

November the 2nd, 2006

**Conservation plan for the Guernesé Lake Foothills
and Brador Hills Biodiversity Reserves
(Lower North Shore)**

I am the mayor of the Municipality of St-Augustin located on the Lower North Shore in Quebec. I have been the mayor for a period of 10 years, resided in this community my entire life and have a decent knowledge of the territory I am serving. These are the reasons why I feel strongly concern about the forgoing project.

1. I take great pride in any protection of our fragile territory. I believe we are responsible to insure to our future generations to have an untouched territory by anything except the wildlife.

I am a person who has visited, on many occasions, every square inch of the territory in question and I have always held a positive attitude of its future potentials. Having said this, even though I am, in every way, agreeing with the great intentions of preserving and protecting this great land, I am asking, To Whom It May Concern, to take the following suggestions into consideration:

1. Being that the boundaries of the territory of the Municipality of St-Augustin may change in a near future, it would create an impact on our community. Per example;
 - a. The agreement between the Quebec Government and the Innus may have a jurisdiction over certain parts of land located on the doorsteps of our village. The territory, measured in kilometres at this time, is managed in harmony and good terms by the two communities; St-Augustin and Pakua Shipi. We want to keep the relation this way, even though we might loose some rights regarding the land accessibility for which we, today, take for granted.
2. The communities included in the North-Shore region, more specifically the Lower North Shore, are very fragile economically since the moratorium on the fisheries was attributed. This situation was and still is devastating the coastal local economy.
3. If we close down the North of our community too quickly, without giving us a reasonable delay, it would put in jeopardy any future development. This would be another negative factor for us to be able to diversify our economy which also ends to increasing our population exodus along with culture and heritage.

In closing, I plea To Whom It May Concern, to push back the decision of delimitating the area in question; North of St-Augustin, to become a biodiversity territory for at least 5 to 7 years. Also, I request To Whom It May Concern, to reopen the territory for exploration, which was closed down since 2003 without informing our region.

With the closure of coastal area,
With the land claims agreement not being finalized,
With the restrictions on the proposed biodiversity reserve;
Any future development is very uncertain.

Our coastal region is limited to 4 areas of development:

- Mining,
- Hydro-electric power,
- Forestry,
- Tourism.

Our territory, which is open today to all Quebecers, may very well, tomorrow, be closed to its residing citizens. Please do not restrict lands in the short term, which may have potential to future stabilization of our population.

Thank you for listening,

Camil Fequet
Mayor of the Municipality of St-Augustin