

Financial Assistance Policy for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watercourses in the Outaouais Region 2009-2012

(CALL FOR PROJECTS 2011-2012)

PARTICULARITIES

CONTEXT

The *Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais (CRÉO)* is used to provide financial assistance to projects related to the protection of regional lakes and watercourses. Therefore, rules are established to clarify and regulate the financial assistance provided thru the "*Fonds de Développement Régional (FDR)*".

While respecting the mandate of the FDR established by the Quebec Government, the CRÉO's Board of Directors has, over the years, stated certain rules:

- The FDR has a purpose to provide financial assistance to regional structuring development projects that are in line with the strategic orientations included in the *Regional Strategic Planning for the period 2007-2012 (PSR 2007-2012)*;
- The FDR may provide financial assistance to help starting initiatives (projects) that will obtain a sustainable source of financing from government bodies, regional partners or other in regards of the *Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watercourses*;
- The FDR financial assistance has to be punctual, temporal and regressive to preserve the ability of the CRÉO to invest in regional development challenges to come;
- The FDR does not aim at providing financial assistance to a project on a recurrent (year after year) basis. So, the period to which a project will receive a financial assistance has to be known upfront, as well as the results expected by it.
- The FDR must not substitute any existing financial assistance programs. Also, the financial assistance provided by the FDR has to be justified and complementary to other sources of financing.

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVES FOR PROTECTING LAKES AND WATERCOURCES

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY – 2010-2011 PRIORITIES

For the **2011-2012 period**, the FDR may provide financial assistance to projects that are in line with the following priorities:

Territorial planning, mainly:

- Characterization and carrying capacity of water bodies;
- Sustainable development of resorts areas;
- Inspection and improvement of septic systems from isolated dwellings;
- Implementation of director plans of water

Regional promotion of good public practices and awareness, mainly :

- Information, promotion and sensitization tools/activities aiming at improving the awareness of citizens;

Education, consultation and regional mobilization activities, mainly:

- Support with the voluntary lake associations network;
- Implementation of a regional voluntary lakes inspection network.

RESERVED BUDGET 2009-2012

CRÉO	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	TOTAL
FDR	100 000 \$	80 000 \$	60 000 \$	240 000 \$

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

To be eligible, a project must meet the required criteria of the FDR, be innovating and be in line with the priorities of the CRÉO. Also, the project has to be in line with the strategic orientations of the *Regional Strategic Planning for the period 2007-2012 (PSR 2007-2012)*, create a structuring impact on the development of the Outaouais region, and contribute to the implementation of the actions described in the *Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watercourses 2009-2012*.

STANDARD FRAMEWORK

Eligible organizations:

- Incorporated and non-profit organization;

Eligibility requirements:

- The approved financial assistance cannot be used to pay off the debts of the promoter, to reimburse future loans or to finance an already completed project;
- A minimal 20% contribution of the total cost of the project is required from the promoter, including contribution in resources;
- The concurrent amount of financial assistance from the Quebec and Canadian Governments cannot exceed 80% of the total amount of the project;
- The financial contribution from the CRÉO will supplement the contribution of other contributors, and the CRÉO will not be the main creditor for the implementation of the project;
- The financial and resource contributions from partners (e.g. MRC, municipalities, CLD, Lake Association/Federation) must be significant, equal or superior to the contribution of the CRÉO in the implementation of the project;
- The financial participation of the CRÉO is temporal and regressive;
- Exceptionally, the CRÉO may be the promoter of a regional structuring project.

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA:

The project is in line with the **strategic orientations of the PSR 2007-2012**

- The project is contributing to attain the development goals of the PSR 2007-2012 by its impact on the protection of the environment and on territorial planning;
- The project is within the area, stakes and orientations of the PSR 2007-2012;
- The project has a significant structural impact on the development of the Outaouais Region.

The project is in line with the **Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watercourses in the Outaouais Region 2009-2012**.

The project creates public awareness:

- The project promotes dialogue between regional and local actors, is mobilizing, is supported by the concerned stakeholders, and its impacts exceeds the boundaries of a single MRC or the City of Gatineau (e.g. at a scale of a watershed);
- All the concerned stakeholders are fully supporting and participating to the project, no matter their respective activities or territories

The project has a **regional impact and is structuring:**

- The implementation of the project creates positive and measurable results at the regional or watershed scale (e.g. towards all the MRCs concerned), in regards of all the aspects of the project: the promotion, the tools, the activities, the awareness, the cooperation...;
- The project is pioneering and unique, nothing like it has already been done on a regional or watershed scale (concerning more than one MRC / City of Gatineau);
- The project respect the principles and the spirit of the sustainable development;
- The project is aiming at being financially self-supporting.

The project has a **territorial implication and is structuring:**

- The implementation of the project creates positive and measurable results at a MRC (City of Gatineau) or watershed scale, in regards of all the aspects of the project: the promotion, the tools, the activities, the awareness, the cooperation...;
- The implementation of the project allows the acquisition of knowledge, the development of know-how, and the transfer of expertise by local partners (MRC, municipalities);
- The project is pioneering and unique, nothing like it has already been done on a local or territorial scale (MRC, municipalities);
- The project respect the principles and the spirit of the sustainable development;
- The project is aiming at being financially self-supporting.

FINANCING APPLICATION:

The application for financing must contain the following information :

1. Project title;
2. Field of intervention;
3. Territory: watershed / MRC;
4. Information on the promoter (name of organization, address, telephone, fax, e-mail, project coordinator and function)
5. Legal entity of organization and incorporation date;
6. Context, problematic, challenges related to the project;
7. Project description: objectives / results to be attained, specified activities / timelines, managing team, and associated partners;
8. Links with the Regional Action Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watercourses and with the priority fields of the CRÉO;
9. Links with the Regional Strategic Planning (PSR 2007-2012) ;
10. Implementation deadlines;
11. Targeted groups, main beneficiaries;
12. Social, environmental and economical impacts expected by the project at a local, territorial, regional and watershed scale. Number jobs created, if any;
13. Proposed method for monitoring the project;
14. Financial aspects: implementation costs, financing (total costs must equal total financing):
 - Promoter's own contribution (financial, other);
 - Partners' contribution (financial, other);
 - MRC and municipal contribution (financial, other)
 - Federal and provincial governmental contribution (financial, other);
 - Other contribution (financial, other);
15. Detailed account of the costs related to the project;
16. Supporting letters from interested stakeholders (MRC, City of Gatineau, municipalities, other partners).

LETTER OF INTENT OF THE PROMOTER

The letter of intent must indicate the nature of the suggested activities, an estimate of the costs of realization and amount of subsidy which will be asked.

DEADLINE

The projects and letters of intent will have to be conveyed to the CRÉO, by **Friday April 22nd, 2011**.