

# Senator weighs in on low St. Lawrence river levels

OTTAWA - Bob Runciman is asking for some cross-border support on St. Lawrence River water level regulation.

The former Leeds-Grenville MPP, now a Canadian senator representing the Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes areas, wrote letters earlier this month to New York senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

This correspondence asked them to put pressure on the International Joint Commission (IJC) to put into place a policy on water levels which conforms to the natural flow of the St. Lawrence. Runciman indicated the low St. Lawrence River levels are between 18 and 20 inches lower than normal and that about 12 inches of that lower level is

due to manipulation of water flow through the Moses-Saunders Dam at Cornwall and Massena.

“It’s clear what they need to do and they should get on with the job of implementing a new policy,” said Runciman in a news release. “We need concerted pressure on both sides of the border to convince the IJC to act.”