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Laval's police chief Pierre Brochet, Mayor Stéphane Boyer, Vimont CAQ MNA Valérie Schmaltz and Chomedey Liberal MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier are seen here at the centre of a group of Laval city councillors who were on hand last week at Collège Montmorency for the city's Strategic security and well-being plan announcement. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)









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Laval tables 10-year plan to crack down on juvenile delinquency

City offers 'concrete solutions' for recent rise in urban violence

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The Laval News marty@newsfirst.ca

In the lingering aftermath of a shooting incident in November 2022 at Collège Montmorency which led to a day-long lockdown at the CEGEP, the City of Laval last week unveiled a new multi-faceted strategy for ensuring security and well-being in Laval — with a significant focus on young adults and youths. Laval's Plan stratégique Sécurité et bien-être collectif (Strategic

Laval's Plan stratégique Sécurité et bien-être collectif (Strategic security and well-being plan) will act as a framework to be gradually implemented over the next 10 years.

A preventive action plan

Based on the premise that social, economic, domestic and personal experiences often play a key role in determining whether a young person turns violent or becomes delinquent, the strategy places emphasis on persons from 12 to 35 years of age.

Although it was probably the most troubling crime-related incident in Laval in recent years, the Collège Montmorency shooting was not by any means an isolated happening.

Since at least early 2020 when the Covid pandemic first set in, the number of shootings and firearms-related incidents in Laval – involving younger people for the most part – skyrocketed.

Rising crime levels

According to statistics furnished by the city last week during a technical briefing held at the de l'Avenir Blvd. college campus, from 2019 to 2021 Laval saw an increase in juvenile criminality and violent acts, two-thirds of which involved suspects between the ages of 17 and 21.

Some shorter-term strategies the city implemented in response, with financial help from the Quebec government, appear to have brought the situation under control – at least for the time being. What the city is aiming for now is a much longer-term fix for the problem. This latest strategy will serve as a framework for a range of smaller programs, according to the city.

80 groups involved

In a revitalized effort to keep violent acts and gun-related crimes under control, the city has enlisted the active support of some 80 local community organizations that share a stake in the outcome. They are involved in education, mental and physical health, substance abuse rehabilitation, as well as ethnic and multicultural integration.

Although specifics for the plan appear to be far from finalized at this point, the city says that more than a dozen meetings between officials in City of Laval departments have already taken place, as well as a half-dozen meetings between members of a steering committee made up of leaders from 16 partner groups.

As for who is going to pay for it all, the Quebec Ministry of Public Security has agreed to pony up with \$4.6 million, a significant amount of which will be originating from the federal government's Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF).

Quebec's financial support

Quebec's front-and-centre role in providing financial support was emphasized by the fact that CAQ MNA for Vimont Valérie Schmaltz was cued to deliver remarks first during the city's press conference, before Mayor Stéphane Boyer or Laval Police Dept. chief Pierre Brochet spoke.

"Today we are ramping up our efforts in order to respond directly to the needs of young people in Laval 12 to 35 years of age, and to invest in the long term in resources in all the neighbourhoods to be able to maintain a city that is secure for everyone," said Boyer.

"With the valuable cooperation of more than 80 partners, we are bringing together all our strengths to follow and influence the trajectories of youths who are at-risk for social breakdown or for becoming involved in delinquent behaviours," he continued. "This historic partnership in Laval that we are building together will lead to a city that is stronger, more secure and more agreeable."

A concerted effort

"The coming into being of this strategic plan demonstrates the power of the collaborative work done with our partners for the security and well-being of the population," said Brochet.

"All the players who are involved have expertise and an approach that complements one another. Our police service is treating urban violence as an organizational priority, and we are stating once again out commitment to making all possible efforts to contribute to maintaining a sense of peace among all our citizens, while offering Laval's youths avenues to be able to turn their backs on crime."

Braking crime in Chomedey

Chomedey Liberal MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier, who has expressed deep concerns about rising crime levels in her riding, told *The Laval News* she was pleased with the city's efforts, although "we should have done this a couple of years ago," she added.

"I'm worried about Chomedey. We have beautiful spaces, but crime's really coming up, and this is something important that's finally being done. I just hope Chomedey isn't left out because Laval is big. Hopefully we are not left out."

Action Laval, one of the city's two opposition parties, also had a mixed reaction. While a spokesperson said the party membership was pleased that something was finally being done, he suggested it was overdue and they were waiting for further developments.



"Today we are ramping up our efforts in order to respond directly to the needs of young people in Laval," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



"Our police service is treating urban violence as an organizational priority," said Laval Police chief Pierre Brochet. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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QPINION &Editorial



Anti-poverty programs exclude 95 percent of poor Canadians

More white Canadians live in poverty than all other ethnicities combined

It turns out that there are more white Canadians in poverty than all other ethnicities combined. Yet, as a new study from the Aristotle Foundation for Public Policy also notes, considerable government "anti-poverty" resources exclude those Canadians based on ... skin colour.

Fifty years ago, the goal of progressive policy-makers was to be colour-blind. Today, "Thou shalt not be colour blind!" is the new "anti-racism," at least according to progressives.

The lack of logic is earily cultish and begs the question: How did we get to the point where not judging someone by their skin colour is considered racist?

For example, in 2018, the federal government developed its new "anti-racism strategy." It focused on those presumed to have "lived experiences of racism and discrimination," with a particular focus on Indigenous Canadians.

