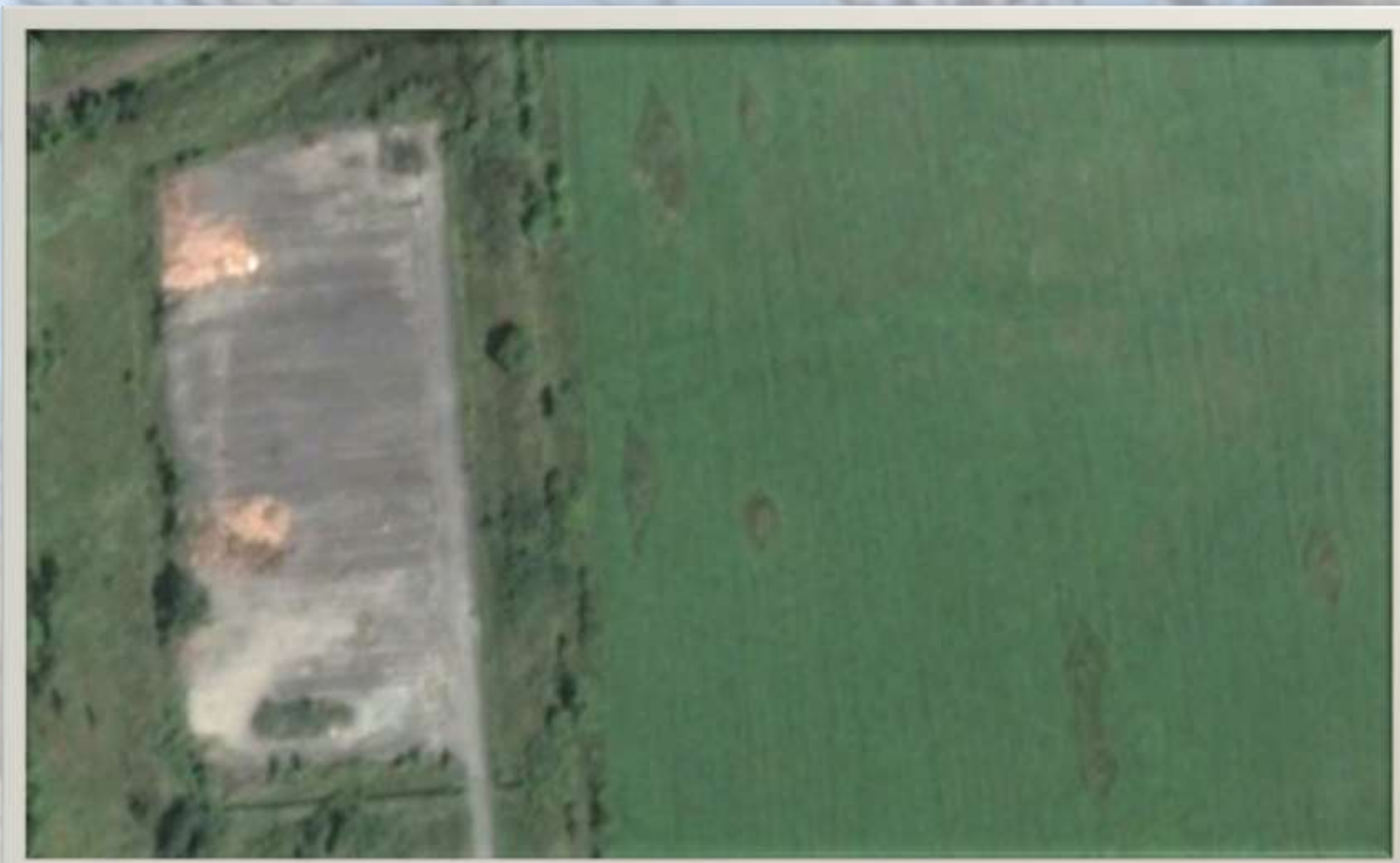


# Unauthorized Disposal of Construction Waste and Contaminated Soils in Quebec: A Symptom of the Provincial Regulatory Body's Inadequate Monitoring and Enforcement

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Alex DePani, B.A. Hon. Economics  
Under the supervision of  
Prof. Colin Scott, Dept. of Anthropology



August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 - Satellite Imagery of the Property Before the Opening of a Sorting Center



June 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 - Satellite Imagery of the Property After the Opening of the Sorting Center, eighteen months after the first observed infraction



June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 - Satellite Imagery of the Property one Month Before the Provincial Regulatory Body's Ordinance



May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Satellite Imagery of the Property One Year After the Revocation of the Sorting Center's Permit



## Community Collaboration

- Spending time with key local community stakeholders in the Chateauguay River watershed, such as mayors or union representatives, to discuss how academic research can help promote sustainable livelihood in their region.
- Cause for concern: local groundwater's integrity after years of unauthorized backfilling of construction waste and contaminated soils.
- Keeping continuous contact with community stakeholders throughout the research process to make sure academic research maintains its utility for the local community.

## Systematic Issue in the Greater Montreal Area and its Surroundings

- Management of construction waste and contaminated soils: a provincial jurisdiction.
- Systematic overview of all ordinances issued by the provincial regulatory body in the past thirteen years.
- Identification of publicly available documents reviewing violations revolving around unauthorized disposal of soils contaminated by construction waste.
- Concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals exceeding legal thresholds on most unauthorized sites.
- Fines and warnings issued by the provincially regulatory body often ignored by offenders.
- Average delay of approximately four years between the first on-site inspection by the provincial regulatory body and the issuance of an ordinance.

## Case Study

- In-depth analysis of an ongoing court case happening in the watershed.
- Excavation firm with legal precedents backfilled contaminated soils on a private property.
- Local municipality seeking removal of contaminated soils at the property owner's expense.
- Complex legal dynamics to decide who will be held liable.

## Ordinance Follow-Up

- Request for access of information never answered by the provincial regulatory body.
- Intertemporal mapping of unauthorized disposal sites that received an ordinance.