PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
COUNTY OF GATINEAU

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the Township of Low, held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the Héritage room, located at 4C, chemin d'Amour, Township of Low (Quebec) J0X 2C0, under the Presidency of Mayor Patrick Beaudry.

ALSO PRESENT WERE:	Councillors Mrs. Maureen Rice and Maureen McEvoy and Mr. Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus and Ghyslain Robert.
WAS ABSENT:	Councillor Mrs. Fay McLaughlin (justified absence).
ALSO PRESENT:	Madame Myrian Nadon, director general and clerk-treasurer, Chantal Rodrigue, assistant to the office of the director general and deputy clerk-treasurer, Megan Angus, municipal development and strategic support officer, and Mr. Albert Lafrenière, director of technical services.

Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry confirming that there is quorum declares the meeting open.

NOTICE OF MEETING

October 27th, 2026

Mr. Mayor	Patrick Beaudry
Councillor Mrs.	Fay McLaughlin, Maureen Rice and Maureen McEvoy
Councillor Mr.	Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus and Ghyslain Robert

NOTICE OF MEETING is hereby given by the undersigned, Myrian Nadon, that there will be an extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council on October 27th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. convened by the Director general, during which Council will consider the following topics:

1. Opening of the extraordinary meeting of October 27, 2026
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Receipt of the notice of meeting
4. To responds to Éco-Entreprise Québec (ÉEQ) – Position of the Municipality of the township of Low – Letter dated September 29, 2026
5. Closing and adjournment of the extraordinary meeting of October 27th, 2026

At this extraordinary meeting, to be held on Tuesday, October 27th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall, 4C, chemin d'Amour, the deliberations of council shall be confined to the above-mentioned subject.

Given at Low this 23rd day of October 2026

_____
Myrian Nadon
Director General and Clerk-Treasurer

2026-10-202 **TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF OCTOBER 27, 2026**

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN RICE

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council adopts the agenda as presented.

Adopted.

2026-10-203 **TO RESPONDS TO ÉCO-ENTREPRISE QUÉBEC (ÉEQ) – POSITION OF THE**

DRAFT

MUNICIPALITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOW –
LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

2026-10-203 WHEREAS the letter sent by Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) on September 29, 2026, regarding resolution number 2026-09-170 of the Municipality of Lac-Sainte-Marie and the possible replacement of the signatory to the Final Partnership Agreement;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low is part of the group comprising the municipalities of Cayamant, Denholm, Gracefield, Kazabazua, Lac-Sainte-Marie, Low, and Messines, hereinafter referred to as the "Group";

WHEREAS Annex B of the draft Partnership Agreement defines the "Scope of Application" as comprising the seven municipalities of the Grouping;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low wishes to be able to manage its own obligations, data, and reporting independently, in accordance with its administrative, operational, financial, and territorial realities;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low does not wish to be compelled to participate in a consolidated structure or to assume, directly or indirectly, the administrative, operational, and record-keeping management of multiple municipalities without having freely consented to this responsibility;

WHEREAS small municipalities are subject to responsibilities and obligations comparable to those of large municipalities, while generally having fewer staff, financial resources, and administrative capacities to fulfill them;

WHEREAS Article 7 of the draft Agreement provides that the signatory organization must certify that it has jurisdiction over the management of recyclable materials for the entire territory covered by the Agreement, and not solely for the territory of the municipality acting as the signatory organization;

WHEREAS the signatory organization remains ÉEQ's point of contact for the implementation of the Agreement and must, in particular, ensure the transmission of information, administrative follow-up, operational follow-up, and the coordination of activities covered by the Agreement;

WHEREAS the responsibilities entrusted to the signatory organization may include, among other things, coordinating multiple municipalities, preparing consolidated reports, communicating with ÉEQ, managing documents, preparing or coordinating calls for bids, monitoring suppliers, conducting information, awareness, and education activities, and implementing quality control measures for sorting;

WHEREAS article 8 of the draft Agreement allows the signatory organization to delegate certain activities to other municipal organizations, but this option does not relieve the signatory organization of its general responsibilities toward ÉEQ;

WHEREAS the delegation of certain tasks to other municipalities does not resolve the issue of the signatory organization's ultimate responsibility, nor that of the resources required to ensure the coordination, oversight, and accountability of the entire Group;

WHEREAS the management, on behalf of the other municipalities, of bidding processes for the collection and transportation of recyclable materials does not correspond to the administrative reality of the Municipality of the Township of Low and should not be imposed upon it without its express consent, the necessary resources, and a clear framework for the sharing of responsibilities;

