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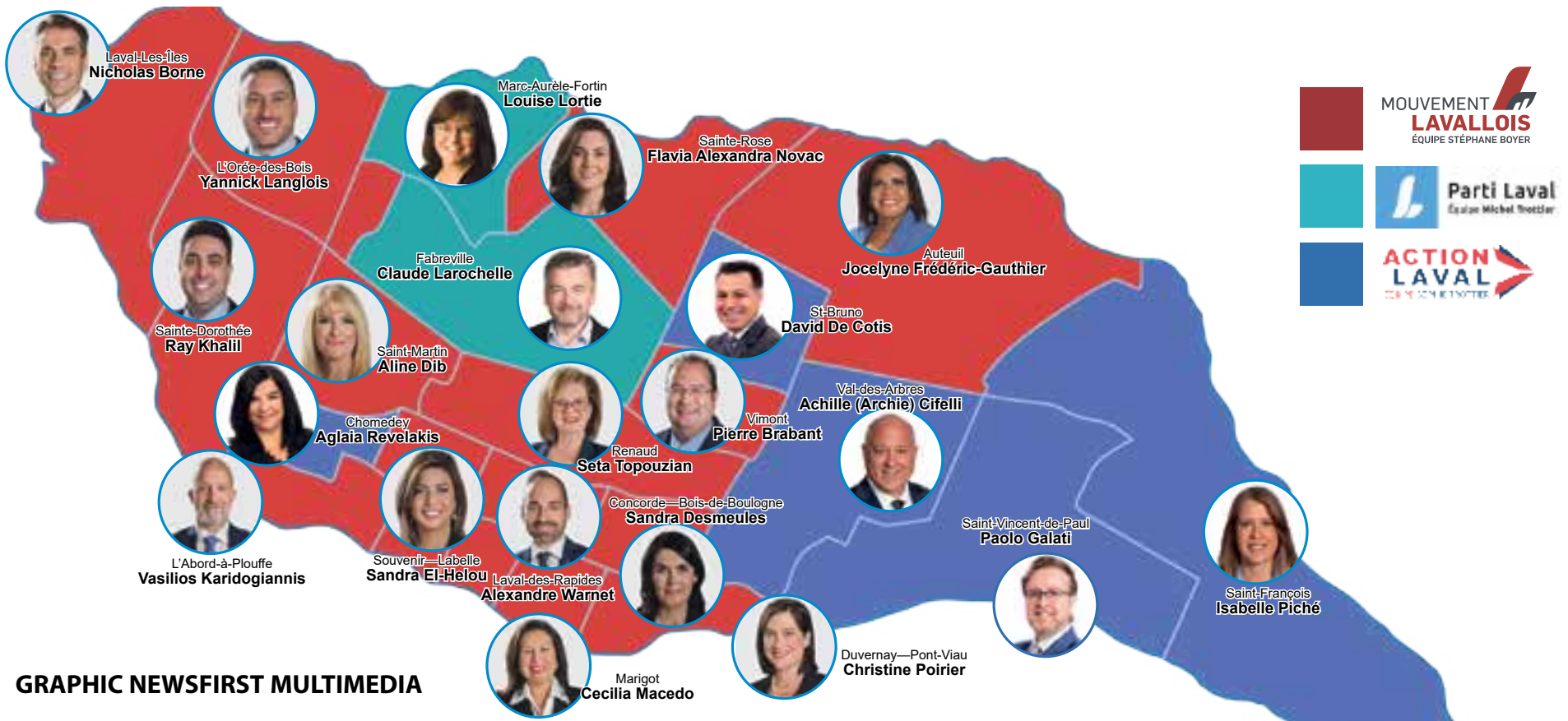
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Laval's Liberal MPs face a heavy workload, after being sworn into office last week



Re-elected Vimy Liberal MP Annie Koutrakis is seen here with her dedicated team members in Laval and Ottawa, following her recent swearing-in as the riding's elected representative in Ottawa.



Re-elected Laval-Les Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury is seen here with family, campaign volunteers and friends following his recent swearing-in in the nation's capital.



MARTIN C. BARRY
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For several Liberal MPs from Laval who were sworn into office last week following the September general election, a full plate of parliamentary work lies ahead tying up loose ends for Covid-19 relief programs, while also setting the course for the post-pandemic economic recovery.

House resumes on Nov. 22

In Ottawa, the House of Commons is scheduled to resume sitting on Nov. 22. This follows the swearing-in of cabinet members and MPs from across the country, which took place in the nation's capital in late October and early November.

Among the elected members from Laval who were sworn into office last week were Vimy Liberal MP Annie Koutrakis and Laval-Les Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury.

According to Koutrakis, who is starting her second term, continuing concerns about COVID-19 meant that she and other MPs were allowed to invite only a minimal number of guests to the swearing-in ceremony which took place in a committee room in the West Block on Parliament Hill.

Swearing-in ceremony

"I had my spouse there, my staff, people who helped during my campaign as volunteers," she said in an interview with The Laval News, emphasizing that she made a special effort to invite as many of her campaign volunteers as possible.

With cabinet appointments already announced, the Prime Minister's next move will be the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries, followed by the assignment of MPs to House of Commons committees working on a wide range of issues.

Koutrakis, who sat on the Standing Committee on Finance during the last term, said she asked to be reappointed to it, while also asking to be named onto committees dealing with medical assistance in dying (MAID), global affairs, industry/technology and transport.

Committee appointments coming

"I chose those committees because they're very important to Vimy in terms now of the economy and recovery," she said. "It's very gratifying to be able to sit on any one of those committees where studies are taken towards

further policy-making. Whatever comes out of those committees is what is then presented and debated in the House of Commons, which is where policies are made."

Among El-Khoury's guests for his swearing-in were members of his family, some staff and a few friends who reside in the nation's capital. A special guest was the ambassador for Lebanon in Canada, His Excellency Fadi Ziadeh.

El-Khoury, who is beginning his third term as Laval-Les Îles's elected representative in Ottawa, said he and other MPs expect to probably be hearing an announcement on the parliamentary committee appointments this week.

Climate on agenda, says El-Khoury

He agreed that the Liberal government's focus during the upcoming session will be measures to bring an end to the pandemic, after which the economy must be rebuilt. "It will require a lot of effort," he said. "But the government, I am sure, will do whatever should be done so as to point our economy in the best direction."

El-Khoury pointed out that another major issue on the Trudeau government's agenda over the coming term will be the environment and climate change. This will come following pledges made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland, including an agreement to end deforestation by the year 2030.

Covid's still on the radar

With the reconvening of Parliament, the re-elected minority Trudeau government will be delivering a new Throne Speech. It is expected that the government's strategy during Parliament's upcoming session will include taking final steps to top up efforts undertaken since early last year to deal with COVID-19, with some forward-looking economic measures added.

"One of the immediate areas of focus for the next Parliament will be the COVID-19 support benefits that many Canadians and businesses still rely on, and the government will work collaboratively with other parliamentarians to continue to have Canadians' backs," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Vaccination commitments

The PMO maintains that over 82 per cent of eligible Canadians are now fully vaccinated, even though the fight against COVID-19 isn't over. As such, the government outlined five vaccination commitments to take place during the first 100 days following the swearing-in of

the new cabinet.

