

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**NORTHAMERICAN MEGADAMS RESISTANCE ALLIANCE**  
[www.northeastmegadamsresistance.org](http://www.northeastmegadamsresistance.org)

Contact: Meg Sheehan, [coordinator.namra@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.namra@gmail.com) tel. 508.259.9154

**Mayor DiBlasio's call for Canadian hydropower s undermines renewable energy economies and perpetuates cultural genocide of indigenous people.s**

The North American Megadams Resistance Alliance (NAMRA), an international coalition of environmental and social justice groups says Mayor DeBlasio's call for Canadian hydropower in New York City's energy plan will undermine the local energy economy and jobs and will perpetuate cultural genocide in Canada.

The City's plan requires construction of the 330-mile Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) transmission corridor under the scenic Hudson Rive connecting to megadams in remote areas of Canada, over 1,000 miles from New York. The New York section of CHPE will cost \$2.2 billion.

According to NAMRA, this hydroelectricity is dirty energy and should be treated just like fossil fuels.

"Decades of studies show Hydro-Quebec's megadams are a climate, environmental and social justice disaster," said Meg Sheehan, attorney for NAMRA. "These dams destroy rivers and boreal forests, eliminating their potential to sequester carbon. They release greenhouse gases during construction and operation. There is no valid data to show CHPE will reduce NYC's carbon emissions: Hydro-Quebec's dams may emit CO2 at rates close to 32 to 63% of a natural gas plant. Spending \$2.2 billion on a transmission corridor instead of local renewables locks in dirty energy infrastructure."

Hydro-Quebec's megadams are strewn across the province and over decades of operations have caused massive damage to free flowing rivers and local communities. Dam construction continues. The 2016 Harvard Study shows these dams cause toxic methylmercury to enter the environment poisoning local foods and people. Nearly one third of Hydro-Quebec's dams were built on the ancestral territory of the Pessamit Innu, a First Nation's people on the North Shore of the Saint Lawrence River. In Newfoundland-Labrador Province, Nalcor's dams on the Grand (Churchill) River have flooded lands of the Inuit and Innu Nations. In Labrador, where Hydro-Quebec gets power from the Churchill Falls dam, protests by local communities are going and have resulted in the arrest and jailing of Aboriginal leaders. Inuit grandmother Marjorie Flowers has toured the Northeast to bring attention to methylmercury poisoning and the harmful impacts of the Muskrat Falls dam.

"This is a greenwash. Hydro-Quebec should not be part of a "green new deal" in New York City or anywhere else," added Sheehan. "This is a climate disaster and wrongful violation of human rights," added Sheehan.

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