Those leading the charge may be well-meaning, but an ideology that defines "anti-racist" as colour-conscious in 2024 and forces everyone into one of two corners – the oppressor or the oppressed – is not merely simplistic but dangerous. Case in point: the tragic suicide of Toronto school principal Richard Bilkszto last year, blamed in part on his denouncement and humiliation by an 'anti-racist' training consultant, Kike Ojo-Thompson.

So where did the popularity of this new "anti-racism" come from? It can be traced back to the rise in prominence of Ibram X. Kendi, a best-selling author and scholar of American race relations. In 2016, Kendi published Stamped From the Beginning.

It was an earnest attempt to look at the history of racist ideas in America – but full of simplistic thinking and wrong cause-and-effect links. At least Kendi got part of his anti-racism assumptions correct, writing that "[N]o racial group

has ever had a monopoly on any type of human trait or gene – not now, not ever."

However, Kendi then did a 180-degree turn, accusing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ideas of containing the seeds of hidden racism. In his 2019 book, How to Be An Anti-Racist, he asserted that "The language of colour blindness ... is a mask to hide racism."

As a work of scholarship, How to Be an Antiracist did not meet the standard of academic rigour. But as a work of propaganda, it exceeded anyone's wildest imaginations. 'Antiracism' became the buzzword in American and Canadian political discourse after the killing of George Floyd in June 2020. The social unrest sparked by this act of injustice boosted the sales of Kendi's book, making its author the most sought-after authority on America's 'racial reckoning'.

Ibram X. Kendi's name is becoming synonymous with 'anti-racism'. But once the thinking public examines what 'anti-racism' truly means, they will take him less and less seriously.

For one, Kendi's work is simplistic. For example, core to his thinking and analysis is that all differences in outcomes between cohorts (defined by colour) are the result of racism. He omits education levels, cultural differences, family dynamics, geography (Indigenous, like all Canadians, earn more in cities than in rural areas), and much more that matters to financial success or failure.

The good news is that Kendi is at least clear about his true intentions: "What's the problem with being 'not racist'? It is a claim that signifies neutrality ... [T]here is no neutrality in the racism struggle."

The problem with Kendi's 'anti-racism' approach is that it inaccurately assumes all disparities are solely due to racism. This one-dimensional view leads him to assert, "The only

remedy for past discrimination is present discrimination." As a result, modern 'anti-racism' can paradoxically promote discrimination while claiming to oppose it.

It's also why Columbia linguist John McWhorter remarked that "Third Wave Antiracism is not a philosophy but a religion" and why it's only a matter of time before the public realizes that Kendi-ism is nonsensical or racially divisive, or both.

However, before the public wakes up to Kendi's 'anti-racism' bathed in racism, the tragedy of living by lies is that the most vulnerable suffer while those who promote the lie pat themselves on the back.

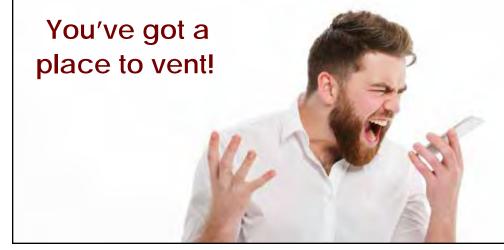
Consider when race and not financial need is the criterion for anti-poverty funding. Few in poverty benefit, as Matthew Lau and David Hunt find in their new study for the Aristotle Foundation for Public Policy. For instance, well over 80 percent of each Statistics Canada cohort – including black and Indigenous Canadians – are not in poverty. Thus, race-based funding under the guise of "anti-poverty" overwhelmingly benefits those who are not in poverty while excluding the truly poor. Specifically, the government's black-only and Indigenous only anti-poverty programs exclude around 95 percent of poor Canadians. How is such policy fair – or sensible?

In Canada, poverty is not linked to race, yet 'anti-racism' is what drives the poverty-reduction agenda.

For the sake of the truly disadvantaged, it is time we reject 'anti-racism' and its pseudo-scholarship and racial-identity politics. Thankfully, the High Priest of Anti-racism has successfully painted himself into a corner. It's only a matter of time before more people see Kendi's contradictions.

Chuong Nguyen

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Everyone out this summer

More than 300 free activities to explore in Laval parks



The City invites the public to brighten up their summer by taking advantage of the wide range of outdoor activities offered free of charge in some twenty Laval parks starting June 29. Once again this year, the highly diversified programming of Dehors ce été highlights culture, sports and recreation.

"We invite citizens to take advantage of the Outdoors outdoor offer this summer with family, friends or alone to enjoy a unifying entertainment experience near their homes. Taking advantage of the beautiful summer days and evenings to move, learn and enrich yourself, what a great idea!" said Nicholas Borne, member

of the Executive Committee, Laval-les-Îles City Councillor and responsible for parks and neighbourhood life.

Have fun and move

Various sports and leisure activities are offered in partnership with Laval organizations: aerobic dance (zumba), soccer, fitness, yoga, dance, and more! Young and old alike will find their place among the variety of activities for all tastes and all levels.

Open-air family shows

In order to introduce toddlers and children aged five and over to the performing arts, an

original theatrical program is offered to them. Among the shows, let's highlight the new play Payzages, which is aimed at 18 months and over, and the two creations of the Théâtre à ciel ouvert, Nico l'unforgettable and Iris en été. A program of circus shows for the whole family will also be presented in several parks and, among thisnumber, let's mention Chouf le ciel, a high-flying Moroccan creation from the touring program of MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CiRQUE. For optimal comfort, it is recommended to bring blankets and folding chairs during activities in the parks.

