

Drinking water quality is a matter of public health!

In early 2026, Vigilance OGM launched a campaign to pressure the provincial government to tighten drinking water quality standards and eliminate pesticides at the source

Like many other citizens, Forest and Ecology – Châteauguay is concerned about the quality of our drinking water and has agreed to serve as an ambassador for this campaign in Châteauguay.

In June 2026, a drinking water test was conducted in Châteauguay, as well as in about 30 other municipalities.

The results were released on September 28, 2026. The tests show that pesticide contamination is still very much present in Quebec cities, but for certain hazardous pesticides, such as glyphosate, the concentrations are lower than those found in 2025. That's good news.

However, the 2026 results reveal the presence of residues of S-metolachlor—a pesticide that is highly harmful to human health and the environment—in seven cities tested, including the City of Châteauguay.

This residue, or metabolite, known as metolachlor-ESA, was detected in trace amounts according to Quebec standards—130 nanograms per liter (µg/L). However, the concentration is still 1.3 times higher than the European standard.

The water in Châteauguay also contained 15 other pesticides, with a total concentration of 242 µg/L. It is this total concentration of pesticides in our water that is cause for concern, as scientists fear a harmful interaction among all these toxic substances in the human body. However, this year, the total concentration of pesticides in Châteauguay's drinking water was below the European standard of 500 µg/L.

Still, the presence of 15 pesticides in our water—including metolachlor-ESA—is cause for concern. Vigilance OGM is therefore calling on municipalities to pressure the provincial government to tighten drinking water quality standards and take effective measures to reduce contamination at the source. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

What is S-metolachlor?

It is a herbicide that is banned in Europe but is used here in corn and soybean fields; in 2022, it was classified in Europe as a suspected carcinogen.