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# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GORE

2022-2027

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**Canton de Gore**

*Gore... Un choix naturel !*

# DEVELOPMENT TEAM

**JULIE BOYER**

GENERAL DIRECTOR

**DOMINIQUE AUBRY**

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**MAY LANDRY**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE  
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# MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

**SCOTT PEARCE**

MAYOR

**DANIEL LEDUC**

SEAT 1

**SAKINA KHAN**

SEAT 2

**ALAIN GIROUX**

SEAT 3

**SHIRLEY ROY**

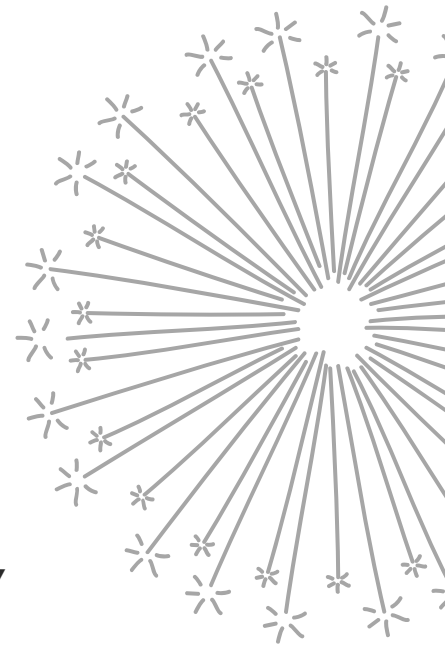
SEAT 4

**ANIK KOROSSEC**

SEAT 5

**ANSELMO MARANDOLA**

SEAT 6



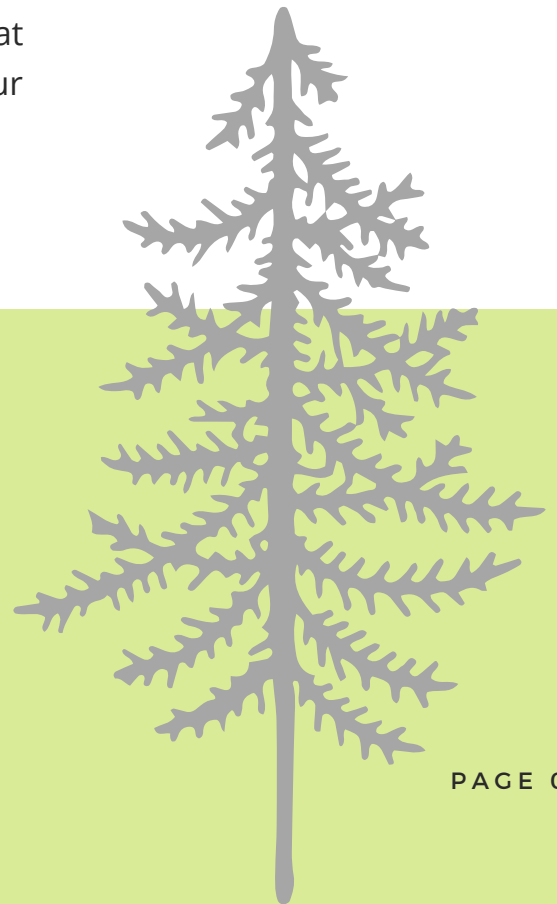
# WORD FROM THE MAYOR

Dear residents,

I am pleased to present you the updated version of our Environmental Policy 2022-2027. The first edition of this policy was adopted in 2013, so it was important to revise and adapt this document to the current challenges of our territory. The Environmental Policy is of fundamental importance, not only for the protection of the environment, but also to ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and the environmental cultural heritage. This new version emphasizes the commitment of citizens, local organizations and the Municipality to ensure the conservation of our natural environment and the species that inhabit it. We are extremely proud in Gore to have a population that is committed and aware of the issues we face. Our Environmental Policy is a reference document that shows us that the conservation and protection of our environment is a pillar of our community.



**SCOTT PEARCE**  
MAYOR



# PREFACE



Quebec's municipalities are key players in the Province's environmental conservation and green economy. The Municipality of the Township of Gore is an active participant in this vision and has a mission to preserve and develop its territory in a way that maintains its wilderness and ensures a superior quality of life for its citizens for future generations. Through its interventions in sustainable development, the Township of Gore seeks to protect the quality of the environment, preserve biodiversity, respect the ability of ecosystems to sustain themselves, and support the natural heritage. To achieve this, the Township of Gore relies on the participation and commitment of its citizens, the partnership and cooperation between stakeholders, and the sharing of knowledge. Together, we can focus on the social, economic and environmental development of our territory.