Stories in books and on the big screen

Thanks to the Reading Tents, the youngest (up to 5 years old) will be able to have stories told and even borrow books in order to continue reading their favorite at home. A break between two swims will be offered to children (up to 12 years old) during the Tales in Swimsuits, in some water games and neighborhood pools. In addition, in some parks, the Bibliomobile will offer a relaxing reading area for the whole family as well as Mobile Storytelling activities for children. Finally, it will be possible to attend nearly 20 performances of good family films on the big screen, also in some parks, during the summer.

9th edition of the Musical Zones

Colourful experiences to punctuate your summer

From July 7 to August 25, the Musical Zones, presented by TD Bank Group, will offer more than 40 free and unifying shows in 8 outdoor zones throughout Laval. More than 300 artists will be present for this 9th edition and will offer diversified musical styles ranging from jazz to pop song, from classical to Latin and African sounds, including country, blues and rock, to name a few. Renowned and emerging artists will perform throughout the summer, including 2Frères in the opening show, Dumas, Laurence Jalbert, Michel Pagliaro, Florence K, Djely Tapa, the Orchestre symphonique de Laval, comment debord, Brittany Kennell and, to close the event, Les BB by Ludovick Bourgeois and Andy Rubal & Son del Sun

Continued on page 7



◄ Continued from page 6

"Let's take advantage of the summer to rediscover the Musical Zones! A new experience awaits you every time thanks to the diversity of musical styles and locations in the four corners of the island. This free event, which stands out for the quality and accessibility of its shows, ranging from the most intimate to larger-scale performances, invites you to memorable experiences in enchanting places close to home. It's a date!" said Flavia Alexandra Novac, Municipal Councillor for Sainte-Rose and responsible for cultural issues.

8 zones throughout the territory

The shows of this9th edition, some of which will be accompanied by dancers, will be presented in 8 zones: Vieux-Sainte-Dorothée, Vieux-Sainte-Rose, Centre de la nature, berge aux Quatre-Vents, rue de l'Église in Saint-François, Bernard-Landry Park, Légaré Park as well as in the Montmorency sector, in the inner courtyard of the Maison des arts and at the Place publique of Place Bell (Momo cultural station). In addition, two exclusive concerts by the Orchestre symphonique de Laval under the



direction of guest conductor Mélanie Léonard will be held at Bernard-Landry Park. On August 13, a family concert created especially for young and old will recall the heroes and heroines of popular cinema, while on August 14, a second major concert will take the audience on a journev into the world of classic works inspired by heroism over time.

Several amenities and facilities will be available on site. In addition, on some sites, a food and bar offer will be offered and pre-show entertainment will be presented. This will be the perfect opportunity to enjoy the beautiful season, arriving early to picnic and bask in the sun or to go for a bike ride.

Discover all the programming online at zonesmusicales.laval.ca





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Six awards for « Tout doux dans nos rues » campaign



Back row, from left to right: Laura Lewin, Stéphanie Beshara, Catherine Erazola, Odile Cliche, Claudette Laurendeau, Justine Leroux, Maude Bolduc-Brière, Marlène Boisvert. Front row, from left to right: Caroline Caron, Amélia Houde, Alexandre Luu, Chantale **Boudreault. (Photo: Sophie Poliquin)**

Recently, the City of Laval's Communications and Marketing Department team, won a total of six industry awards highlighting the quality and creativity of the "Tout doux dans nos rues" campaign. At the Plumes d'excellence of the Association des communicateurs municipaux du Québec (ACMQ), then at the Idéa competition propelled by the Association of Creative Communication Agencies (A2C) in collaboration with the Société des designers graphiques du Québec (SDGQ).

This unique campaign first won the Plume d'Or in the Behavioural Campaign/Awareness category at the Plumes d'excellence gala, presented on June 6. This ACMQ award recognizes the professionalism of municipal communications specialists and highlights the most remarkable achievements.

At the awards ceremony of the Idéa competition on June 13, which celebrates the best of creative communication in Quebec every year, "Tout doux dans nos rues" won a Gold Award in the Music category. The campaign also won four other awards, including Silver Awards for Achievement - Branded Video Content, Integrated Campaign under \$250,000 and Branded Video Content - Public Service, as well as a Bronze Award for Branded Audio Content.

Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer, was very happy of the awarded campaign: "These awards are a clear testament to the effectiveness and creativity deployed in the "Tout doux dans nos rues" campaign by the Communications and Marketing team. This exceptional campaign was able to mobilize the Laval community and strengthen the sense of solidarity in the neighbourhoods, of which we are extremely proud." I would also like to express my gratitude to the various departments that contributed to the success of this initiative through their valuable collaboration.

The campaign focused on reduced speed limits and other measures to improve safety and road sharing in Laval. With "Tout doux dans nos rues", Laval has reinvented road safety awareness by relying on a disruptive approach and popular culture to improve the daily life of the community. It should be noted that this campaign included, among other things, an original song by Claude Bégin, a video and awareness posters that the population was invited to put up on residential lots.

