RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION NO.: **421-02043**

BY: **MR. BARSALOU-DUVAL (PIERRE-BOUCHER-LES PATRIOTES-VERCHÈRES)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 8, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE MARC GARNEAU**

Response by the Minister of Transport

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Boating

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Transport Canada closely monitors the issue of bank erosion with, among others, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Laurentian Pilotage Authority, as well as under the St. Lawrence Action Plan.

Bank erosion is also caused by several natural factors, including ice, wind waves, currents and floods. The type of soil of the banks is also a factor to consider.

Measures have been implemented to reduce the effect of vessels, including navigational warnings based on water levels, a voluntary speed reduction measure in four areas between Varennes and Île-des-Barques at the entrance of Lake Saint-Pierre and the continuous monitoring by Transport Canada, day and night, of the speed of the ships, an objective which is part of the Sustainable Navigation Strategy for the St. Lawrence. Although voluntary, the rate of compliance with the speed reduction measure is approximately 99%,

With the help of the St. Lawrence Action Plan a study was completed on the effect of waves produced by boats on shoreline erosion in the Montreal-Sorel section of the St. Lawrence River.

This led to a voluntary measure to reduce the speed of commercial vessels was put in place in the fall of 2000 by the marine industry to reduce the impact of waves on bank erosion.

There is still a need for surveillance to ensure the success of this measure and to document its effectiveness. The St. Lawrence Action Plan intends to continue the follow-up begun in the previous phases of the project.

The Community Interaction Funding Program, set up under the St. Lawrence Action Plan, contributes to projects that work to reduce bank erosion through revegetation and bank restoration.