



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

## **VICTORY for the Western chorus frog: the end of a legal saga**

The Supreme Court of Canada announced it would not hear the case of the developer who contested the ruling of the Federal Court of Appeal on the constitutionality of the emergency order that protects the western chorus frog. The Quebec Environmental Law Center (CQDE) welcomes this major decision for the protection of species at risk.

Since 2013, the CQDE has increased actions to protect the smallest and most threatened species of frog in Quebec. Today's ruling by Supreme Court ends a seven-year saga with good news and sends a positive signal for the protection of species at risk in the country.

"The fact that the Supreme Court refused to hear the developer's appeal is a relief and a major legal victory. With the validity of the emergency order acknowledged, the Government of Quebec is reminded to increase its efforts to ensure that species at risk are protected in the province. This also reminds all the stakeholders that we need to ensure these species are protected before initiating a new development project," said Geneviève Paul, CQDE's Executive Director.



## **Background:**

Living and breeding in wetlands, the Western chorus frog is particularly threatened by urban sprawl and has lost 90% of its range in the Montérégie region in recent decades. The town of La Prairie and a private developer have refused to suspend work on a housing project that would destroy part of the western chorus frog's suitable habitat. In response, the CQDE and its partners have been intensifying their efforts since 2013 to protect the frog and act as a guardian of environmental laws.

In June of 2016, after more than three years of legal proceedings, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change issued the first ever emergency decree on private land under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) to protect critical habitat of Western chorus frog in the greater La Prairie region of Quebec. This was the first order to target habitat on private property and that was designed to protect critical habitat for the western chorus frog. The developer challenged the constitutionality of this order and the legislation that allowed it.

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

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## **About the 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.