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Poilièvre accuses Trudeau of sowing division, as Liberal PM's poll standings drop

'He wants you to forget the problems he caused,' Conservative leader says at Quebec campaign launch

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The Laval News marty@newsfirst.ca

Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre got a head-start last week campaigning in Ouebec for the October 2025 federal election. with a well-attended launch event at a Jewish community centre in Montreal.

Addressing a packed auditorium of ardent Tory supporters, Poilièvre said a Conservative government would prioritize the housing crisis.

And given Justin Trudeau's drastic drop in popularity according to the most recent opinion polls, Poilièvre laced into the Liberal Prime Minister – much to the delight of the highly partisan crowd.

Alluding to hateful rhetoric and recent antisemitic incidents outside Montreal-area Jewish schools and synagogues, Poilièvre said, "It wasn't like this before Justin Trudeau."

Tears into Justin Trudeau

Alternating between French and English as he spoke, he said, "Justin Trudeau with an extreme and radical ideology aims to divide us over race and religion and other issues.

"He tries to divide people over their wealth, their religion and their language. And he is a prime minister who has tried to divide people for nearly a decade ... And why is he trying to



Addressing a packed auditorium in Montreal's west end, Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilièvre urged voters to vote Conservative and oust Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

divide people? Because he wants you to forget the problems he caused."

On the issue of housing, Poilièvre maintained that rents in the Montreal region have tripled over the last nine years from an average \$700 per month to more than \$2,000 for a one-bedroom apartment.

"Now people are lining up around the streets

to go to food banks," he continued, adding that one in four Canadians live in poverty, and the danger on our streets is seen everywhere.

'Everything is broken'

"Children need to have police escorts to go to a daycare. Violence targeting our Jewish community - a community that lived in peace and tranquility here literally for well over a century next to neighbors who are of totally different religious and ethnic backgrounds."

According to Poilièvre, after nine years of Trudeau, "everything is broken" and "crime, chaos, drugs and disorder rage out of control on our streets. People can't afford the basics of life. He promised to help the middle class, but nine years later the middle class no longer exists."

Regarding the government's financial management, Poilièvre promised that, if elected, he would counter the effects of the Liberals' free-spending and deficits with a "dollar for dollar" approach which would oblige federal ministries to match every dollar of spending with equivalent savings.

Spending 'within our means'"Our approach will be to spend within our means," he said, comparing the Conservative way to how responsible households are usually

"Just like that, we will force them to look for waste and mismanagement to optimize each dollar to make the same deals or trade-offs that single moms, small businesses and seniors make every single day."

Among other things, Poilièvre also took swipes at Montreal mayor Valérie Plante, blaming excessive bureaucracy at the municipal level for blocking the construction of homes and driving up prices, while calling her "incompetent."

When I am prime minister, we will no longer take your money and give it to incompetent mayors," he said. He said a Conservative government would oblige municipalities to allow 15 per cent more housing units to be built as a condition for their being able to receive federal

Laval-Les Îles candidate Merakos

Following last week's rally, Newsfirst Multimedia had a chance to speak with one of the hopefuls currently vying to be nominated as the Conservative Party's candidate in the Laval riding of Laval-Les Îles.



Laval resident Konstantinos Merakos is one of several candidates who are currently hoping to be nominated as the Conservative Party's candidate in the riding of Laval-Les Îles. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

"Democracy is the most powerful tool that humans have ever created," said Konstantinos Merakos, a Laval resident and staff lawyer with the Montreal-based Bergman & Associates law practice.

"When people are going through difficult moments, whether financial or over human rights, they turn out to vote," he added, "So, I hope that when they are having difficulties and are seeing others suffering and the nation is divided, they will use their democratic right to voice their concerns and bring about change."



Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilièvre flashes a V for victory sign during a pre-election year Quebec campaign launch held at a Jewish community centre in Montreal on June 19. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)





Celebrate Canada Day!



Canada Day is a family affair at the Centre de la nature of Laval!

On July 1st, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., let's celebrate Canada with family!

This year's Canada Day festivities will have a distinctly family theme, with friendly, unifying activities designed to strengthen ties with the Laval population.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Come celebrate with your family at the Centre de la nature de Laval that will host a huge party with inflatable games, kiosks, face painting booths and entertainers.

Children will be able to attend kids' shows and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be present to take pictures with Laval residents. A swearing-in ceremony for new Canadians will also be held, as well as the sharing of the traditional Canada Day cake.



12 PM: OPENING OF THE SITE

Canada Day will open its doors at 12 p.m. with family activities for all ages. Enjoy a festive musical atmosphere all day long, in addition to the Centre de la nature's usual activities, including the farmhouse, the play module, and canoe and kayak rentals for sailing on the lake.

Playground

- Inflatables structures
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- Mini golf

Make-up workshops Art workshop Funfair-style games Jugglers, stilt-walkers, mobile magician

Food truck
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- Farmhouse
- Children's play module

Centre de la nature activities

- Canoe and kayak rentals on the lake (\$)
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1 PM: SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Come to the swearing-in ceremony for new Canadians.

2 PM: NATIONAL ANTHEM AND RAISING OF THE CANADIAN FLAG

Join us at the front of the stage for our national anthem and the raising of the Canadian flag.

2:05 PM: CEREMONIAL CUTTING OF THE CAKE

What would Canada Day be without its traditional cake? Go to the Canada tent to get your piece. Distribution while quantities last.



2:30 PM: CHILDREN'S SHOW

Experience a magic show on the Canada Day stage. Keep your eyes wide open and let the magic take you away! If you

there will be another one at 3:30 p.m. at the same location.

