



PRESS RELEASE
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Strategic assessment of climate change: the CQDE calls for the introduction of a real climate test

MONTREAL, July 17, 2020 – The Quebec Environmental Law Centre (CQDE) has read the final version of the strategic assessment of climate change published yesterday by Environment and Climate Change Canada and deplores the lack of a real climate test.

The CQDE welcomes the fact that from now on any project submitted to an impact assessment will be evaluated based on its greenhouse gas emissions and also notes certain improvements made to previous versions. However, the organization regrets that there are certain significant deficiencies in the requirements that have been put in place. For example, the methodology does not specify how federal authorities will ensure that all projects reviewed enable the Canadian government to meet its climate obligations and its commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

It should be noted that the strategic assessment of climate change stems from the requirement to assess projects based on their effects on fulfilling Canada's international environmental and climate change commitments, as stipulated by the Impact Assessment Act. The strategic evaluation of climate change is critical since it determines how greenhouse gas emissions will be taken into account in impact assessments conducted by federal authorities.

“The implementation of a robust and comprehensive climate test is essential to enable the government to follow up on greenhouse gas emissions stemming from projects assessed. The strategic assessment of climate change should be aligned with other tools, in particular carbon budgets, to monitor emissions in the short and medium term,” says Geneviève Paul, Executive Director of the CQDE.

“It’s unrealistic to strive for carbon neutrality by 2050 if we don’t give ourselves some real means of doing so immediately,” adds Ms. Paul.

Source: [Quebec Environmental Law Centre \(CQDE\)](#)
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About CQDE:

The [Centre québécois du droit de l'environnement](#) (Quebec Environmental Law Centre), Quebec's only environmental law charity, offers independent legal expertise and education tools to citizens and law students, contributes to the development of robust and effective environmental laws and uses the law to protect the environment and citizens' rights to access justice.