

# PRIORITIES IN 2021

---

1. The Protection of Maple Forests on Public Land
2. Regulation of Activities based on their Environmental Impact (REAFIE)
3. New Regulations on Maple Syrup Quotas
4. Sugar Shack Restaurants

For more information, please contact the president of your regional maple syrup producers' organization.



## 1. The Protection of Maple Forests on Public Land

The ability to meet growing world demand for maple syrup and continue expansion of the sector necessitates planning and projections several decades ahead of time. This is not only for the benefit of future generations but also because a maple tree needs time to grow: 40 to 50 years before it can be tapped. Thereafter, it will produce sap for many years. **Maple syrup production is a renewable source of wealth for us all.**

In response to the Québec Timber Production Strategy proposed by the government's Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) in December 2020, the Québec Maple Syrup Producers announced their own plan for the future in February. Taking several elements into account, they project that **Québec will need production from 168 million taps by 2080.** That's 120 million more taps than are in production today. Québec Maple Syrup Producers demand 30% of those taps to be on public lands.

The Québec Maple Syrup Producers are asking MFFP to take these figures into consideration as it goes through the process of reserving public land for future development.

The Québec Maple Syrup Producers see their projections as not only realistic but reflective of a desire to cohabit the public forest resource harmoniously with other users. Lands to be set aside for maple syrup production would continue to produce wood for processing. Maple syrup producers provide good stewardship of forests according to recognized silvicultural principles. They protect our forest capital and ensure optimal tree growth. **The Québec Maple Syrup Producers and their members work hard to maintain Québec's position as the world leader in maple production. They have a long-term, sustainable vision for the forest.**

## 2. Regulation of Activities based on their Environmental Impact (REAFIE)

The new law drawn up by the provincial government's department overseeing the environment and climate change (MELCC) came into force on December 31, 2020. REAFIE has some implications for maple production on private land. (On public land, activities are regulated by the *Règlement sur l'aménagement durable des forêts* or RADF.)

REAFIE may apply to maple enterprises in two ways: wastewater management and construction or excavation in wetland areas.

**The Québec Maple Syrup Producers consider REAFIE to be ill-suited to the realities of maple production and an improper approach to improving practices.** There remains no environmental impact study on wastewater discharges by the sector nor is there any guide to good practices.

For 2021, the Québec Maple Syrup Producers would like to continue discussions with MELCC to ensure fair and equitable application of the regulations, and changes that would reflect the realities of maple syrup production.

## 3. New Regulations on Maple Syrup Quotas

In 2020, the Québec Maple Syrup Producers filed an application for changes to the maple syrup quota regulations with the *Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec* (the Régie). This would represent a complete reform of the regulations, which date back to the year of their original creation, in 2003.

The application remains in the hands of the Régie. Public hearings continue since they began in December. The Québec Maple Syrup producers are confident the application will be approved by the Régie this year.

## 4. Sugar Shack Restaurants

Maple production enjoyed an excellent year in 2020 but the same cannot be said for 220 or so sugar shacks that were forced to close their doors just after opening in the spring. It was nothing short of catastrophic and many did not survive.

It is important to understand the relationship between maple enterprises and the sugar shacks: we are major producers of maple syrup, and the sugar shacks represent our industry's public face. This year, about 70 of them have joined together at *Ma cabane à la maison*, a transactional website where customers can order meals online and enjoy the pleasures of the traditional sugar shack in the comforts of home.

The Québec Maple Syrup Producers are providing financial support to the initiative.