4 PM: DJ - FESTIVE MUSIC WITH ANIMATOR

During the afternoon, come dance to music on the Canada Day site.



7 PM: CLOSING OF ACTIVITIES AND

All good things must come to an end. Happy Canada Day to all!

Come together and celebrate on Monday, July 1, 2024!





Stéphane Boyer Mayor of Laval

Let's celebrate Canada together!

Dear Laval residents,

On the special occasion of Canada Day, I invite you to join us for a day of celebrations at the Centre de la nature. It will be a perfect day to get out with the family and take part in fun-filled and festive activities.

Canada Day is a precious opportunity to celebrate the history of our great country. Together, we form a real mosaic, full of different colours, flavours and cultures. Let's celebrate this wealth; it is the strength and distinctiveness of our vast territory. This day will also be a chance to remember our love for the values of inclusion, solidarity and mutual respect that make Laval a unique city.

Happy Canada Day!





Celebrate Canada Day!



Fun facts about the national anthem

You may have sung it in grade school and still hear it before hockey games, but what do you really know about "O Canada?" Here are some fun facts about our national anthem.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN **OUEBEC**

"O Canada" was first commissioned in 1880 by the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec for Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day. The song's music was composed by Calixa Lavallée and the lyrics were written by poet and judge Sir Adolphe-Basile Routh-



IT WASN'T TRANSLATED UNTIL 1908

The English version was originally written by the Honourable Robert Stanley Weir. Since then, it's undergone a few changes, including the addition of a fourth, more religious verse in 1926 and another change to make the anthem gender neutral in 2018.

THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH **VERSIONS ARE NOTHING ALIKE**

Aside from the words "O Canada," the lyrics to the English and French versions of the anthem are completely different. The French lyrics make reference to the Catholic religion and refer to Canada as a land of ancestors. The English version is a simpler affirmation of love and service to the nation.

IT WASN'T OFFICIAL UNTIL 1980

"O Canada" didn't officially become the national anthem until 1980. Before then, "God Save the Queen" was sung at important events and it remains the royal anthem of Canada

Happy Canada Day!

Canada Day: honour the past and look to the future

Canada Day celebrates everything that makes Canada unique, diverse and exceptional. From the rugged landscapes of the Rocky Mountains to the bustling cityscapes of Toronto and Montreal, Canada is a tapestry of cultures, languages and traditions woven together to create a vibrant and inclusive nation.

On July 1st, Canadians from coast to coast come together to commemorate the birth of the nation. It's a day to reflect on a shared history, from the Indigenous peoples who've called this land home for thousands of years to the waves of immigrants who've contributed to Canada's rich cultural mosaic. It's a day to celebrate the country's achievements, from universal healthcare and multiculturalism to a commitment to peacekeeping and environmental stewardship.

CELEBRATE WITH PRIDE

Canada Day is a time to proudly wave the maple leaf flag and sing O Canada with your friends, family and neighbours. It's a day to revel in the beauty of your natural surroundings, whether hiking in the wilderness, lounging on a sandy beach or paddling down a winding river.

SHARED VALUES

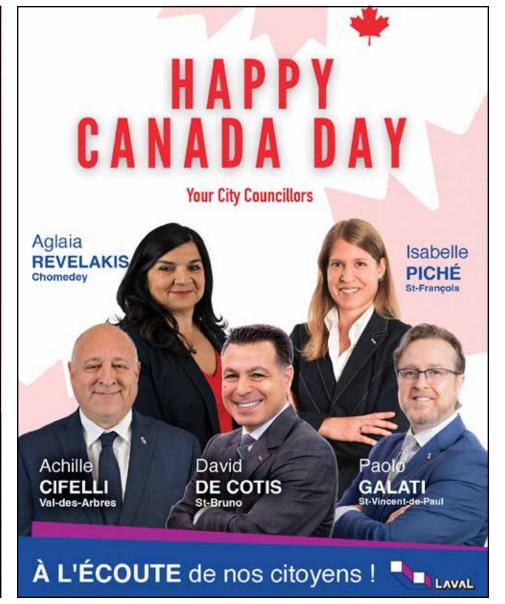
Above all, Canada Day reminds you of the values that define you as a Canadian: compassion, tolerance and inclusivity. It's a day to reaffirm your commitment

to building a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As you celebrate Canada Day, take the time to honour the past and look to the future with hope and optimism. Happy Canada









Celebrate Canada Day!



Celebrating the natural beauty of our country

Why not take advantage of Canada Day to celebrate the beauty of our country? As a couple, with family or with friends, visit one of Canada's national parks on July 1 and experience the wild and magnificent landscapes that characterize our country. These parks are a real source of pride for all Canadians and are among the most beautiful in the world.

From coast to coast, our national parks are spectacular. Plains, mountains, boreal forests, tundra, lakes and glaciers: these parks represent the diversity of Canada's natural heritage. Each one contains treasures of fauna and flora that tell the history of our beautiful country in their own special way. Managed and protected by Parks Canada, our national parks are unique and unusual sanctuaries where ecosystems are able to evolve at their own pace.

Visiting one of Canada's national parks is a way to get in touch with the natural beauty of your land. Would you like to hike, run, bike or do some canoeing? Would you enjoy discovering historical places, watching beautiful birds or ex-

On July 1, Canadians celebrate their home country for its beauty, culture and history. Many people partake in colourful events, such as performances, parades and fireworks displays to mark the occasion. Others take the day to reconnect with family and friends in a festive atmosphere to show their colours and express their civic pride.

