

Press release

For immediate release

Wednesday July 21, 2021

## **Énergie Saguenay: CQDE welcomes Quebec's decision to reject the project**

**Montreal** – The CQDE welcomes today's decision of the Quebec Government to reject GNL Quebec's Énergie Saguenay project. This announcement marks a significant victory for the protection of the environment and for the tens of thousands of citizens who have expressed serious concerns about this project in recent years. A few weeks after the publication of the last report of the International Energy Agency, "Net Zero by 2050" which concludes that to hope to achieve carbon neutrality, exploitation and development of new oil and gas projects must stop this year, the CQDE urges the provincial and federal governments to accelerate the green, fair and sustainable transition by ensuring that it is inclusive, notably for the regions.

The CQDE notes with satisfaction that the Council of Ministers based its decision in light of the *Environment Quality Act* and the need to accelerate the transition. In doing so, the government took into account the concerns raised by the CQDE and many groups as well as the conclusions of the report of the Bureau of Environmental Public Hearings (BAPE), in particular with regard to negative impacts the project could have on the climate and the protection of biodiversity. In its decision, the government also took into consideration the company's social licence to operate as one of the three conditions necessary to authorize the project. In the end, the government considered that this condition was not met. No less than three Innu communities, 54 student associations representing nearly 360,000 students, more than 648 scientists, including 250 doctors and health professionals, 40 economists, more than 60 civil society groups and all the opposition parties (representing 58% of voters) took a stand against the project, in addition to the 120,000 signatories of a petition refusing GNL/Gazoduc and the 2,500 briefs submitted to the BAPE (of which more than 90% were opposed to the project).

The CQDE believes that the position adopted by the government respects the precautionary principle enshrined in our environmental laws, including with regard to species at risk. The CQDE and its partners will continue to be vigilant in order to protect the right to a healthy environment.