Constituted in 1840, the Township of Gore is considered a great place to establish a long-term residence. Its permanent population continues to grow, reaching 2283 permanent residents, while its seasonal population is estimated at over 3300.

The territory of the Municipality of Gore covers 93.86 km<sup>2</sup> of the Laurentian plateau and is located between the municipalities of Mille-Isles to the north, Wentworth to the west, Saint-Colomban to the east and Lachute to the south. With its irregular topography and numerous lakes and waterways, it possesses a natural beauty that favors the quality of life of its citizens. The varied topography and the rusticity zone 4 allows the discovery of a range of colorful and magnificent landscapes. Numerous lakes and rivers add an exceptional charm as they cover 595 hectares (6.2%) of the territory. The municipality is also crossed by Route 329 in a north-south axis.

Faced with the many social and environmental challenges of its territory, the Municipality of the Township of Gore will have, through this Environmental Policy, a strategic plan for the management of the main components of the natural and human environment that surrounds us. The implementation and maintenance of these targets is a formal commitment by the Municipality to respect its values and objectives and to remain a leader in the environmental field.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

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- 1-** Protect the integrity of the environment to ensure the quality, health, sustainability and safety of the environment for its citizens and the ecosystems that maintain life ;
- 2-** Ensure equity between individuals and generations through the development of a shared responsibility for the environment ;
- 3-** Strive for economic development based on sharing a sense of community throughout the territory, and the intelligent use of our resources ;
- 4-** Guide the modifications of our municipal By-laws to integrate the principles and values of sustainable development.

# MAIN INTERVENTION THEMES

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The Environmental Policy is made up of these 7 main areas of intervention, all of which have a common objective of conservation and protection of our environment. The plan of action will be elaborated in more details by means of different sub-points originating from the same theme.

- 1-** Air quality
- 2-** Water resources
- 3-** Natural environments and green spaces
- 4-** Waste management
- 5-** Urban planning
- 6-** Environmental nuisances
- 7-** Municipal management



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# AIR

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Air quality is a key factor in maintaining not only environmental health but also human health. Our natural habitats, such as wetlands and forests, help capture carbon (greenhouse gases), filter and purify water and air. In order to maintain excellent air quality, the Municipality is committed to targeting the following:

## **1. Improvement of air quality**

- A-** Protect the vegetation coverage of the Municipality by applying the regulations on tree cutting and the orientations of the Urban Plan (PU) in terms of deforested areas and natural ones ;
- B-** Maintaining the common ragweed monitoring and eradication program in collaboration with the Quebec Lung Association ;
- C-** Limit and control open fires, especially during periods of increased risk (SOPFEU) ;
- D-** Limit the creation of heat zones caused by deforestation and the waterproofing of soils, such as parking lots.

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## **2. Reduction of harmful human activities**

- A-** Incite local consumption, thereby reducing transportation distances for products and services, which directly affects greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions ;
- B-** Encourage the replacement of oil heating systems to follow the Quebec Government's Plan for a Green Economy 2030 ;
- C-** Develop and encourage active transportation (cyclists and pedestrians) and road sharing between users in collaboration with the Ministère des Transports du Québec (MTQ) ;
- D-** Support the electrification of transportation by making charging stations available to citizens. Where possible, transition to electric municipal vehicles.

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# WATER RESOURCES

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The Municipality of the Township of Gore recognizes that the lakes, streams, and wetlands on its territory are exceptional for its citizens. In addition to creating a multitude of beautiful landscapes, these environments contribute to the quality of life. Whether it is through drinking water, recreational activities or the scenery, the citizens have developed a strong sense of belonging to the various water sources. Therefore, the Municipality seeks to protect the quality of these environments for the benefit of the community and the environment.

## **1. Protecting the lakes, streams and wetlands**

- A-** Collaborate with the different lake associations and help them proceed to the water quality testing in collaboration with the Lake surveillance program (RSVL) of the Ministère de l'environnement ;
- B-** Conduct annual monitoring of shoreline compliance and provide guidance to homeowners wishing to replant and bring their shorelines up to standard;
- C-** Apply the provincial regulation regarding septic installations for isolated residences (Q-2, r.22), do an annual follow-up of the cleaning of septic installations and require the replacement of non-compliant systems ;
- D-** Encourage the use of biodegradable and phosphate free household products ;
- E-** Require the boats to be cleaned in order to obtain the annual navigation stickers for Barron Lake and make the other lake users aware of the importance of cleaning their boats ;
- F-** Carry out tests and analyses of surface waters on the territory on an annual basis. A report is produced and published at the end of each year on the Municipality's website ;
- G-** Monitor and educate the public about invasive exotic species.