As you raise a glass to Canada, think about all the things that make this country great and give you cause for celebration. Here are a few noteworthy facts and figures

 12.9 is the length, in kilometres, of the Confederation Bridge that links Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick. It's the longest bridge in the world cross-

periencing an unusual adventure? Whatever your favourite activity is, you'll have an unforgettable visit when you're surrounded by the breathtaking scenery.

Visit www.pc.gc.ca for more information about national parks and to learn about all the special activities and events on offer.

Canada by the numbers

ing ice-covered water.

- 18 is the number of times Canadians have won the prestigious Nobel Prize, including six for physics and five for chemistry.
- 563 is the number of Canada's lakes with a surface area of over 100 square kilometres. Canada has the most lakes of any country in the world. The Great Lakes alone comprise 18 per cent of all fresh water on the entire planet.
- 1000+ is the number of cheese varieties produced in the country. If you're a cheese lover, that's plenty of reasons to celebrate.
- 340,000 is the number of square kilometres of land and freshwater protected inside Canada's 48 national parks and park reserves. Canada has vast areas to protect. After all, it's the second-largest country in the world.

Happy Canada Day!





EL-KHOURY
MP FOR LAVAL-LES ÎLES
faycal.el-khoury.c1@parl.gc.ca

CHAMBRE DES COMMUN HOUSE OF COMMONS CANADA

ANNIE
KOUTRAKIS
MP FOR VIMY
annie.koutrakis@parl.gc.ca

June 26, 2024 • The Laval News



Virginie Dufour presents strong measures to fight the housing crisis

On July 1st, a few days from now, when many Quebec households will be struggling to find a roof over their heads, Virginie Dufour, Official Opposition Critic for Housing, presents a basket of concrete and sustainable measures to fight the housing crisis.

The Liberal MNA's overall proposals for Mille-Îles are based on four main areas, each of which contains solutions that can be quickly implemented:

Boosting housing supply

While housing construction is expected to increase to meet growing demand, it is slowing down. The Legault government's recent decision to increase the capital gains tax will have the perverse effect of reducing investment, at a time when housing is in urgent need of development projects, according to Ms. Dufour.

Proposed measure: Require the Government of Quebec to reverse its decision to increase the tax on capital gains.

Still on the subject of capital gains, the Quebec Liberal Party also proposes to imitate a U.S. tax rule that allows real estate investors to defer capital gains by reinvesting their money in another property. Given the difficulty developers have in obtaining the necessary financing and equity for new projects, the Official Opposition firmly believes that real estate investment should be stimulated with this new tax "tool."

Proposed measure: Introduce a tax rule allowing Quebec real estate investors to defer the payment of capital gains tax when they reinvest their profits in the construction of new housing, thereby promoting the growth of real estate investment and stimulating the economy.

Already slowing down, the construction of rental housing needs a serious boost to be revived. To this end, the Liberal critic reiterated her proposal to exempt the sales tax in this sector as is already done in Ontario. This is one of the reasons why entrepreneurs are building in the neighbouring province rather than here in Quebec. Ms. Dufour deplores the fact that the Legault government is stubbornly not implementing this tangible measure quickly.

Proposed measure: Exempt the construction of rental housing from the QST.

Increasing the share of nonmarket housing

The lack of housing hits the most vulnerable in our society hard. This underscores the importance of supporting the supply of non-market housing, such as social housing, non-profit co-operatives and other rent-controlled housing by a non-profit organization or housing authority.

To do this, Ms. Dufour puts forward three possible solutions that will help ensure a roof over their heads for a greater number of citizens in vulnerable situations.

Proposed Action: Launch a 2025-2035 off-market rental stock strategy to increase the number of off-market housing units in relation to the rental supply from 8% to 12% by 2035 and, ultimately, reach 20% by 2050.

Proposed measure: Relaunch the AccèsLogis program, which was adequately funded, which had proven its worth and which has been replaced by the CAQ program of the PHAQ, which does not meet the demands of social housing.

Proposed Action: Increase the maximum rents eligible for the Rent Supplement Program that no longer meet the new market reality.

Facilitating access to property

With the market rising sharply, it has become extremely difficult, if not impossible, for a large proportion of households to acquire a property. The MP for Mille-Îles is particularly concerned about the decline in the rate of homeownership, a first in more than 50 years.

It proposes two measures to facilitate access to homeownership, in particular, to revise upwards the eligibility threshold for the partial exemption from the sales tax on new construction. While the median value of a new residence is currently \$450,000, this exemption only applies to homes with a value of less than \$300,000, which makes it almost inapplicable in practice.

Proposed measure: To increase the QST

In addition, with the explosion in the cost of properties, it is increasingly difficult for first-time buyers to amass a down payment of 20% of the purchase price. Currently, they can turn to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which offers to lend them the difference between their available down payment and the 20% required. Unfortunately, the repayment of this loan to CMHC, over 10 years, is very high for new owners and represents an additional financial burden.

This is why the Quebec Liberal Party is proposing the implementation of an innovative purchase assistance program that would be less expensive for first-time buyers. The principle remains essentially the same, with the difference that the SHQ would offer it at a lower cost, i.e. the government's borrowing cost. The organization could thus resume its investment when the property is sold, which would therefore cost almost zero over the entire period.

