

Mandate Reminder

In his letter mandating the BAPE to hold an investigation with a public hearing on final waste management, the Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change, Benoit Charette, specifically asked to determine:

- the current portrait of their elimination
- the portrait of anticipated disposal capacity for the next 20 years.

In order to inform government decision-making aimed at closing the gaps between anticipated disposal capacity and needs, the Minister also requested:

- the production of a stakeholder map integrating the roles and concerns of the various stakeholders (population, levels of government, private sector) regarding final waste management;
- an analysis of existing disposal or treatment methods as well as innovative technologies and mechanisms, particularly those used elsewhere in the world, which Québec could draw inspiration from to recover energy sources or materials while promoting circular economy principles and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- an evaluation of measures, solutions or requirements aimed at ensuring better final waste management, taking into account various regional contexts;
- determining the conditions conducive to the social acceptability of the various options analyzed, based on best practices.

"To make a good prognosis, you must establish a good diagnosis"

Joseph Zayed, Inquiry Commission Chairperson



Joseph Zayed
Inquiry Commission Chairperson

Doctorate in public health, environmental toxicology, Joseph Zayed was a full professor at the Université de Montréal where he also held the position of Director of Specialized Graduate Studies in Global Environmental Health and Environment, Health, and Disaster Management.



Pierre Renaud
Commissioner

A mechanical engineer by training, Pierre Renaud also has a master's degree in business administration from Université Laval. After a short period at Ateliers d'ingénierie Dominion, he then worked at the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, the Bureau de normalization du Québec and the Régie de l'énergie.

The Commission was able to count on the expertise of several analysts with skills in various fields including economics, biology, earth sciences and social sciences, as well as on the know-how of professionals in communications, law, information technology, coordination, and secretarial work.



INQUIRY AND PUBLIC HEARING MANDATE FROM MARCH 8, 2021, TO JANUARY 11, 2022

The BAPE report mission is to inform government decision-making.

9 question sessions to better understand



10 sessions to allow citizens to express themselves



6 sessions dedicated to Indigenous nations and communities



9 discussion and reflection workshops bringing together 29 national and international speakers attended by 233 people from 154 stakeholders



THE REPORT AT A GLANCE

The Current Status and Management of Final Waste

The report contains

623 pages

12 chapters

301 findings

112 review

The report is based on

A survey of some sixty disposal site managers

A citizen survey of 1,000 people across Quebec

The participation of more than 500 people, including several representing groups, associations, and organizations

The collaboration of 59 resource persons representing 7 departments and agencies

189 briefs submitted

585 documents filed

Since its creation in 1978, this is the 11th generic mandate carried out by the BAPE.



INFORMER



CONSULTER



ENQUÊTER



AVISER

Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement

Québec

A Substantial Report

A Rigorous and Complete Scientific Analysis

The Inquiry Commission paints a complete portrait of waste disposal. Its report is the result of a rigorous analysis and investigation that integrates ecological, social, and economic issues. More specifically, the Commission addresses in depth:

- ▲ ecological issues
- ▲ public health issues
- ▲ economic issues
- ▲ technologies and practices for waste disposal and treatment
- ▲ social acceptability and social issues
- ▲ disposal needs and capacities up to 2041
- ▲ waste management in territories under agreements

Waste Management Results

Recent year results are disappointing. In 2019, the quantity of waste disposed of per capita reached 724 kg, i.e. around 3% more than the target set for 2015 and 38% more than the target of 525 kg set for 2023 in the Action Plan 2019-2024.

Based on forecasts of the quantities of waste to be eliminated by 2041, as done by the Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change, the Inquiry Commission is of the opinion that achieving the 525 kg/inhabitant objective for 2023 is improbable. The Ministry itself estimates that this objective would be almost achieved in 2041 according to its realistic scenario, despite the reforms that are in place or in the process of being implemented.

It would therefore be necessary to change the paradigm and no longer revisit the objectives based on the results, but rather make the changes that are necessary to achieve the objectives that the government has set itself.

A Deep Reflection

Concerns and opinions expressed by participants

- ▲ 3RV-E hierarchy and the actions to be pursued
- ▲ The need to do more and better
- ▲ State responsibilities
- ▲ Regional management
- ▲ Support and consultation
- ▲ Involvement of the private sector
- ▲ Information, awareness, and education
- ▲ Reduction at source
- ▲ Reuse and the sharing economy
- ▲ Selective collection
- ▲ Deposit and glass recycling
- ▲ The complexity of source sorting
- ▲ Sorting and packaging facilities
- ▲ Improvement of the recycling system
- ▲ The transition to the circular economy
- ▲ Extended Producer Responsibility
- ▲ Development of new technologies
- ▲ Disposal costs
- ▲ Disposal fees
- ▲ Burial
- ▲ Incineration
- ▲ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ▲ Organic materials
- ▲ Industrial, commercial, and institutional sector
- ▲ Construction, renovation, and demolition sector

Reverse the Trend

11 Strategic Approaches

The findings and opinions of the Inquiry Commission, many of which converge with the Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020, have identified eleven strategic approaches that should guide the government in making informed decisions for waste management. They should also make it possible to reverse the trend and avoid revisiting the objectives for the elimination of waste according to the results, but rather to make the changes that are necessary to achieve the objectives that the government will have set itself. These guidelines have been grouped into three themes.

THE STRUCTURAL APPROACH

- 1 The circular economy as a priority model
- 2 The necessary review of our consumption patterns

EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION

- 3 The State as an exemplary model
- 4 Ecotaxation as a central lever for action
- 5 Information and awareness: essential tools
- 6 Data accessibility and transparency
- 7 Innovation to achieve objectives

RESTORING GOVERNANCE

- 8 Legislative and regulatory strengthening
- 9 The inevitable regionalization
- 10 Sustainable solutions for remote areas
- 11 The essential optimization of governance



RECYC-QUÉBEC

Central Partner in Waste Management

To fully assume its pivotal and reference role and to enable it to meet the new challenges that await it, the public corporation would gain considerably from reviewing its vision by placing reduction, reuse, and the circular economy at the heart of its objectives and developing centers of excellence that are of strategic importance. For its part, the government should count on expanding and strengthening the responsibilities and leadership of the state-owned company.

Nearly a year of consultation, investigation, and analysis

[Click here to view the report](#)