The Prime Minister previously provided details on the government's plan to ensure everyone 12 or older travelling within Canada on a plane or train is fully vaccinated. He also outlined a plan to ensure all federal employees and people in federally-regulated workplaces are fully vaccinated.

National vaccine passport

At the same time, the government announced its commitment towards establishing a standardized proof of vaccination (vaccine passport) for Canadians travelling internationally, while

supporting provincial and territorial proof of vaccination programs, and the introduction of legislation to make it a criminal offence to harass or threaten health care workers.

Some additional ideas of what is likely to be in the Throne Speech can be found in a list of early Liberal government priorities, including re-introducing legislation to ban conversion therapy, moving ahead with 10-day paid sick leave for all federally regulated workers and bringing the provinces and territories together to work on better sick leave for Canadians across the country.

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Left to right :

Mr. Pierre Bélanger, General Manager of Le Pilier Foundation; Ms. Marisa Amato-Denis, Political Attaché of the MNA for Laval-des-Rapides; Mr. Sylvain Fontaine, President of Le Pilier Foundation; Ms. Sandra Desmeules, City Councillor for Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne; Mr. Marc Demers, Mayor of Laval; Mr. Angelo Iacono, MP for Alfred-Pellan; Ms. Anne Lachance, sister of a resident in Résidence Méry; Mr. Guy Bibeau, Director of ID-ASD and PD programs, Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux Laval (CISSS Laval).



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OPINION & Editorial



How to get Canada off the health care teeter-totter

Medicare struggles from funding thrown at the same tired ideas rooted in similar political traditions

Liberalism works when you are healthy but fails when you fall ill.

Classical liberalism emphasizes autonomy, individual freedom, and free markets. These ideas have fuelled centuries of wealth and prosperity.

Modern liberalism, in contrast, pursues central decision-making and equality of outcome. Despite similar names and obvious differences, neither type of liberalism provides arguments for everything patients need.

When classical liberalism fails in patient care, it creates space for modern liberalism. Modern liberalism then applies central decision-making, which creates inefficiency and bureaucracy. This, in turn, creates a call for efficiency, deregulation, and policy based on economic liberalism.

This seesaw creates a policy teeter-totter with each type of liberalism pumping furiously at either end.

The failure of liberalism cannot be solved by more liberalism. Only a coalition of classical liberalism *plus* conservatism will allow Canada off the health policy teeter-totter.

How liberalism fails

Successful ideas explain reality and suggest solutions to life's messiest problems. Political ideas fail when they do not reflect reality or cannot explain human experience.

Given liberalism's dominance in Canadian politics, we should ask how it performs for patients. Does it make sense when patients need it most? Classical liberalism delivers advanced technology, therapeutics, and almost magical cures, but can it deliver care to patients?

Classical liberalism fails to fit patient care in two areas. First, it fails in trauma and acute care. Car crashes and strokes often create dependent, comatose patients. Free agents lose control, and agency passes to a third party.

An unconscious patient is not a rare or special case of information asymmetry, common in professional relationships. Unconsciousness is not a theoretical gap market thinking can overcome; it is an infinite and insuperable knowledge gap. And it occurs hundreds of times each day across Canada.

In an emergency, agency does not pass from patient to friends or family. It passes to emergency medical services, hospitals, doctors, nurses, and a host of others. The coordination required to guarantee a seamless net of tertiary care inevitably involves central authorities. Government monitors performance, upholds standards, and maintains order, even in health systems that embrace private care.

Liberalism's second failure occurs with chronic disease. Chronic disease is more common than acute, impacts more people, and requires care over decades. In between visits for medical care, patients need help with everything from scheduling and transportation to buying groceries and changing cat litter. Even with extensive formal community care services, isolated patients struggle. Informal social supports often determine how long patients live independently.

Hospitals provide services and are filled with

caring people, but institutions cannot care. Only individuals care for other individuals. Patients need connection to individuals inside the bonds of social obligation: friends, family ties, or social groups.

For people who become acutely incapacitated or chronically debilitated, classical liberals offer solutions like designating a power of attorney for care or making prior arrangements with friends and family to act on an individual's behalf. But these good ideas sound less like classical liberalism and more like organic groups and social fabric found in conservatism.

These patients are depending not on large institutions but on something like Edmund Burke's "little platoons," which conservatives have always identified as the key to a healthy life.

Symbiosis

Liberalism and medicare share a symbiotic relationship – each benefits the other. This is obvious for modern liberalism: medicare needs a big state, which requires the central decision-making favoured by modern liberals. But symbiosis also applies to classical liberalism.

In acute care, free agents need rescue – not rights, property, or the contracts liberalism provides. In an emergency, the only agent obligated to help is the same agent which sustains the liberal order (Hobbes' Leviathan). Thus, maximizing liberal freedom creates a mandate for a robust welfare state to rescue individuals when they fall ill.

However, the symbiosis falters in community care. Individuals with chronic illness need connections liberalism cannot promote, and no state can provide.

Extrapolating government involvement

The need for central authority in acute, traumatic, and rare advanced treatments invites the same assumption for chronic care. If the sickest patients need government, shouldn't government help with everyone else?

Framed this way, modern liberalism has led the discussion on medicare. With deference to central control, it assumes that the solution for the first failure of liberalism will solve the second also.

Conservatives find themselves in a similar bind. They support what works. If central control helps patients bleeding at the side of the road, why oppose it for non-acute and chronic care?

Too often, Canadian conservatives claim a "Tory touch" and the assumption that big state solutions are part of their true-blue identity. Or they suggest a dab of economic liberalism here, some tightened accountability there, but offer few ideas which reflect anything rooted in philosophical conservatism.

Conservatism defined

Some people reduce conservatism to nostalgia. Others paint it as protection of privilege, status, and power – a European conservatism. However, Canadian Anglo-American conservatism has too little history for robust nostalgia

and no aristocracy to protect.

The historic alliance between classical liberals and conservatives also creates confusion.

Anglo-American conservatism is founded on an appreciation for traditional institutions, civil associations, and moral norms which have arisen over time. These time-tested ideas have been ratified by experience.

Where liberalism favours freedom over social obligation, conservatism sees social obligation as an inescapable fact of life (e.g., family). Classical liberals often assume aspects of conservatism, without explicit defence.

Conservatism takes a skeptical stance towards theoretical or grand ideas such as equality or social justice. Conservatism prefers facts and events – real things and real people. It seeks to improve what works, which means conservatives often support liberal or progressive policies.

Fostering connection

Little platoons can happen by accident, but most do not survive without support. Everyone is born into a family, but it takes effort to keep one together. The state could make things easier.

For example, many families place relatives in long-term care because they have no other choice. The current policy environment makes life hard for families to keep grandma home. Could we reverse incentives so it becomes attractive and easy to keep grandma where she wants to be, at home with a family who loves her?

Every citizen needs the opportunity to be part of a social network of his own, regardless of how he defines it. But this will not happen without a policy environment that fosters the formation of those connections.

A conservative solution

If we won agreement to let grandma stay at home as long as possible, we would still face the policy teeter-totter. Classical liberals would seek aligned incentives, crisp key performance indicators, and clear lines of accountability, from the ground up. Modern liberals would want the same, from the top down. Classical liberals might offer incentives and tax breaks to keep grandma home; modern liberals might suggest more homecare or social services – each liberal pumping furiously.