Proposed measure: Introduce a down payment assistance measure for first-time buyers via the SHQ.

Improving the offer in cities

The housing challenge becomes more complex when we look at the necessary equipment that must be financed and built upstream of the construction of new residential buildings. It is the municipalities that have to support the creation of new underground infrastructure, which represents a brake on residential development.

To help them deal with this, Ms. Dufour suggests creating a pilot project of a "Development Pact" through which Ottawa, Quebec and certain investors, such as taxed funds or the Canada Infrastructure Bank, would contribute to the financing of infrastructure in certain new neighbourhoods. In exchange, the city could have to hand over, for a period provided for in the "Pact", part of its property income from the new buildings built.

Proposed action: Create a "Development Pact" to overcome the challenges of financing cities for underground infrastructure in new

neighbourhoods.

The Liberal critic also proposes to increase soft densification, which makes it possible to densify existing residential areas without major transformation of the neighbourhood. This can involve converting a garage into a loft, adding a tiny house in the backyard or a unit by extending an existing house.

Proposed measure: Promote soft residential densification by exempting the conversion of single-family zones into duplex-friendly zones from the referendum process, while respecting municipal autonomy and promoting intelligent and balanced growth in our neighbourhoods.

Hold major general meetings on housing

Finally, according to Ms. Dufour, the housing crisis is of unprecedented magnitude and it deserves the involvement of all stakeholders in the development of an action plan. Like community housing groups, construction industry stakeholders and the Fédération des Chambres de commerce du Québec, the Official Opposition is calling for a vast national project, a major general assembly on housing, in order to find innovative ideas outside the current framework to combat the housing crisis. at a lower cost.

"In the face of this historic housing crisis in Quebec, a comprehensive housing plan is needed that will have to focus on four main fronts: stimulating the supply of housing, increasing the share of non-market housing, facilitating access to homeownership and improving the supply in cities. The implementation of effective measures is essential to revive housing starts, increase the supply of affordable housing, facilitate access to property and ensure a roof over the heads of all Quebecers. Action must be taken on all levels, without exception. To achieve this and innovate, it is necessary to have a broad national discussion on housing, a fundamental element of social cohesion and economic development," said Virginie Dufour, Member of Parliament for Mille-Îles and Official Opposition Critic for Housing.



Action Laval's Decotis and Piché stay close to local youth and special causes

(TLN) The weekend of June 14-15-16 was a very long one for Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis and Action Laval Saint-François city councillor Isabelle Piché.

On June 16, it was the LFFMQ - Ligue Féminine de Football mineur du Québec at Parc Berthiaume-Tremblay in Chomedey.

"This afternoon, Isabelle Piché, the city councillor of St-Francois and me David De Cotis, the city councillor for St-Bruno, we attended the minor women's football leagues final games at Park Berthiaume-Tremblay," De Cotis recounted in an e-mail to *The Laval News*.

Some information about the league:

History

The LFFMQ, or the "Ligue Féminine de Football mineur du Québec." is a non-profit organization and was incorporated in 2023.

Mission

To allow underage girls (15 to 17 years old) to develop and play contact football, in an inclusive, safe and competitive environment in Quebec.

Objective

To establish a competitive and inclusive foot-

ball league, which promotes positive experience and leadership development in a sporting context

To inspire young girls to lead an active lifestyle. To exclusively allow young women to develop their skills, educate themselves and perfect their training in the field of contact football.

Allow young girls to come together so that they can emancipate themselves through playing football. Allow girls to represent Quebec in Canadian and international competitions.

Origins

The project emerged from the desire of four civic football associations that have given themselves the mission of offering a competitive football league to girls aged 15-16 and 17 in Quebec. Currently they are starting with five teams: Gatineau, the North Shore of Montreal, Laval, Montreal and the South Shore of Montreal.

Other events the two city councillors recently took part in:

- June 14: Plaisir en Famille at Parc de Lausanne in Saint-Bruno.
- June 15: Service Bénévole d'Entraide de Vimont-Auteuil: Annual Bazaar from 8 am to 3 pm.













Looking for something to do? Here are some upcoming events happening in the Laval area.

SOIRÉE CLASSIQUE SOUS LES ÉTOILES

Gala



Saturday, July 6 7:30 PM - 11 PM

Port de Plaisance Laval-Sur-Le-Lac 8 Rue les Pins, H7R 1C7

18+ gathering with classical music under the stars. Appetizers and sweets will be served.

\$40

BEBESHITO

Concert



Saturday, July 20 9:30 PM

Le Cabaret C 1600 Rue Robinson, H7W 2W4

Bebeshito performs for the first time in Canada with the entire band.

\$130.30

MIXOLOGY & NETWORKING

Workshop



Saturday, July 20 7 PM - 9:30 PM

Cups & Cuts

3319 Blvd. de la Concorde E, H7E 2C3

Interactive workshop where you can learn mixology skills while networking.

General admission: \$107.83

LEE VALLEY TOOLS

Woodturning



Tournage d'un stylo

HeeValley

Saturday, July 20 9 AM - 12 PM or 2 PM - 5 PM

Lee Valley

1600 bd le Corbusier, Local 31-B, H7S 1Y9

Learn how to turn your own pen and the basics of woodturning.

\$65

VIRÉE PATRIMONIALE

History



Tuesday, July 23 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Centre d'art de Sainte-Rose

214 Boulevard Sainte-Rose, H7L 1L6

Walk the streets of this founding district and meet characters from the past.