WHEREAS the various local responsibilities related to selective waste collection, including the development of collection schedules, providing information to residents, public communications, receiving and handling complaints, and following up with suppliers and customers;

WHEREAS these responsibilities require a detailed understanding of the areas served, isolated sectors, distances, road conditions, local schedules, available equipment, and the specific circumstances of each municipality;

WHEREAS the centralization of selective collection by ÉEQ risks distancing decision-making from local realities and complicating communications with residents;

DRAFT

WHEREAS article 40 of the draft Agreement provides that ÉEQ shall provide the signatory organization with information on the performance of selective collection throughout the territory covered by the Territory of Application;

2026-10-203 WHEREAS article 28.2.1 of the draft Agreement provides that ÉEQ shall calculate an average annual contamination rate based on all samples collected at the entrances to sorting centers and transfer stations;

WHEREAS article 28.2.2 provides that ÉEQ shall inform the signatory organization of the average contamination rate measured specifically within the Territory of Application, which includes the seven municipalities of the Group;

WHEREAS the draft Agreement does not expressly provide that contamination rates, characterization results, and performance data be systematically determined and reported separately for each of the municipalities in the Grouping;

WHEREAS sorting habits, population profiles, types of occupancy, residential areas, collection methods, available equipment, and operational realities may vary considerably from one municipality to another;

WHEREAS an average rate established for the entire Group risks masking disparities among municipalities and leading to blanket measures that do not adequately address the actual causes of contamination in each of them;

WHEREAS a municipality could thus be required to implement corrective measures or bear administrative burdens based on behaviors or outcomes originating primarily in another municipality;

WHEREAS a contamination reduction plan would be more relevant, fairer, and more effective if it were developed on a municipality-by-municipality basis, using local data and measures tailored to the specific realities of each municipality;

WHEREAS article 28.3.1 of the draft Agreement requires the signatory organization to develop, in collaboration with ÉEQ, an annual contamination reduction plan;

WHEREAS this plan must, in particular, specify the contamination reduction target, the measures that each party will implement, and the financial arrangements regarding expenses related to the implementation of these measures;

WHEREAS article 28.3.2 of the draft Agreement requires the signatory organization to record the measures implemented during the year, document the results obtained and lessons learned, produce an implementation report, and update the plan annually;

WHEREAS the annual update of the plan must take into account the average contamination rate measured by ÉEQ across the entire territory of application, as well as lessons learned from the measures implemented in previous years;

WHEREAS the signatory organization would then be required to collect, analyze, and consolidate information from seven municipalities, coordinate local responses, establish or harmonize corrective measures, document the results, and provide a comprehensive report to ÉEQ;

WHEREAS this responsibility is disproportionate for a municipality the size of the Municipality of the Township of Low, particularly when the available data does not clearly identify the municipal source of the observed problems;

WHEREAS article 45.1 of the draft Agreement provides that the signatory organization is, in particular, in default when it fails to comply with the obligation to develop and implement the contamination reduction plan agreed upon with ÉEQ;

WHEREAS article 45.2 allows ÉEQ to withhold the financial support provided for in the Agreement when a breach is not remedied within the required time frame;

WHEREAS article 46.2 provides that in the event of a repeated, uncorrected, or major breach, ÉEQ may terminate all or part of the Agreement;

WHEREAS these provisions expose the municipality acting as a signatory to financial and contractual consequences related to data, operations, citizen behavior, and contamination reduction measures that fall under the jurisdiction of several distinct municipalities;

DRAFT

2026-10-203 WHEREAS it is disproportionate to hold a single municipality responsible for the Group's average results when the relevant data is not necessarily broken down by municipality and corrective measures must nevertheless be implemented locally;

WHEREAS the costs reimbursed by ÉEQ to the Municipality of the Township of Low in 2025, when collection was carried out under contract, must be compared to the projected costs for 2026 and 2027 associated with the transition to in-house collection;

WHEREAS the Municipality's preliminary financial analysis suggests a significant reduction in collection costs when the service is provided in-house, compared to the costs that could result from centralized management or a resumption of service by ÉEQ;

WHEREAS municipalities could then be prevented from making optimal use of their equipment, which would no longer be utilized to its full capacity;

WHEREAS such a situation could also lead to a reduction in working hours for staff assigned to collection, as well as a loss of operational efficiency;

WHEREAS ÉEQ could face additional costs of several hundred thousand dollars if it were to take over or otherwise arrange for the provision of services currently provided or that could be provided by the seven municipalities;