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## **2. Responsible management and water protection**

- A-** Educate citizens on the importance of the protection of drinking water and groundwater;
- B-** Encourage different methods of rainwater harvesting such as rain barrels and tanks ;
- C-** Carefully manage runoff and maintain ditches using the lower third method to ensure public safety.

# LAKES AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Municipality of the Township of Gore is particularly well known for its hundreds of kilometers of streams and more than 300 lakes. In addition, numerous wetlands of various types also cover our territory. Taken as a whole, water environments provide a multitude of benefits and services to society, but above all, they have a great environmental value. To ensure the maintenance and protection of these hydric environments, the Municipality of the Township of Gore has integrated the Strategic Plan for the Protection of Lakes and Watersheds into its Environmental Policy. This strategy aims to achieve different objectives such as:



- A-** Control and monitor the presence of harmful bacteriological species in water bodies ;
- B-** Raising awareness about excessive nutrient inputs (phosphorus, nitrogen, etc.) ;
- C-** Reduce and control erosion and sediment transport to aquatic environments ;
- D-** Eliminate sources of chemical contamination (pesticides, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, etc.);
- E-** Slowing eutrophication and accelerated aging of lakes ;
- F-** Reduce and control anthropogenic pressures that threaten the integrity of water environments.

The objective of these different points is to protect water according to a watershed concept. This guides us towards a management and conservation mode that takes into account that all the rivers, lakes and wetlands of the same watershed are closely linked.

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# NATURAL AREAS AND GREEN SPACES

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The vast majority of the Municipality of the Township of Gore's territory is covered by forests and various wetlands. In addition to providing habitat for local flora and fauna, natural environments provide many benefits to the community. The multiple functions of ecosystems translate into goods and services for society. Their protection is therefore a priority to ensure the maintenance and sustainability of the environment.

## **1. Protection of natural areas**

- A-** Preserve the integrity of the natural environment on the territory of the Municipality ;
- B-** Promote green space connectivity and encourage residents to voluntarily preserve natural environments ;
- C-** Encourage cohabitation and supervised sustainable use of forestry areas ;
- D-** Preserve natural canopies and mature trees with high ecological value ;
- E-** Protect conservation corridors with important wildlife and plant species ;
- F-** Focus on communication with developers and project managers to ensure an environmentally conscious vision for new developments ;
- G-** Raise awareness about the protection of plant species that have an impact on biodiversity, such as milkweed (Monarch butterfly) and melliferous plants (bees).



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# WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The Municipality of the Township of Gore is aware of the efforts that must be made to reach the Provincial and Regional objectives related to the management of residual materials. Considering its responsibilities in this area, it is motivated by the idea of implementing innovative practices that integrate the principles of sustainable development.

## **1. Responsible management of residual matters**

- A-** Significantly reduce the amount of waste destined for disposal and landfill ;
- B-** Promote the principles of the 3RV: **R**eduction at source, **R**euse, **R**ecycle and **V**alorization of residual materials ;
- C-** Increase the efficiency of municipal recycling by educating the public on the importance of sorting materials at home ;
- D-** Encourage the use of the Ecocenter for the separation and management of residual materials that can be recycled or valorized ;
- E-** Inform and educate citizens about residential and municipal composting and develop local ideas and initiatives to promote the repurposing of organic material and the reduction of food waste.

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## **2. Meet and exceed the objectives of the Residual Materials Management Plan (RMMP)**

- A-** Achieve responsible waste management with a goal of no ultimate waste by 2025 ;
- B-** Implement the efficient collection of compost from ICIs in the Municipality in collaboration with Synergie Laurentides and the MRC d'Argenteuil (CPE and Community Center).

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## **3. Offer financial assistance to families and permanent residents**

- A-** Provide incentives of \$100 per family per child for the purchase of cloth diapers ;
- B-** Encourage the use of cloth diapers and reusable feminine hygiene products.

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# LAND AND URBAN PLANNING

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Residential development is spreading increasingly towards the rural regions of the Laurentians, and this influx towards our Municipality brings its constraints and challenges. The development of the region must not be done at the expense of the environment. This is why we wish to adopt an eco-responsible approach based on the conservation and protection of natural environments.

## ***1. Protection and promotion of good environmental practices***

- A-** Protect and maintain green corridors and conservation areas for species of special status or high environmental value ;
- B-** Encourage the development of pedestrian and non-motorized trails allowing access to nature for all ;
- C-** Support the elimination of fertilizer use and regulate the application of pesticides in accordance with municipal regulations.