Both kinds of liberals love modern theories of public management almost as much as they love drafting new policy. They both view social problems in generic terms – an ageing society, isolated seniors – instead of specific, local problems. Generic terms justify grand, one-size-fits-all policy solutions. Solving the specific needs of grandma's living alone holds less appeal.

Conservatives worry more about creating new, bad policy than winning support by 'fixing' old issues with the latest management theories. Complex social problems mean trade-offs and imperfect solutions.

Conservatives would start with the (painfully) slow process of understanding the problem. Instead of discussing generic grandmas, we

► Continued on page 5

The Coronavirus pandemic is upending almost every aspect of education

RENATA ISOPO

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It wasn't just the move from classrooms to computer screens. It tested basic ideas about instruction, attendance, testing, funding, the role of technology and the human connections that hold it all together. Nearly two years later, a rethinking is underway, with a growing sense that some changes may last.

This may be an opportunity to reimagine what schools will look like in the future. It's always important to continue to think about how to

◀ Continued from page 4

need to know more about grandma herself. Is she one person or three: an ambitious woman in her early 80s, a slightly confused one in her late 80s, or a demented lady with papery skin and chronic wounds in her mid-90s? Or none of these? One individual could be all three in the span of a few years.

We might start with issues facing young grandma(s). In her early 80s, grandma has the wits and plans of a younger person but not enough strength to see them through. She needs a bit of help, but not so much it impedes her style. She is too healthy for homecare but too poor to hire help. If she lets out a room in return for low rent and yard work, she might find herself worse off with OAS clawbacks on top of bigger grocery bills, blocked toilets, and the bother of having a renter around. She could barter material resources for required help, but government does not make it simple. Or she could take in family to help. But at her young-ish age, it might mean more nuisance than help. Of course, all these concerns would change by her late 80s.

A policy approach based on conservatism might look more like local, organic problem solving than grand, one-size-fits-all policy solutions. Conservatism starts from a view of society as a complex whole requiring long-term investments instead of quick returns based on annual budgets.

Conservatism *plus* classical liberalism

Little platoons are just one of many conservative ideas. Smart people should be able to use conservatism to suggest many other policy options.

This raises a bigger question. Aside from so-called "socially conservative" issues, why have so few conservative ideas been tabled in healthcare?

If not lack of knowledge, perhaps it reflects a lack of belief. Perhaps modern conservatives are mostly just classical liberals? Maybe most self-described conservatives are just liberals who lean right? Or perhaps conservatives and classical liberals have become competitors, each vying to dominate centre-right discourse, not working together as well as they might?

Medicare does not struggle for lack of ideas or funding. It struggles from funding thrown at the same tired ideas rooted in similar political traditions. Classical liberalism offers many good things, but it fails patients in important ways. Absent outside input, liberalism guarantees stasis in Canadian healthcare: a furious teeter-totter between two kinds of liberalism. A partnership with conservatism would help.

Shawn Whatley

evolve schooling so the kids get the most out of it. Others in education may see a similar opening. Learning loss is getting new attention. Schools with poor ventilation systems have been slotted for upgrades or have already installed the needed improvements. In the need for upgrades, can be cited the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's task of having to add about 600 air purifiers to the 200 already in place at end of the 2020-21 school year, to cover the 800 needed in its schools and centres. It would not be unusual to conclude that similar circumstances are prevalent in many other school boards across Québec.

Many teachers, in Laval and elsewhere, who made it through a crash course or self-taught learning to teach virtually, are finding lessons that endure. There are a lot of positives that happened because teachers have been forced into this uncomfortable and often awkward situation. The reality is that Covid has changed education and attitudes for both teachers and students. And, make no mistake, school systems in the world are not done with remote learning. They want more of it. However, this isn't necessarily a shared opinion amongst educators in Laval and Québec.

After a year when some systems did nothing but teach by computer screen, it has become clear that learning virtually has a place in the schools, if simply as an option. It's like a genie that is out of the bottle, and you can't get it back in. In many respects, this was overdue.

Few suggest that remote learning is for everyone. The pandemic showed, unmistakably, that most students learn best in person — in a three-dimensional world led by a teacher, surrounded by classmates, in a school environment. But school systems across the world are looking at remote learning as a way to meet diverse needs — for teenagers who have jobs, children with certain medical conditions, or kids who prefer learning virtually.

Distanced learning has also emerged as a way to expand access to less-common courses. If one high school offers classes in Italian, Greek, Spanish, students at another school could join remotely. In reality, this is nothing new; universities have been using remote learning for many years offering degrees which are accredited and valid in most provinces in Canada leading to a chosen career.

Teachers, administrators, and school personnel are taking all that they have learned from the pandemic and going with it. The pandemic has helped school boards to see that it is possible and it can be done. Not everyone imagines the same path forward. In elementary and high school, remote learning is a supplement, not a substitute, for in-school instruction, emphasizing that classroom learning is best for most students and that remote school can mean intense isolation. Staring at a screen all day is not optimal and "Zoom" fatigue is real.

While remote education has worked for many families, most kids have struggled — and the toll on mental health and social well-being is hard to ignore. Could these almost two long pandemic years — when so many children fell so far behind, when students dropped off the radar, when teachers could hardly tell who understood what as they tried to teach from a distance — could this be the time that Québec education gets serious about understanding and helping kids.

Moreover, with remediation, the goal is to make up what a child missed the first time around. The problem is students may never catch up. Accelerated learning, by contrast, seeks to make grade-level work accessible to those who are behind through a combination of

intensive help and modifications. Realistically, there is simply not enough time for teachers to make up all the lost time and material.

Undoubtedly, the mental health struggles of the school children will outlast the pandemic. Many teachers have stated that some days they didn't see or hear anybody. There was no interaction at all. When they're in the physical classroom, you can see if they're struggling. You can push them and help them. You can check in on them. But this was crazy according to several teachers' remarks.

"Crazy" is a word several Laval-area teachers have used to describe teaching during the pandemic. And frustrating. And exhausting. They had to become technology wizards, Zoom screen DJs, counselors, cheerleaders and teachers, all in one. Workloads doubled and stress levels quadrupled. Nothing in their training had prepared them for this. But as the end of the 2021 school year had approached, many looked at what they learned about teaching and about themselves during the pandemic and thinking about how they'll incorporate that in their classes once some normality would return.

For many teachers, the past year has only confirmed the importance of their vocation. And being a present and encouraging educator for students has never been more necessary. They had to shift their thinking and shift the way they taught lessons when they went online. Even veteran teachers were back to being new first-year teachers in this whole new world.

Over the last year, by necessity, the vast majority of students have been connected. Millions

of devices and hotspots have been purchased and distributed. The question now is: Will this new, more equitable arrangement persist? Most say yes. Time will tell. The days when out-of-school learning required only paper and pencil are long gone. Today, students live their lives online and use Internet-based resources for so much of their modern education. Education does not only happen at school. Kids do homework at night and that's education. For decades, students took their places at desks in classrooms, as teachers took attendance. But as schools shuttered and students began to learn remotely, the conventions of taking presence through "seat time" fell away.

Everywhere, school systems scrambled to come up with new ways to define attendance in remote school. Was it enough just to log in for the day or tune into a Zoom class? For many school leaders, the issue was a balancing act as they tried to support students who may be in crisis — as Covid-19 has claimed lives and left many workers strapped and jobless.

