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## **VICTORY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS : TRANSCANADA SUSPENDS PROPOSED DRILLING AT CACOUNA, QUÉBEC**

**Montreal, May 23 2014** – The legal proceedings undertaken by environmental groups to stop proposed drilling by TransCanada within the heart of St. Lawrence beluga habitat were successful on many fronts, this morning at the Montreal courthouse.

TransCanada committed, before the Québec Superior Court, to suspend drilling planned in the upcoming days until it has received the necessary authorizations from Québec. Prior to the filing of the injunction by environmental groups, TransCanada had announced the imminent start of drilling operations – yet at the eve of the hearings the company filed authorization requests with the Québec government under the *Environmental Quality Act* and the *Act Respecting the Conservation and Development of Wildlife*.

Moreover, the Québec Attorney General supported the environmental groups' position that Québec environmental laws do apply to the project. According to the groups' attorney, Mr. Michel Bélanger : “There is a paradox whereby TransCanada is asking for a permit from Québec while at the same time continuing to state that Québec doesn't have jurisdiction over this project. Clearly, this case will be back before the courts”.

The proceedings undertaken by the environmental groups also had the effect of releasing several documents on the proposed drilling which TransCanada had refused to make public and which had been called for by scientists, journalists, and environmental organizations. The legal proceedings were initiated by the Quebec Environment Law Centret (QELC), the David Suzuki Foundation, Nature Québec, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), and private citizen France Dionne.

— 30 —

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