The planning and development of major energy projects since the "Trente Glorieuses" has disturbed significant areas in urban, rural, and northern territories. For instance, the construction of vast hydroelectric complexes in northern Quebec and Canada has altered existing ecosystems and transformed the ancestral territories of indigenous peoples.

In France and Germany, the construction of nuclear power plants has reshaped the landscape of many rural and agricultural areas, thus changing their socio-economic profile.

From the 1960s and 1970s onwards, as new social movements emerged to challenge the established order, these great projects and the environmental risks associated with them faced rising issues of social acceptability. Numerous environmental groups, scientific experts, First Nations spokespersons and committed citizens are campaigning for the protection of territories and ecosystems. In doing so, they are calling for energy project planning practices to be reviewed or improved to consider the concerns of local, regional, and national communities. It is in this context that a new interest is emerging within energy producers themselves, and in concert with various governments, in the implementation of preventive and mitigating measures aimed not only at protecting the environment, but also at protecting the collective heritage.

In this respect, the case of Hydro-Québec is rather revealing: In 1970, the company created the Environmental Protection Committee, which in 1973 became the Environment Directorate, a multidisciplinary administrative structure dedicated to protect what is then called "human ecology". In James Bay, the Société de développement de la Baie James (SDBJ) and the Société d'énergie de la Baie James (SEBJ), subsidiaries of Hydro-Québec, transformed this northern territory into a vast laboratory where hundreds of environmental impact studies were carried out. It is in this new context, which coincides with the application of the Cultural Property Act and the Environment Quality Act, that the state-owned company has established itself as a major player in archaeological and cultural heritage research in Quebec.

Recent scientific initiatives have focused on the relationship between energy and environmental protection. The aim of this symposium will be to study practices associated with heritage protection (archaeological, built, landscape) in the context of planning, development, and management of energy projects. It will analyze policies and initiatives for the protection of heritage threatened by energy infrastructures (dams, power plants, transmission lines,
electrical substations, etc.), with a particular focus on archaeological practices and activities
that have not been the subject of in-depth, comparative study to date.

Bringing together historians, archaeologists, heritage specialists and experts working for
energy producers in North America and Europe, the symposium aims to address, in a
multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary framework, the approaches and efforts deployed by
many companies to protect, conserve and enhance archaeological, built and landscape heritage
in the context of energy development and transition, land use planning, asset management,
environmental protection, the fight against climate change and memorial issues.

More broadly, contributions may address the following (non-exhaustive) themes:

- The legislative and political context for archaeological practices and heritage
  protection;
- The study of archaeological practices and the management of built and landscape
  heritage, including methodological considerations;
- The actors involved in the various types of archaeological intervention;
- Those involved in the management of built and landscape heritage;
- Archaeological, built and landscape heritage enhancement projects;
- Major archaeological worksites associated to energy projects and their importance in
  advancing knowledge and improving practices;
- A comparison of archaeological, built, and landscape heritage promotion practices and
  activities according to energy project type (nuclear power plants, power lines, thermal
  power plants, hydroelectric power plants, wind farms, etc.);
- A comparison of archaeological, built, and landscape heritage activities and practices
  between two (or more) energy producers;
- The joint development and the relationship between the natural and the human
  environments.

Sponsored by Hydro-Québec and the Comité d'histoire de l'électricité et de l'énergie (EDF,
France), the symposium will be held at Hydro-Québec's Environment Directorate offices in
Montreal on September 27, 2024. Those interested in submitting a paper should provide, by
January 26, 2024, an abstract of approximately 250 words, including a title and a description
of the main sections to be developed during the paper. They should also submit a biographical
note (7-8 lines) specifying their contact details, institutional affiliation, area of specialization
and a list of publications, if any. Proposals should be sent to savard.stephane@uqam.ca for evaluation by the scientific committee. Please note that proposals may be submitted in French or English. The symposium will be followed by the publication of the proceedings in a scholarly journal. To this end, participants will be invited to submit a final version of their text by the end of 2024, for publication in 2025. The text should be between 7,000 and 10,000 words (including notes).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Montreal in 2024!

The members of the Scientific and Organizing Committee

**Martin Perron**, Archaeologist, Hydro-Québec (co-chair)
**Stéphane Savard**, Professor of History, Université du Québec à Montréal (co-chair)
**Michelle Bélanger**, Specialist in built and industrial heritage, Hydro-Québec
**Christian Gates St-Pierre**, Professor of Archaeology, Université de Montréal
**Alexandra Lemarcis**, Specialist in built and industrial heritage, Hydro-Québec
**Charles-François Mathis**, Professor of History, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
**Philippe Pinet**, Ph.D. student in History, Université du Québec à Montréal
**Mathieu Roy**, Ph.D. student in History, Université du Québec à Montréal
**Manon Savard**, Professor of Archaeology and Geography, Université du Québec à Rimouski