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## ***2. Promote and encourage responsible residential development***

- A-** Support the use of eco-responsible materials with a traceable origin and aim to use local products and workers ;
- B-** Accompany developers and homeowners interested in obtaining LEED and PSI (Passive Solar Index) certifications for their buildings ;
- C-** Promote alternative energy methods such as passive solar power.

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## ***3. Provide access to water and natural environments for all***

- A-** Allow free access to municipal park spaces as well as discounted access to the Lac Beattie Regional Park for residents of the Municipality and the MRC d'Argenteuil ;
- B-** Address the issue of water privatization and provide access to water for citizens who do not own lakefront properties.

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## ***4. Adopt an environmental vision in the Urban Plan and in the development of the municipal local district***

- A-** Integrate a vision of protection and sustainable development in the Urban Plan and in the Specific Urban Planning Project with the aim of creating and enhancing the town's local centre.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCES

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The environment plays an important role in the quality of life of residents. Noise, light, visible nuisances and sanitation are among the problems of this area of intervention. The Municipality of the Township of Gore therefore assumes the responsibilities related to the state of the environment and nuisances for the benefit of its citizens.

## **1. Territorial cleanliness**

- A-** Application of the regulations in force and of the penalties applicable in cases of infractions ;
  - B-** Adopt regulatory changes as necessary to improve the condition of the environment ;
  - C-** Identify and reduce the impact of nuisances on the territory ;
  - D-** Focus on guidance and active participation of citizens in achieving results.
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## **2. Public security**

- A-** Maintain close collaboration with the Sûreté du Québec and the fire protection service to ensure the safety of citizens and limit health and security risks ;
  - B-** Conduct follow-ups and prevention visits to ensure fire safety and good practices to be applied in everyday life ;
  - C-** Raise awareness about the importance of annual chimney sweeping.
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## **3. Septic systems**

- A-** Supervise the replacement and upgrading of installations that are no longer compliant or functional ;
- B-** Closely monitor the frequency of emptying of septic systems and their maintenance contracts, if applicable ;
- C-** Investigate the possibility of reinstating the Eco-loan program, which provides financial assistance for the replacement of septic systems with contamination risk.

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# MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT

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Through its activities, the Municipality of the Township of Gore is concerned with protecting natural environments and ensuring their sustainability. We wish to go further by integrating, through our services, these different objectives with an innovative management approach.

## ***1.Sustainable practices of the Municipal administration***

- A-** Actively participate in the education and training of municipal employees, elected officials and other community stakeholders to ensure the application of the Environmental Policy and its foundations ;
- B-** Encourage the purchase of environmentally responsible and local products for and by the various departments of the municipal administration ;
- C-** Encourage the use of biodegradable products for the maintenance of municipal buildings ;
- D-** Focus on coaching and active participation of citizens in achieving results.

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## ***2.Application of the regulations and updating of these regulations according to the modifications of the Municipal and Provincial laws which are related to it.***

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## ***3.Promote the communication of environmental issues***

- A-** Establish an environmental education program and promote public awareness ;
- B-** To collaborate with the ICI of the territory in the achievement of the objectives of the Environmental Policy ;
- C-** Communicate regularly to citizens and other stakeholders on the environmental developments of the Municipality ;
- D-** Actively participate in consultations and the elaboration of new policies and laws in collaboration with the various organizations and actors in the domain.

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## ***4.Municipal Infrastructure Maintenance and Public Works***

- A-** Alternative solutions for the reduction of de-icing salts application (Eco-roads) ;
- B-** Late roadside mowing to protect milkweed as part of the Monarch Friendly City objectives.

# CONCLUSION

The Environmental Policy of the Municipality of the Township of Gore as well as the major objectives that appear in it respond to the constraints and concerns of the community in matters of the environment and sustainable development. This policy becomes the foundation of municipal actions. The Policy also demonstrates its commitment and its proactive and innovative nature.

This policy will make it possible to draw up a structured action plan for municipal environmental management for the years to come. The municipality will give itself the means and tools to support concrete actions that will allow it to directly meet the objectives of its Environmental Policy.

Aiming for a concerted and integrated management approach, the Municipality of the Township of Gore relies on and encourages the participation and commitment of residents and collaborators throughout the implementation of the Environmental Policy. In Gore, the choice to contribute to the responsible management and protection of the environment is a natural choice for everyone.





## Canton de Gore

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This Environmental Policy was first adopted by resolution of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the Township of Gore on March 4, 2013 ;

The revision of the Environmental Policy was adopted by resolution of the municipal council of the Municipality of the Township of Gore on the **Day-Month-Year**.