

PRESS RELEASE
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Removing the docks at Lachine Marina is premature and also threatens safety according to Nautisme Québec

Longueuil, February 18, 2022 - The Alliance de l'industrie nautique du Québec – Nautisme Québec is asking the City of Montreal to suspend its request to Transport Canada for the removal of the docks from the Port de plaisance de Lachine (Lachine Marina). This request is premature since the Lachine Borough will hold a [public consultation on the future development of the marina area](#). In addition, removing the docks would pose a threat to public safety.

For the record, the Mayor of Lachine, Ms. Vodanovic, recently announced that a public consultation on the development of the Lachine Marina site would be held. However, even before citizens have been heard, the City of Montreal has already submitted a [request to Transport Canada to remove the docks](#). The Alliance de l'industrie nautique du Québec – Nautisme Québec asks the City of Montreal to put this request on hold until the public consultation is carried out. The [Lachine Marina Association \(APPPL\)](#) is working on a proposal to submit an alternative marina project on the north shore of the site, which belongs to the federal government. Nautisme Québec supports this initiative and invites the City to be open minded to the opinions of all its citizens.

“It is important not to take irreversible action here. Setting up a marina is a long process, and significant amounts of money have been invested over the years to create this marina, which is a witness to a long history of navigation on the Lachine Canal. The marina offered not only dockage and a gas dock, but also a refuge in case of distress on the water for local boaters and those visiting the area. The removal of the docks should not be done before citizens have even been consulted on the future of the site, which could include maintaining a certain number of docks,” says Josée Côté, General Manager of Nautisme Québec.

The dock removal operation also raises concerns for the safety of users of this body of water and the marina site. “The anchors holding the docks that will be left on the bottom, as well as the various cables and chains used for that purpose, are another concern for the safety of users. Just think of kite-surfers, fishermen, boaters, canoeists, kayakers, paddlers or users of small sailboats,” adds Ms. Côté. Several other technical and environmental considerations were not taken into account by the City. This is why the City should therefore wait for the results of the public consultation as well as the conclusions of the environmental impact study before deciding on the removal of the docks.

The Alliance invites citizens affected by this issue and other stakeholders to communicate directly with Transport Canada no later than Wednesday, February 24, at the [Navigation Protection Program Registry, File number 2002-300009 on the Transport Canada website](#).

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