Parents, students, and teachers were hyper-focused during the pandemic on when closed schools would reopen. Some school boards began to consider permanent changes that would meet the changed and changing education landscape. Referring to remote learning that began during the pandemic and will last beyond the crisis, teachers will be doing a lot more of that now, and this emerging way of teaching kids through blended learning is not a butt-in-desks model of education. Not so easy. We're still not out of the woods.

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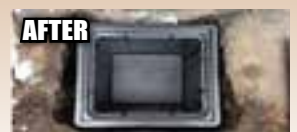
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City awards more than \$394,000 to help improve Laval youths' lives

The City of Laval announced last week that it is awarding more than \$394,000 in subsidies to several community sports and leisure activities organizations in order to encourage physical fitness and artistic ventures among the region's young people.

The organizations receiving the funds – Sports Laval, the Club cycliste Espoirs Laval, the Club de Football Bulldogs de Laval and the Théâtre Félé – will be sharing the sums which are coming out of the city-administered Fonds Place-du-Souvenir.

According to the city, the subsidies will be helping children and teenagers from disadvantaged households by allowing them to develop sports skills, to take up bicycling, and to play football, while attending school and taking part at the same time in creative activities.

In all, \$88,260 over two years is being given to Sports Laval for its Ini-Sports project, which offers children ages 7 to 12 from disadvantaged households the possibility of discovering new sports disciplines while developing themselves physically. Lasting nine weeks in three weekly cycles, the project aims to incite youths to pursue sports.

As well, the Club cycliste Espoirs Laval will be receiving \$53,435 over a one-year period to support its project, known as Ça roule Laval, to assist young residents also from disadvantaged households to take up cycling. According to the city, 500 youngsters ages 4 to 12 will receive equipment kits containing materials to be

creative.

Meanwhile, the Club de Football Bulldogs de Laval will be receiving \$88,000 over a two-year period for its project, Plan PSO2025 Football Bantam-Midget. The goal of the project is to encourage access to football for 100 youths ages 13 to 17 who are in vulnerable situations in the districts of Chomedey, Pont-Viau and Saint-François, with a leadership program designed to help with homework.

Finally, the amount of \$165,000 over a three-year period was awarded to Théâtre Félé to allow for the support of their Q.G. Chomedey project, which seeks to offer help for juvenile delinquency in the district through artistic creation for youths ages 12 to 17.

The Fonds Place-du-Souvenir was created on June 19, 2017 to:

Directly reach children and youths ages 0 to 17 who are from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and households in order to improve their lives;

Improve the quality of life of young Laval residents;

Be an intervention lever in social development terms for youths across Laval;

Be a coherent part of the City of Laval long-range development policy, *Laval 2035 : urbaine by nature*, as well as the regional social-development plan (PRDS) for Laval.

STL receives coveted award for management excellence

The Société de transport de Laval was recently awarded the Canada Prize for Excellence-Platinum, for its excellence in overall management.

The distinction, regarded as one of the highest in the public transit sector, recognized the STL for the quality of its management and its overall performance.

STL general manager Guy Picard, along with STL president Éric Morasse accepted the award on Nov. 4.

"It is a genuine pleasure for us to realize that our determined will to evolve and improve continuously has been recognized and that we are receiving today this prestigious prize," said Morasse.

"Rigorous management and performance are exercised in all our organizational and we are proud to be able to harvest the fruit of all these efforts today."

"We believe in ourselves," added Picard. "Being at the controls of an organization as innovative and motivated towards excellence is for me a great source of pride. The STL would not be what it is without the support of its 1,100 or so employees and its 9 directors on the administrative board, who have a common passion to see big while working for the common good.



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Of 28 countries with public health care, Canada among highest spenders, says Fraser Institute

But country ranks near bottom for number of doctors, hospital beds, MRIs and wait times



MARTIN C. BARRY
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Despite spending more on health care than most other developed countries with universal health care coverage, Canada has some of the lowest numbers of doctors, hospital beds, and medical technologies and the longest wait times, concludes a new study released this month by an independent Canadian public policy think-tank.

We rank 21st out of 24

Among other things, the Fraser Institute researchers found that Canada ranked 21st (out of 24) for the number of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines, with 10.5 MRIs per million people, and 22nd (out of 26) for CT scanners, with 15.2 scanners per million people.

Among the 10 comparable universal health-care countries that measure wait times, the study found Canada ranked last with the lowest percentage (38 per cent) of patients who waited four weeks or less to see a specialist, and the lowest percentage of patients (62 per cent) who waited four months or less for elective surgery.

'A clear imbalance'

"There is a clear imbalance between the high cost of Canada's health-care system and the value Canadians receive in terms of availability of resources and timely access to care," said Bacchus Barua, Director of health policy studies at the Vancouver-based institute.

With policy analyst Mackenzie Moir, he

co-authored 'Comparing Performance of Universal Health Care Countries 2021,' which was published by the Fraser Institute on Nov. 2. "Canada's relative lack of critical resources and struggle with long wait times for treatment precede the COVID-19 pandemic," said Moir. "To improve Canada's health-care system in the post-pandemic world, policymakers should learn from other successful universal health-care countries, for the benefit of Canadians and their families."

Health systems compared

The study compared 28 universal health-care systems in developed countries, spotlighting several key areas including cost, availability and use of resources, access to care, clinical performance and quality, and the health of Canadians.

In 2019, the latest year of comparable data, Canada's health-care spending as a share of GDP (11.3 per cent) ranked second highest (after adjusting for population age) behind only Switzerland.

But despite Canada's high level of spending, availability and access to medical resources is generally worse than in comparable countries (its performance in terms of utilization and quality is mixed).

We rank 26th of 28 for doctors

For example, (out of 28 countries) Canada ranks 26th for the number of doctors (2.8 per 1,000 people), 25th (out of 26 countries) for the number of hospital beds (2.0 per 1,000 people), and 24th (out of 28 countries) for the number of psychiatric beds (0.37 per 1,000 people).

The study used a "value for money approach" to compare the cost and performance of 28 universal health-care systems in high-income countries. The level of health-care expenditure was measured using two indicators, while the performance of each country's health-care system was measured using 40 indicators representing four broad categories: availability of resources, use of resources, access to resources, and quality and clinical performance.

Second highest for costs

"Canada spends more on health care than the majority of high-income OECD countries with universal health-care systems," the study's authors wrote in an executive summary. "After adjustment for 'age,' the percentage of the population over 65, it ranks second highest for expenditure on health care as a percentage of GDP and eighth highest for health-care expenditure per capita."

The data suggested that Canada has substantially fewer human and capital medical resources than many peer jurisdictions that spend

comparable amounts of money on health care. They said that after adjustment for age, the country has "significantly fewer physicians, acute-care beds, and psychiatric beds per capita compared to the average of OECD countries included in the study."

Performance below average

They said the country ranks close to the average for nurses and ranked eighth for the number of long-term care beds (per 1,000 over the age of 65). While Canada has the third most Gamma cameras (per million population, age-adjusted), they found it has fewer other medical technologies than the average high-income OECD country with universal health care for which comparable inventory data are available.

"Although Canada ranks among the most expensive universal-access health-care systems in the OECD, its performance for availability and access to resources is generally below that of the average OECD country, while its performance for use of resources and quality and clinical performance is mixed," wrote Moir and Barua.



