

Statement

GREENPEACE

Dumping of raw sewage in the St. Lawrence River by the city of Montreal: Greenpeace demands a clear explanation

7 October 2015 (Montreal) – Following the city of Montreal’s announcement that it will proceed with dumping of raw sewage into the St. Lawrence River, and Mayor Denis Coderre’s confirmation of the plan in which he explains that all alternatives have already been examined, Greenpeace Canada has issued the following statement:

“The lack of transparency on the part of the city of Montreal is deplorable and we are asking for a moratorium while the city provides a clear explanation to the public and undertakes a study of all possible alternatives. Sewage dumping or not, the city’s deficient wastewater management system results in water-quality issues year-round. Greenpeace is also in favour of fast-tracking the implementation of tertiary wastewater treatment using ozone before 2018, an essential step to properly disinfect this water.

“As for the response from Environment Canada, there is every reason to think this is electoral posturing. After all, it is this same Conservative government that largely dismantled legislation that protected more than 99% of Canada’s lakes and rivers. It is this same government that has just approved the Enbridge Line 9B reversal. That pipeline will soon start carrying close to 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day, and it crosses one of the main tributaries of the St. Lawrence. This poses a significant long-term risk to water quality and the health of the river.”

- 30 -

For more information:

Press Release from the Conseil Régional de l’Environnement de Montréal (French only)

<http://www.cremtl.qc.ca/communiqués/2015/deversement-deaux-usees-fleuve-saint-laurent-lindignation-citoyenne-est-legitime>