

PRESS RELEASE
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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PETITIONING COURT TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF BELUGAS IN CACOUNA

Montreal, May 16th, 2014 - The Quebec Environmental Law Centre (QELC), the David Suzuki Foundation, Nature Québec, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and citizen France Dionne today filed a motion in Superior court of Quebec in order to stop drilling works which are planned by TransCanada in the heart of a beluga nursery in the St-Lawrence.

The St-Lawrence belugas are protected under provincial and federal law and these works are being undertaken whilst the official authorization request for the Energy East Project has yet to be filed. According to the petitioners, the required authorizations have not been issued.

Whilst not a party to this litigation, World Wildlife Fund Canada supports it since the important and harmful impacts these works will have on this species in decline: “If the contemplated drilling works are undertaken, the already threatened St-Lawrence belugas risk suffering irreparable damages” declared Marie-Claude Lemieux, WWF-Canada’s director for Quebec.

The petitioners’ request for an injunction will be heard on May 23rd, at the Montreal courthouse. If it is issued, the interlocutory injunction will stop the contemplated drilling works as long as the company hasn’t obtained the required authorizations under the Quebec Environmental Quality Act and the federal Species at Risk Act.

The petitioning organizations will not be commenting the legal action until the court has issued its decision on the injunction.

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To see the petition online (in french) : <http://bit.ly/1lrs5Jm>