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INVITATION PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Yves Carignan, Chair of the Board, and
Christian Gagné, CEO, would like to invite Laval residents to the annual
public information session of the CISSS de Laval

DATE: Thursday, November 18, 2021

TIME: 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING: <https://ciyss-lanaudiere.zoom.us/j/69366630633>

BY TELEPHONE: 438 809-7799 - ID: 693 6663 0633

The meeting will present:

- The highlights of the 2020-2021 activities
- The financial report as of March 31, 2021
- The report on the implementation of the complaint review process
- The 2020-2021 activity report of the CISSS de Laval users' committee

The presentation will be followed by a question period.

For more information on the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de Laval, visit www.lavalensante.com

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Aglaia Revelakis takes Chomedey for Action Laval another time

(Photos: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

Wins a third term, while outdistancing nearest rival by nearly 30 percentage points



MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News
marty@newsfirst.ca

If there is one thing that has been consistent about Action Laval since the municipal party's inception eight years ago, it is Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis's ability to win the district's Laval city council seat from the very beginning and with overwhelming support.

Won 52.19 % support

Last Sunday's municipal elections were no exception. Revelakis, who just finished her second term, handily won Chomedey for Action Laval/Team Sophie Trottier with 52.19 per cent support.

She left her closest rivals, Omar Waedh of the Mouvement lavallois and Evangelia Tsakiris of the Parti Laval, far behind with just 22.68 and 21.55 per cent respectively each.

Marie-Josée Duval of Laval Citoyens/Équipe Michel Poissant obtained a little more than 3.5 per cent support, laying to rest fears a week before the election that a misprint on the Chomedey voter information card, misidentifying Duval as running for Action Laval, might give her an edge at Revelakis's expense.

Tireless campaign work

Revelakis was surrounded by volunteers and friends at her campaign headquarters on Favreau St. on election night last Sunday as the returns came in. Even though it was her third straight win, she and her team had worked tirelessly on a door-to-door canvassing campaign over the previous weeks, knowing that no election is ever really easily won.

"I'm excited, but I've gotta tell you something," Gus Milonopoulos, a Revelakis supporter from the start, told the Laval News. "She had supporters, phone callers, errand runners, drivers, you name it."

An anchor for Action Laval

In an interview last Sunday evening, Revelakis acknowledged that her dominance of Chomedey in every election since 2013 has helped to anchor Action Laval and kept the party viable as a political force, regardless of what happens to their fortunes in the city's other districts.



Surrounded by enthusiastic supporters at her Favreau St. campaign headquarters last Sunday evening, re-elected Action Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis (centre) won the district with more than 52 per cent voter support.

"This is the district that pulls Action Laval up," she said. "I want to thank my team. I had an incredible team behind me. We did all that we had to do in order for us to win. And without my volunteers, I would not have been able to do this. One person could never do this."

Getting out the vote

"There has been army of people here today helping from 10 o'clock to eight this evening, making calls, trying to get


out the vote," she continued. "I have been doing continuous door-to-door for five, six hours a day to make sure that I met every single person in my district to ask them for their support."

"So, I would like to thank everybody who has been given me the opportunity to be here and represent Chomedey. Chomedey is always going to be my priority. I love Chomedey and have been living here for more than 30 years."

*This is the district
that pulls
Action Laval up'*



Left, defeated Action Laval mayoralty candidate Sophie Trottier is greeted by a supporter at party HQ on Saint-Martin Blvd. last Sunday evening.



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Mouvement lavallois wins 14 of Laval city council's 21 seats

Stéphane Boyer wins a strong mandate to become City of Laval's next mayor



MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News
marty@newsfirst.ca

Who will form the next Official Opposition on Laval city council?

On Monday earlier this week, that was the burning question being pondered by election officials at Laval city hall, as election runner-ups Action Laval and the Parti Laval jostled in a tense neck-and-neck situation to see which would wear the mantle in the aftermath of Sunday's municipal elections.

Boyer decisively elected

About one thing there was no uncertainty: Stéphane Boyer clearly won the mayoralty race for the Mouvement lavallois, receiving 41.53 per cent support from the City of Laval's voters.

However, a district-by-district vote count on Monday showed the Parti Laval and Action Laval less than 900 votes apart in overall support, with the former favoured to become the official opposition after having served in that role for the past four years.

The new council seat count

As the dust settled, the new seat count in Laval city council showed the Mouvement lavallois having won 14 districts, Action Laval taking five, and the Parti Laval winning two.

The five elected Action Laval city councillors are Aglaia Revelakis (Chomedey), David De Cotis (Saint-Bruno), Paolo Galati (Saint-Vincent-de-Paul), Achille 'Archie' Cifelli (Val-des-Arbres), and Isabelle Piché (Saint-François).

Piché is the spouse of De Cotis and their presence together on city council as part of the opposition promises to deliver some potentially-interesting "tag team" dynamics.

A sixth possible seat for Action Laval was the district of Renaud, where AL candidate Grace Ghazal and the Mouvement lavallois's Seta Topouzian were separated by just 23 votes.

Two seats for Parti Laval

Incumbent Parti Laval city councillor for Fabreville Claude Larochelle was confirmed the winner in his district with 48.11 per cent support.

Former francophone school board president Louise Lortie won a second city district for the Parti Laval in Marc-Aurèle-Fortin, taking over the seat vacated by Michel Trottier who was the party's unsuccessful mayoralty candidate.

In an interview with the Laval News inside the Mouvement lavallois's chosen election night venue in Carlo & Pepe's at the Centropolis, mayor-elect Stéphane Boyer said he was "very proud of the results tonight. We see it as a vote of confidence in the Mouvement lavallois for



Newly-elected Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer is interviewed for television at Carlo & Pepe's last Sunday evening.

the good work we've done for the last few years. We're very happy to see these results tonight and we'd like to thank all the population."

Boyer to follow through on pledges

While Boyer said the new administration will be following through on its platform commitments, including new sports infrastructure, and the purchase of additional forestlands and green spaces, "I also want to have a bigger focus on housing to make sure that we have affordable housing for everyone," he added, noting that his administration would also like to improve security in all the districts with a greater police presence and increased enforcement of traffic regulations near schools.

Regarding the Aquatic Complex project to be built next to the Cosmodôme, the new mayor said the project has been submitted to a second round of tendering for bids, and envelopes containing offers from contractors "should be opened in the coming weeks. We absolutely want to move forward with this project."

AL leader's future uncertain

At Action Laval headquarters on Saint Martin Blvd. near de l'Avenir, the mood was more subdued last Sunday evening. In an interview with the Laval News, party leader and mayoralty candidate Sophie Trottier, who finished the race with 24.16 per cent support (one percentage point behind the Parti Laval's Michel Trottier),



Re-elected ML Sainte-Dorothée city councillor Ray Khalil is seen here with his spouse last Sunday evening.

was uncertain about her future.

"Right now, honestly, we're going to need to sit down and talk about the options," she said, referring to the party membership. (Following Action Laval's poor results after the 2013 election, party founder and mayoralty candidate Jean-Claude Gobé gradually receded from public consciousness).



Newly-elected Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer, with former Mayor Marc Demers and re-elected councillor Vassili Karidoyannis

"I never abandon people in life," said Trottier. "What's going to be my role exactly? We'll see. But when the time comes, we'll be making an official statement."