WHEREAS ultimately, any significant increase in the costs associated with taking over or centralizing the management of selective waste collection will ultimately be borne by Quebec taxpayers, whether directly by municipalities and their citizens, or indirectly by producers and consumers through the prices of goods and services;

WHEREAS a decision leading to a significant increase in costs should be based on a comprehensive, transparent, and well-documented comparative analysis of the various service delivery scenarios;

WHEREAS a takeover or centralization of management would also require ÉEQ to assume or coordinate several additional responsibilities, including the development of collection schedules, providing information to citizens, managing complaints, and monitoring local specifics of selective collection on a daily basis;

WHEREAS ÉEQ has indicated that, if no municipal entity within the Group agrees to assume the role of signatory and to sign the Final Agreement as drafted, it intends to resume responsibility for managing selective waste collection within the Group's territory effective January 1, 2027;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low considers that such a resumption of management would not be beneficial to the municipalities concerned, to ÉEQ, or to citizens, particularly due to the foreseeable additional costs, the underutilization of municipal equipment, the potential reduction in staff hours, and the loss of proximity to citizens;

WHEREAS the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer of the Municipality of the Township of Low met virtually with two representatives of ÉEQ on October 26, 2026, to explore the options available to the Municipality of the Township of Low regarding the 30 day ultimatum imposed in the letter dated September 29, 2026, and that the outcome of this meeting confirmed ÉEQ's unyielding position regarding the possibility for a municipality to withdraw individually from the Group in order to fulfill its obligations and maintain its accountability independently;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low wishes to preserve its rights, maintain the continuity of the selective collection service, and prevent this resolution from being interpreted as an immediate termination of the Preliminary Agreement or as a waiver of its legal, regulatory, or contractual obligations.

PROPOSED AND SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.

2. Takes note of the letter sent by Éco Entreprises Québec (ÉEQ) on September 29, 2026, and of the position expressed therein regarding its role as a signatory

DRAFT

organization, the continuation of the Group, and the possible resumption of management of selective waste collection.

2026-10-203

3. Informs ÉEQ that it does not consent to being designated as the signatory organization to an agreement that would impose upon it the administrative, operational, and record-keeping responsibilities for the entire Group without the necessary resources.

4. Requests that ÉEQ amend the draft Agreement to expressly provide for:

    a. the breakdown of data by municipality.
    b. the production of separate reports by municipality.
    c. the development of local plans to reduce contamination.
    d. the limitation of each municipality's liability to its own operations and its own clientele.
    e. the absence of penalties against a municipality for a failure or performance issue attributable to another municipality.
    f. full funding for the additional tasks imposed on the signatory organization.

5. In the absence of any amendments to the draft Agreement, formally requests ÉEQ to allow it to withdraw from the Group and to directly assume its own obligations, including its reporting requirements, under separate terms and conditions tailored to its municipal circumstances.

6. Clarifies that this request is not intended to evade its obligations regarding selective waste collection, but rather to fulfill these obligations in an autonomous, transparent, and efficient manner, proportionate to its resources, territory, and equipment.

7. Condemns the fact that a municipality acting as a signatory organization could be held responsible for managing and representing several other municipalities without the ability to negotiate a division of these responsibilities, obtain the necessary resources, or withdraw from the Group under reasonable terms.

8. Emphasizes that the responsibilities associated with the role of signatory organization are disproportionate for a small municipality, particularly when they include coordinating multiple municipalities, preparing consolidated financial statements, developing and monitoring an annual contamination reduction plan, and managing calls for bids on behalf of other municipalities.

9. Emphasizes that local management of selective waste collection includes, in particular, developing collection schedules, providing information to residents, receiving and handling complaints, and following up with service providers and residents, responsibilities that are best carried out by each municipality based on its specific local circumstances.

10. Requests that ÉEQ recognize that contamination measurement, performance analysis, and the contamination reduction plan must be established, to the extent possible, on a municipal basis rather than exclusively at the level of the consolidated coverage area.

11. Requests that ÉEQ provide raw data and characterization results broken down by municipality, where the sampling method and available data permit, including contamination rates, quantities collected, observed anomalies, and the results of corrective actions.

12. Requests that no municipality be held responsible for an average contamination rate or overall performance attributable in whole or in part to another municipality in the Group.

