

Union Life

- **Members' Gathering**

On February 20, 2025, the members' gathering was held at the Dining Hall in Ormstown. The following presentations were given:

- Carbon market: prospects for the agricultural sector in Quebec, presented by the Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie;
- Presentation of the group insurance program, by AGRICarrières.

Current issues and ongoing files of the Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie were also discussed, along with the theme of watercourse maintenance: a status update.

- **Reference Guide**

The administrators developed a Reference Guide to enable all agricultural producers in the Haut-Saint-Laurent to quickly access relevant resources. It outlines provincial programs as well as local organizations.

Designed as an evolving tool, the guide aims to provide useful and up-to-date references. It includes a directory of assistance programs, useful contact information, as well as legal resources, psychological health support, continuing education resources, and more.

The guide is available in both French and English.

- **Membership Recruitment Campaign**

In spring 2025, a membership drive was conducted targeting producers who were not members of the UPA or the local union. The primary objective was to inform them of the benefits of joining the Union. Committee members were mandated to meet with certain producers to encourage their membership.

- **Union Life Revitalization Initiative**

Administrators participated in surveys and focus groups organized by the Fédération de l'UPA de la Montérégie. The initiative aims to better understand members' needs and identify ways to revitalize union participation. These efforts seek to strengthen local engagement, facilitate the integration of new producers, and equip administrators for more effective representation.

- **Fall Consultation**

The fall consultation was held on September 11 in Ormstown at the Dining Hall. The agenda included a presentation on the Port of Valleyfield, a vote on the new dues structure, current issues, the CUMA, and a resolution session.

- **Annual General Meeting of the UPA Montérégie**

Administrators and delegates from Haut-Saint-Laurent participated in the AGM, held in two parts: on the evening of September 30 and on October 2 in Longueuil during the plenary session. The plenary included the presentation of the activity report, financial statements, and an address by President Jérémie Letellier. In total, ten resolutions were submitted by Montérégie to the Union Congress, in addition to the resolution regarding the new dues structure.

Land Use Planning

- **Revision of the MRC du Haut-Saint-Laurent Land Use Plan**

The MRC undertook a comprehensive revision of its land use plan, a strategic exercise aimed at identifying the territory's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This is the first major revision in 20 years.

A committee was established by the MRC, on which administrators serve. A meeting focusing on the MRC's vision, opportunities, and threats was held on April 24, 2025.

- **Watercourse File**

Steps were taken to improve the management and monitoring of watercourse-related issues following a meeting between the MRC and administrators. Communication actions are planned for members, in collaboration with municipalities, and it was reiterated that requests must be addressed directly to the MRC.

However, delays in file management have been noted, and concerns remain regarding timelines and the scope of certain projects. Improved coordination is desired, particularly through updating the interactive watercourse map on the MRC website.

- **Haut-Saint-Laurent Regional Linear Park**

The MRC is exploring the possibility of developing the former railway corridor to connect several municipalities, with a view to multi-use development (including cycling, walking, and running). The project is still in the exploratory phase.

Concerns have been raised regarding coexistence with agricultural activities. It has been suggested to draw inspiration from successful experiences elsewhere, notably through the creation of parallel agricultural lanes and agreements with producers. The land use planning department is monitoring the matter while administrators remain vigilant.

Agri-Environment

- **Participation in the 3rd Earth Day Event – March 11, 2025**

Administrators hosted a booth presenting an overview of agriculture in Haut-Saint-Laurent and the agri-environmental practices adopted by local farm businesses.

- **Haut-Saint-Laurent Environmental Roundtable**

Board members participated in meetings of the Roundtable to address environmental issues.

- **Exchange and Reflection Day: “Agri-Environment, Why Not?” – December 18, 2025**

Administrators took part in a day of discussions on agri-environmental issues organized by the Fédération de l’UPA de la Montérégie through thematic workshops. The objective was to better understand producers’ needs and implement actions to support them toward sustainable agriculture.

Rural Tourism

- **Haut-Saint-Laurent Silo and Mural Circuit**

The UPA of Haut-Saint-Laurent contributed to the development of a circuit allowing visitors to admire silos and agricultural buildings decorated with murals, highlighting the importance of agriculture in the region.

Sponsorships

To promote the profession and support initiatives that have a positive impact on the agricultural community, the Union provides financial support to the following organizations:

- Macdonald College – two \$500 scholarships awarded to students from Haut-Saint-Laurent enrolled in the Farm Management program
- Arthur-Pigeon School – two \$250 scholarships
- Livestock Breeders Association (LBA) – \$350 sponsorship
- Gala Agristars – April 7, 2025 – \$500 sponsorship

Communication and Visibility

- **Farm to Food Podcast**

Administrators took part in The Gleaner's initiative by participating in the podcast, which aims to highlight local agricultural initiatives and promote a better understanding of the connection between producers and consumers.

- **Advertisement in the Holiday Special Edition**

During the holiday season, an advertisement was published in *The Gleaner*, congratulating the team on the podcast and inviting readers to consult the Reference Guide, while wishing them happy holidays.