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November 11 Remembrance DAY

Honouring our nation's heroes



3 ways to support Canada's veterans year-round

On Remembrance Day, Canadians across the country commemorate the brave men and women who died in the line of duty as well as those who currently serve in the armed forces. However, your recognition doesn't have to be limited to November 11. Here are three ways you can support Canadian veterans year-round.

1. DONATE TO A REPUTABLE CHARITY

There are a number of charities, including the Poppy Fund, VETS Canada and Wounded Warriors Canada, doing critical work to empower and support veterans from coast to coast. Donating even a

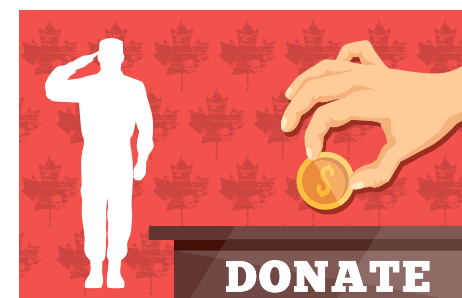
small amount to a reputable organization can help improve the circumstances of those who risked their lives for their country.

2. VOLUNTEER AT A ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

There are more than 1,300 Legion branches across the country. As Canada's largest veteran service organization, the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) offers outreach and assistance programs for veterans and their families as well as community services and support. Volunteering at your local Legion branch is a great way to make a real difference in the lives of those who served.

3. VISIT A VETERAN IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC), in collaboration with the RCL, runs an initiative that facilitates face-to-face visits with veterans in retirement and long-term care facilities. These visits provide social interaction and a sense of community to individuals who may not otherwise receive many visitors. Spending time with a veteran can have a major impact on their life as well as your own.



This Remembrance Day, know that Canadian veterans need your help year-round, and consider taking steps to offer your support.

A tribute to our heroes on Remembrance Day

Today we honor the memory of the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and our way of life. Their dedication to our country makes us proud to be Canadians, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. On Remembrance Day, we salute our nation's fallen and the families who carry on without them. Their heroic spirit and sacrifice will never be forgotten. We will always remember that freedom is not free.

THE LAVAL news



Izzy dolls: a Canadian symbol of good will

Though poppies are a powerful symbol of Remembrance Day in Canada, Izzy dolls are also becoming increasingly well known. These small, hand-knitted dolls are named after Master Corporal Mark "Izzy" Isfeld, a Canadian soldier who died while serving on a peacekeeping mission in Croatia in 1994.

On Isfeld's first peacekeeping mission, he was deeply affected by the suffering of the children he encountered. Many of the children he met had no toys or personal belongings, as they had to leave everything behind when they fled from dangerous situations. This gave Is-

feld's mother, Carol, the idea to create Izzy dolls so her son would have something to give the children he met while serving.

The legacy of the Izzy doll continues to bring comfort and smiles to children around the world. Over the past two decades, Canadian soldiers and health-care workers have given out more than 1.3 million dolls to children in war-torn areas and regions affected by natural disasters as a small token of goodwill and hope. The dolls are also often given to refugee children who resettle in Canada.

Today, Izzy dolls are made by volunteers across the country. If you're interested in becoming part of this effort, you can find patterns and instructions for how to make the dolls online.



World War One comes off the page

You might think the legacy of WWI hangs on by a tenuous thread — as sad as it is, there are no longer any living veterans of that war. But we have the red poppy pins, In Flanders Fields, and countless books and movies to keep the story alive and to remind us of what Canadians won and lost in the conflict of 1914-1918. Here are a few of the reads that best recount the era, with all its glory and losses.

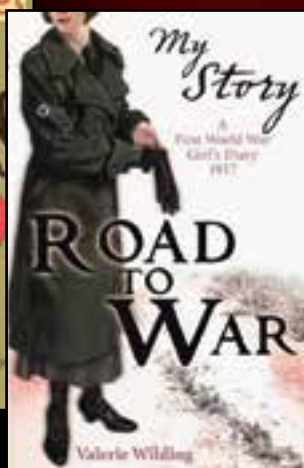
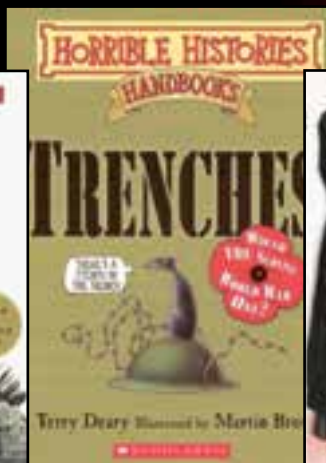
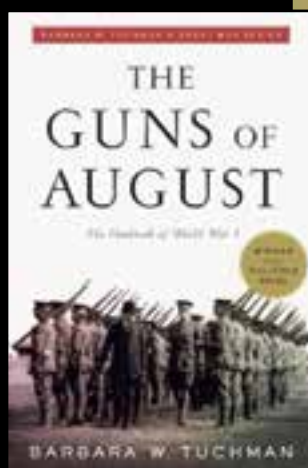
Youth fiction. The book *Road to War: A First World War Girls' Diary, 1916-1917* is a fictionalized first-person account that makes it real.

The author puts a young woman in an active role as a WWI ambulance driver on the French front.

Youth non-fiction. *The Horrible Histories Handbook: Trenches: Would You Survive World War One?* is an engaging look at the stark realities of ground warfare with great illustrations.

Non-fiction. For a Pulitzer-prize winning overview, read *The Guns of August: The Outbreak of World War I*, by Barbara W. Tuchman. For a contemporary re-examining of Canada's role in the conflict, check out military historian Gwynne Dyer's *Canada in the Great Power Game: 1914-2014*. For an interesting twist, try Canadian anthropologist Wade Davis' sweeping account of WWI and what it meant for mountaineering; it's called *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest*.

Novels. First published in 1920, Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet on the Western Front* has become a classic. For the romantically inclined, *Birdsong*, by Sebastian Faulks, has been on best book lists for the last 21 years.



*By remembering history, we honour the past
as we build towards a peaceful future.
Happy Remembrance Day!*



Lest we forget

Fayçal El-Khoury
MP-Laval-Les Îles
450 689-4594

Annie Koutrakis
MP-VIMY
450-973-5660

Laval Police arrest two men suspected of repeat sexual offenses



The Laval police say they have arrested two men suspected of being connected to a sexual assault and say there may have been additional victims.

The LPD issued a statement on Nov. 1 saying that Jean-Michel Richard, 37, and Schneider Toussaint, 24, had been arrested and appeared on Oct. 22 and 28 at the Laval courthouse under several charges related to sexual assault.

The allegations stem from an incident on Jan. 31, when a young woman went to the home of the two suspects to spend the evening. She was allegedly sexually assaulted by them that night.

Police say there are indications that other people may have been victims and that investigators hope to speak to them.

Anyone who believes they may have been sexually assaulted by these individuals is invited to contact Laval police confidentially at 450 662- INFO (4636) or by dialing 911. The file number is LVL 210218-057.

Montreal man charged with sexual assault and luring minors online

Police investigators from the Sûreté du Québec's major crimes division say they have arrested a 57-year-old Montreal man in connection with several alleged sexual infractions.

Acher Sabbah appeared at the Laval courthouse last week to answer charges of sexual assault, sexual contacts, sexual coercion and child luring over the internet. The alleged offenses took place from 2015 to 2019 in Lachute, Beauharnois and Laval.