13. Requests that each municipality be able to develop, with support from ÉEQ, its own local contamination reduction plan, including in particular:

    a. a baseline assessment specific to the municipality.
    b. a target tailored to its results.
    c. awareness-raising measures applicable to its population.
    d. inspections or checks to be conducted within its territory.
    e. the respective responsibilities of ÉEQ and the municipality.
    f. the anticipated costs and reimbursement terms.
    g. indicators for evaluating the results achieved.

14. Requests that any regional or consolidated plan, if maintained, consist of separate municipal plans and not impose on a municipality measures or costs arising from the situation in another municipality.

DRAFT

2026-10-203

15. Requests that ÉEQ clarify how the signatory organization could establish a fair and measurable target for each municipality if ÉEQ provides only an average contamination rate for the entire territory of application.

16. Requests that a specific financial agreement be concluded before any additional obligations arising from the contamination reduction plan are imposed, so that expenses related to the agreed-upon measures are clearly identified, allocated, and reimbursed.

17. Informs ÉEQ that the financial compensation provided for in articles 43.1 through 43.4 of the draft Agreement does not, on its own, demonstrate that it would cover the actual costs associated with intermunicipal coordination, data analysis, the preparation of municipal plans, the monitoring of corrective measures, and the production of required reports.

18. Requests that ÉEQ conduct a comparative and transparent financial analysis of the following scenarios:

    a. maintaining or optimizing in-house waste collection by municipalities.
    b. maintaining waste collection under contract.
    c. consolidated management by a contracting entity.
    d. ÉEQ resuming management or coordination of waste collection.

19. THAT this analysis take into account, in particular:

    a. the amounts reimbursed by ÉEQ to the Municipality of the Township of Low in 2025 when collection was carried out under contract.
    b. the increase in contract prices for the years 2026 and 2027.
    c. the costs associated with the transition to in-house collection.
    d. the optimal use or underutilization of municipal equipment.
    e. the potential reduction in staff working hours.
    f. mobilization, planning, and management costs.
    g. costs associated with informing residents and handling complaints.
    h. costs associated with developing and monitoring the annual contamination reduction plan.
    i. costs associated with competitive bidding and contract management.
    j. all costs that could ultimately be borne by ÉEQ, municipalities, producers, or citizens.

20. Requests that ÉEQ specify who would bear, directly or indirectly, any cost increases resulting from the resumption of management or the replacement of services currently provided or that could be provided by the municipalities.

21. Informs ÉEQ that taking over management could result in additional costs of several hundred thousand dollars, given that seven municipalities are involved, while preventing them from making optimal use of their equipment and staff.

22. Emphasizes that such a solution does not appear to be beneficial to the municipalities concerned, to ÉEQ, or to citizens, since it could lead to a significant increase in costs without necessarily improving the quality, accessibility, or efficiency of the service.

23. Declares that, if ÉEQ refuses to allow the Municipality of the Township of Low to withdraw from the Group and operate autonomously, the Municipality calls on ÉEQ to implement the takeover of management announced in its letter of September 29, 2026, effective January 1, 2027; however, it specifies that this Council considers this takeover to be a disadvantageous solution and that it prefers a negotiated solution allowing each municipality to retain genuine decision-making authority, local management, and accountability.

24. Requests that ÉEQ, prior to any resumption of management, provide the following in writing within thirty days of receiving this resolution:
    a. the exact nature of the proposed resumption.
    b. the services involved.
    c. the procedures for planning collection schedules.
    d. the responsibilities regarding the provision of information to citizens.
    e. the procedures for handling complaints.
    f. the transition measures.

DRAFT

k. the safeguards in place to ensure continuity of service as of January 1, 2027.

2026-10-203

25. Requests that ÉEQ confirm that no resumption of management will result in the interruption, reduction, or compromise of the selective collection service provided within its territory.

26. Transmits a copy of this resolution to Éco Entreprises Québec, to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Biodiversity Protection, Wildlife, and Parks, Mr. Jean Pellerin, and to the member for Gatineau, Mr. David Logue, the member municipalities of the Group, to the MRC de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, to the Union des municipalités québécoises (UMQ), to the Fédération québécoises des municipalités (FQM), and all municipalities in Quebec for their support - a sample resolution of support will be included with the resolution.

27. Authorizes, hereby, Mr. Mayor Patrick Beaudry and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Adopted unanimously.

2026-10-204 **TO ACCEPT THE CLOSING OF THE SESSION**

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY

FOR THESE REASONS, this meeting is adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Adopted.

_____
Myrian Nadon
Director General and
Clerk-Treasurer

_____
Patrick Beaudry
Mayor

DRAFT