is an evident requirement to hire a biologist, I would surely support this along with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the incumbent. This would likely be addressed through consultation with the Federation of Lakes and endorsed by the counsellors and mayor.

QUESTION 2

Invasive species in lakes are often introduced into lakes by boats carrying organisms from other lakes. The Municipality has initiated a program to provide boat washing facilities, but the program is progressing too slowly and is of too small a scale to make a useful impact. Will you support:

- Faster completion of the of the current boat washing program
- Expansion of the program to include all Val-des-Monts lakes
- Implementation of regulations to require washing of boats entering lakes

My intent is to fully support and promote much needed bylaws, services and programs aimed at the protection and conservation of wetlands and bodies of water throughout the municipality, especially areas accessed by the general public. The municipality must adhere to current provincial and federal laws, some of which have been ignored for too long (see list of statutes and regulations <https://www.quebec.ca/en/government/ministere/environnement/statutes-and-regulations>

regulations). Numerous municipalities in Quebec have already implemented boat washing facilities (see links below). Another concern is ensuring the safety and security of residents and lakefront property owners since bylaws are rarely, if ever, adequately enforced. New bylaws are needed while those currently in force would be subject to review.

<https://saint-hippolyte.ca/services-aux-citoyens/loisirs-plein-air/debarcadere-vignettes-et-bateau/#1588087912071-e6df55ff-e9ff>

[http://www.messines.ca/images/reglements municipaux/Reglement 2018-347 lavage bateau.pdf](http://www.messines.ca/images/reglements_municipaux/Reglement_2018-347_lavage_bateau.pdf)

<https://www.municipalite.laminerve.qc.ca/lavage-des-embarcations-et-obtention-de-vignettes/>

<http://www.municipalitenominingue.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/brochure-lavage-bateau-2017.pdf>

<https://municipalite.amherst.qc.ca/lavage-de-bateaux/>

<https://www.ivry-sur-le-lac.qc.ca/2021-05-17-fermeture-du-debarcadere-et-de-la-station-de-lavage-municipal-le-19-mai-2021/>

<https://rappel.qc.ca/guides-didactiques/guide-station-lavage/>

<https://wentworth-nord.ca/citoyen/environnement/lavage-des-embarcations/>

QUESTION 3

The Municipality has existing regulations that protect against damage to shorelines. The regulations are limited to activity on the land and are often unenforced. Damage to shorelines is also caused by activity on the water.

- Do you support increased enforcement of existing regulations to protect shorelines?
- Will you support the Municipality's involvement in the VORR program of Transport Canada to enable regulation of activities on the water?
- Will you support the use of the VORR to regulate activities that cause shoreline damage from the water?

As mentioned previously, existing regulations must be reviewed and amended, in addition to new bylaws drafted and implemented. For example, the severe erosion at the North end of Écluse lake is quite extensive, dangerous and poses risks to the adequate circulation of road traffic, emergency vehicles, pedestrians and especially aquatic life! This is unacceptable. How does the municipality intend to remediate this problem?

The way municipal bylaws are currently enforced should also be addressed.

Restrictions and limitations on lakes is imperative, especially to control noise levels, types of boats and engines, speed and other damaging activities that negatively impact the environment, flora and fauna. I would vehemently endorse requests to Transport Canada's VORR program. See attached VORR Local Authorities'

Guide: https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/migrated/local_authorities_guide_english_accessible_pdf.pdf

QUESTION 4

Please tell us how you will balance development with protection of the water quality and other aspects of the natural environment of Val des Monts lakes. Will you oppose development proposals that are a threat to water quality or the natural environment of lakes?

A Water Protection Plan, Lakeshore Capacity Assessment and designation of protected areas are needed before any development near or on a body of water is sought. As an avid environmentalist, I would fight for the protection and conservation of fragile ecosystems, unique habitats, old growth forests and everything related to water. A Standing Committee on Environmental Protection and Watershed Management should be created to address these and other concerns. (see references below)

The public consultation that was recently held in September 2021 regarding the municipality's urban-development draft plan and by-laws must be reviewed again to address concerns related to environmental management and land use. Specific public bodies were omitted from providing their input (perhaps they weren't invited to consult?), while many residents and stakeholders were unaware of the consultation process until it was too late. Regardless, the municipality did stipulate that it will be announcing a new public consultation in 2022.

<https://www.val-des-monts.net/en/59-public-consultation-review-of-the-urban-development-plan-and-by-laws>

Recommended references (provided as examples):

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/lakeshore-capacity-assessment-handbook-protecting-water-quality-inland-lakes>

<https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/water/protectedwaterarea.asp>

<https://www.kawarthaconservation.com/en/resources/Shoreline-Planning-and-Policy-in-the-City-of-Kawartha-Lakes---Comparison-of-municipal-land-use-policies-2020.pdf>

<https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/council-and-committee-meetings/council-and-standing-committees#standing-committee-environmental-protection-water-and-waste-management>

QUESTION 5

Will you support mail voting by non-resident voters for all future municipal elections?

Mail voting is certainly encouraged, since many property owners do not reside in the municipality on a full-time basis. This method greatly assists people to vote remotely without the need to be physically present at a voting booth location in Val-des-Monts. I will surely endorse online or mail voting for future municipal elections!

Je vous remercie pour votre intérêt!

THANK YOU. MERCI!

*P Thanase, candidate for counsellor, district 5
candidate pour conseillère, district 5*