The suspect allegedly sought out his victims on various internet chat platforms, using such false names as "Adam."

It is alleged that he would exchange text messages and have phone conversations with victims, followed by in-person meetings during which the alleged infractions occurred.

Police believe Sabbah could have more victims who have not yet been identified.



Laval Police seek missing girl



The LPD says it is searching for 17-year-old Magaly Champagne.

On Nov. 2, she left her home to go to an appointment. She has not been seen since and those close to her fear for her safety.

She is believed to be somewhere in the greater Montreal area.

Description: Caucasian female, speaking French. Height: 5'7". Weight: 140 lbs. Hair: Brown, blue eyes.

Anyone who believes they have information on her is invited to contact the LPD's Info-Line at 450-662-INFO (4636) or call 911. The file number is LVL-211102-083.



Laval-based wellness company to pay \$200,000 for violating telemarketing rules

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced last week that CA Diffusion has agreed to pay a \$200,000 penalty as part of a settlement for making non-compliant telemarketing calls.

The Laval-based company, more widely known as Physaro, specializes in the direct sale of wellness products geared toward seniors.



"This case was particularly worrisome as the products being sold targeted a vulnerable segment of our population," said CRTC chief compliance and enforcement officer Steven Harroun, (photo above).

"CA Diffusion cooperated with our investigation, voluntarily entered into an agreement, and has implemented corrective measures to ensure compliance with the rules. We continue to closely monitor organizations to uphold Canadians' choice not to be bothered by telemarketing calls."

The CRTC investigation uncovered that CA Diffusion committed several violations of the Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules between September 2018 and July 2019.

During that period, millions of unsolicited calls were made to Canadians – some of which were made to telephone numbers registered on the National Do Not Call List (DNCL) and outside of the permissible calling hours.

Some calls were also made during periods when the company failed to purchase a subscription to the National DNCL. The company enlisted the services of call centres based in Senegal and Morocco.

The CRTC reminds telemarketers that it is their duty to comply with the Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules, whether based in Canada or abroad, and whether they make the calls themselves or hire a third-party agency to do it for them.

The CRTC's Unsolicited Telecommunications Rules are a strict set of regulations that individuals, companies and organizations must follow when making unsolicited telecommunications, including telemarketing calls.

The CRTC says it is continuing to monitor to ensure telemarketers follow the rules and to reduce the number of unwanted calls to Canadians.

The National DNCL was launched in 2008 to protect Canadians from unsolicited telecommunications. Canadians may register their numbers permanently on the List at no charge. Over 14 million numbers have been registered on the List.

The CRTC says that since 2008, a total of \$10,716,930 has been issued in administrative monetary penalties. In 2020-21, Canadians filed 45,874 complaints with the National DNCL Operator.

Canadians can register their numbers, verify whether a number is on the List or file a complaint about a telemarketer by calling 1-866-580-DNCL (3625) or visiting the National DNCL website.

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AVIS DE CLÔTURE D'INVENTAIRE (Avis dans un journal : C.c.Q., art. 795 al. 2)

Avis est donné, conformément au Code civil du Québec, de la clôture de l'inventaire en regard de la succession de Louis-Michel ROUMAIN, en son vivant domicilié et résidant au 2977, 2e rue apt. 202 en la ville de Laval-Ouest, province de Québec, H7R 2X1 et décédé le 30 mai 2021 à Montréal. Cet inventaire peut être consulté par toute personne ayant un intérêt, à 775, avenue Plymouth en la ville de Mont-Royal, province de Québec, H4P 0C2.

Mont-Royal, le 9 septembre 2021,
Christopher ROUMAIN, liquidateur

DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

Mistaken Identity

Q I am going nuts which is why I am writing. I have been "dating" a man for a year now. I say "dating" because we are platonic, and he is having trouble rebounding from a marriage that dissolved three years ago. I should have moved on and would have if we hadn't connected so deeply. He is me in so many ways and complements me in so many others.

For someone like me who scoffed at love, I now crave that very thing from this man. I try to move on but he is there. We spend hours talking. We have similar educational backgrounds and intellectual pursuits. We enjoy the same jokes and movies.

So much compatibility, yet he wants me to move on. I don't want to go and I don't want to stay. Is this all I can hope for? I've waited all of my 32 years to meet what I consider a soulmate.

Is there anything I can do just to make him release that pain and move on. Even if he chooses someone else, I care too deeply for him to live trapped in "what if" and "what could I have done differently?"

Conversely, I don't want to stay and have him shatter my heart. He told me he is not the one for me. But I am assuming by what he says he

is not the one for anyone because he failed with this woman he loved.

He also stated he didn't want to introduce sex into our relationship because it would ruin it. I don't want just sex from him. I am hoping for a meaningful relationship that leads to marriage.

Gloria

A Gloria, you've got a great best friend. He is a wonderful part of your life. Unfortunately your friend is a man. Since he's male, you are trying to turn him into something he is not.

If your heart gets broken, it will be a self-inflicted wound. Your friend has made clear what his role in your life is. If you accept it, you will have a friend who makes the good times merrier and the sad times less sad.

There are those who promise to tell you how to win a man's heart. It's as if they are talking about buying a bicycle, with some assembly required. Get a pair of pliers and perform a few simple tasks, and you will have a bicycle you can ride.

A list of compatible qualities, unlike bicycle parts, cannot be put together to make what you want. A husband. Your friend is not an object you can project your will onto.

Wayne & Tamara

The Lifeboat

Q I am a single mother of three children. I am very interested in starting a relationship with a guy who rings me every day. His ex-wife left him a while ago to be with my father.

This guy says he just wants to be friends. He says a relationship would cause problems for us because of his ex and my father, but he keeps ringing me up day after day.

Am I wasting my time trying to pursue more than friendship with him?

Crystal

A Crystal, the mailman, the grocer, a neighbor... You have daily interactions with a lot of people, but your need

doesn't make each man who crosses your path a potential husband.

You and this man have been thrown together through an odd, almost bizarre, set of circumstances, like two people meeting in a lifeboat. He wants someone to share the trauma with, and who better than someone close to his ex who can tell him what's happening.

When the lifeboat is picked up and the parties get back to shore, they go their separate ways. When he gets over his pain, the rescue vessel will have docked. He will move on, and you will only be the reminder of a bad event.

Wayne & Tamara

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HOROSCOPE

Week of **NOVEMBER 14 TO 20, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:
GEMINI, CANCER AND LEO



ARIES

Your mind will run wild with ideas. You'll start all sorts of projects without necessarily finishing them. You'll also suggest a number of activities to your loved ones. At work, a certain task will take longer than expected.



TAURUS

Stress will drain your energy. It's important to rest, but you might also need to take steps to adapt your lifestyle for the better. Among other things, you may want to take up a practice of a more spiritual nature.



GEMINI

You'll enjoy a fairly active social life. Even if you want some alone time this week, there will always be someone around to break your isolation and put a smile on your face. Let the changes you experience guide rather than hinder you.



CANCER

At work, you'll be in charge of an important meeting or an event that brings a lot of people together. You'll be able to combine work with play, and you can expect a fun atmosphere at the office. You'll be more efficient in a relaxed environment.



LEO

You might not have intended to take a romantic trip with your partner, but you'll make it happen. Be sure to maintain your focus if you're taking any kind of training course. At work, take the time to analyze the smallest details.



VIRGO

Your emotions will likely get the best of you. This is a situation where you'll have to learn to let go, and you may embrace a more spiritual perspective. If you're part of a couple, you need to make more time for fun.



LIBRA

Since you tend to lack patience with your significant other, it would be a good idea to break up your routine so you can bond while having an exciting adventure together. In your professional life, you're brave enough to make big changes.



SCORPIO

You're able to handle any emergency that comes up. This is an ability that will eventually pay off at work. As for your love life, it's the little things that show how deep your feelings are for one another.



SAGITTARIUS

If there's some friction in your relationship, you might have a tendency to settle things too quickly. At work or elsewhere, you'll manage to garner respect in a chaotic situation, which will be a source of pride for you.



CAPRICORN

You'll need to be patient with a family member. You might be inspired to get out the holiday decorations and give your home a deep clean. The idea of moving could become a real possibility.



AQUARIUS

You'll need to travel a lot, either for work or personal reasons. You'll be able to resolve a conflict that's dragged on for a long time by speaking up. Avoid criticizing your significant other for simply being clumsy.



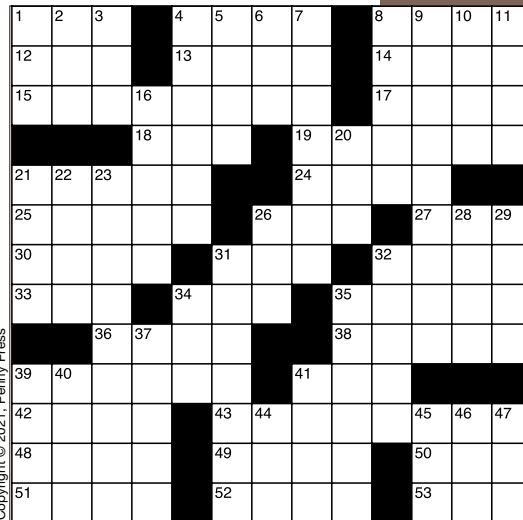
PISCES

If you're in a precarious financial situation, you'll stumble upon a winning formula to get you out of your predicament. You won't bite your tongue this week, and speaking up could get you into your boss' good graces.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 101



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ACROSS

1. Astern
4. Tiers
8. Inky stain
12. Body of water
13. Hero's tale
14. Theme-park feature
15. Lantern fuel
17. Prop for Child
18. Not pro
19. Most up-to-date
21. Memo taker
24. Basks in the sun
25. WWII craft: hyph.
26. Four-footed friend
27. Metal container
30. Man in the ____
31. Defective firecracker
32. Vein of ore
33. Risk money
34. With it
35. Recurring event
36. Weeding implements

DOWN

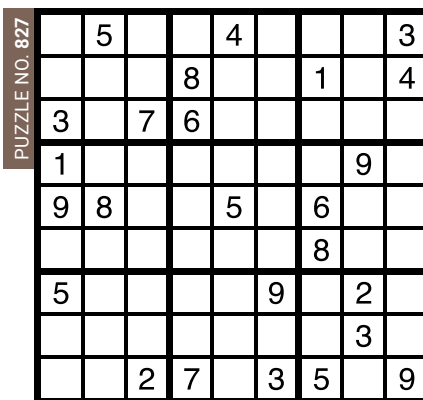
1. Solicit
2. Doctor's charge
3. Pave
4. St. Tropez, e.g.
5. Sincere
6. Take first place
7. Perfumed
8. Color of chocolate
9. Farm animals
10. Keats poems
11. Camping item
16. Arctic or Pacific
20. Consume
21. Lacking sensation
22. Wind instrument
23. Appetizing
26. Baby beagle
28. Unoccupied
29. Require
31. Warp
32. Stretching the truth
34. "____ So Shy"
35. Alleges
37. Greased
39. Hole-punching tools
40. Detergent
41. Tell a secret
44. Tropical serpent
45. Additionally
46. Doll or kite
47. Shepherd's charge

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

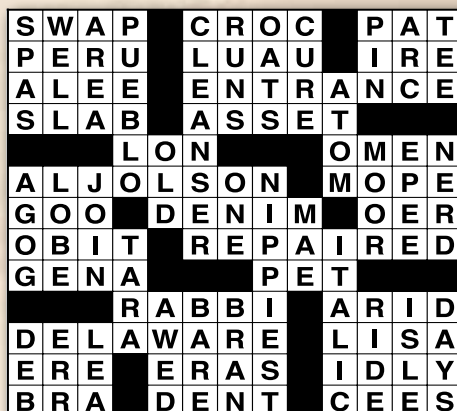
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

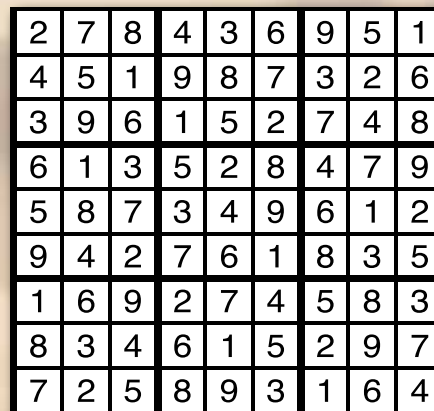


Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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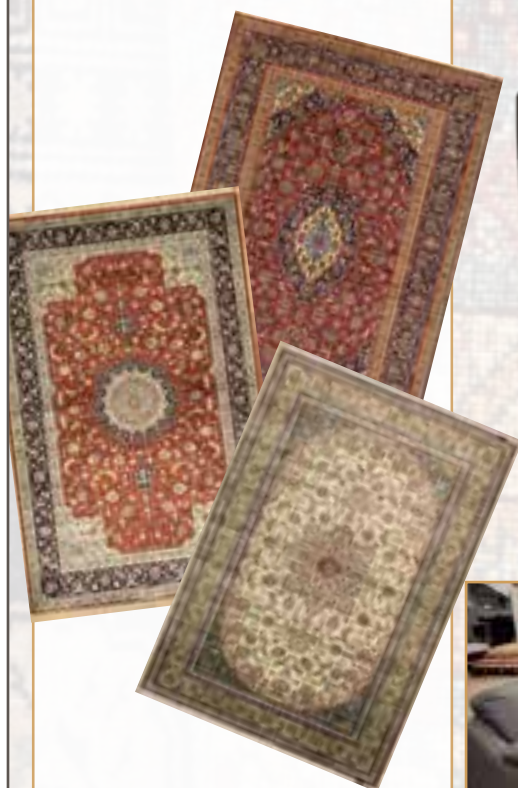
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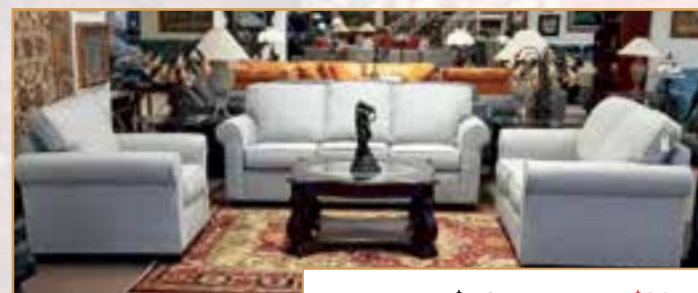
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