\$14.11

GROOVE N' KIZOMBA

Festival



Friday, July 26 - Monday, Jul 29 Jul 26, 7:00 PM - Jul 29, 6:00 AM

Sheraton Laval Hotel

2440 Autoroute des Laurentides, H7T 1X5

GROOVE N' KIZOMBA festival happening in an ALL IN ONE venue.

From \$138.72

OPPORTUNITY BRIDAL

Weddina dresse sale



Sunday, July 28 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Holiday Inn Laval

2900 Boulevard le Carrefour, H7T 2K9

One day only wedding dress sale, up to 80% off.

General admission: Free

VIRÉE PATRIMONIALE

History



Tuesday, July 30 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Réseau ArtHist

41 Avenue 71, H7V 2R4

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Serious car accident in Saint-François

On the night of June 3, the Laval Police, the Laval Fire Dept. and Urgences-Santé were called upon to respond to a major road accident in the Laval district of Saint-Francois.

For reasons not fully understood by accident investigators, two vehicles travelling in opposite directions along avenue Marcel-Villeneuve collided with what is estimated to have been a considerable high-speed impact.

According to the investigators' initial analysis, one of the vehicles deviated from its lane and struck the other that was oncoming.

Firefighters from the LFD used special tools to free at least one victim in one of the vehicles who was trapped.

LPD make three arrests over Desjardins online fraud

The Laval Police announced recently that they arrested three people in connection with a major data theft and \$8.9-million fraud involving Caisses Desjardins, some five years after the alleged crime.

The LPD said one of the suspects was caught with a list of personal data for 1.6 million

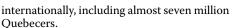
The arrests are tied to a 2019 data theft, described as the largest ever in the Canadian financial services sector, targeting more than 9.7 million Desjardins clients in Canada and

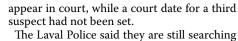
internationally, including almost seven million

Laval Police inspector Jean-François Rousselle said the suspects were allegedly able to use the stolen personal information to get access to the clients' accounts through Accès D, the bank's online banking platform.

The Laval Police said the suspects used the stolen data to commit fraud between September 2018 and January 2019.

Thirty-six-year-old Ayoub Kourdal and 33-year-old Imad Jbara were scheduled to





for a fourth suspect.

The leak was initially blamed on an employee of the Desjardins marketing team who was able to access confidential information, despite not having the clearance level to do so.



Two youths injured in **Cartier Metro knife attack**

knife injuries on June 19 when they were attacked at the Cartier Metro stop in Laval.

The Laval Police received a call around 7:15 pm regarding an altercation involving several people at the Metro station, according to LPD community relations officer Stéphanie Beshara. The two, aged 20 and 22, sustained serious but non-life-threatening knife wounds, requiring them to be transported by Urgences-Santé to hospital.

According to the LPD, no suspects were immediately arrested, although a security perimeter was put up around the crime scene to allow police to conduct an investigation of the circumstances.

No psych test for Armand-Frappier knife attack suspect

A suspect arrested following the murder in May in the Armand Frappier Woods of a Laval woman who was a real estate broker will not be undergoing a psychiatric evaluation.

A lawyer for Konstantinos Tsagaroulis, 20, did not request a psychiatric evaluation during an arraignment last Thursday at the Palais de Justice

Last May 29, 46-year-old Irina Draghicescu, was stabbed dozens of time in the woods in Chomedey

According to preliminary reports, Tsagaroulis didn't know Draghicescu who was out taking a walk. Tsagaroulis's next court date is in September.



Taming a wild animal: a good or bad idea?

Have you always wanted to tame a wild animal, like a fox, groundhog, deer, squirrel, raccoon or pigeon? Even if you have the best intentions, taking an animal out of the wild isn't a good idea. Here's why.

IT'S DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH

Approaching a wild animal comes with risks. Although the animal may look cute and cuddly, it never goes to the vet, so it can carry diseases that can make you very sick. You could end up in the hospital if the animal accidentally scratches, bites or licks you.

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR THE ANIMALS

Once an animal gets used to your presence, it may stop fearing humans. The trust you earn can be dangerous for the animal, as

it may try to get close to people who want to hurt or kill it.

If you see an adorable baby animal that looks abandoned, chances are its parents have gone to look for food and will return soon. If you approach or touch the little one, your scent may scare away its parents.

Additionally, wild animals that get fed every day become dependent on humans. To stay healthy and live a long life, they must exercise and eat what's available in nature. Moreover, human food is often unsuitable for their needs and difficult to digest. Some animals can die from eating carrots, bread or cornmeal.

In short, if you love animals, you must accept that their fear of humans ensures their survival. That said, nothing is stopping you from admiring from afar!



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(corner Elizabeth)

LOVE OF WRITING

I've been seeing a wonderful woman for about a year. We're in love, but I feel frustrated because I'm sometimes over the top in the romance department and she doesn't seem to respond.

For example, if I write several paragraphs in an email about how much she means to me, I get a one or two line reply about something mundane like seeing me the next day. She says she's not expressive romantically but likes my romantic advances. Sometimes I feel as if she's the man, and I'm the woman.

A lot of guys shy away from romance by telling their woman, "You already know I love you. Why do I have to tell you all the time?" I'm the exact opposite. I need to tell her and affirm her as often as I can, but sometimes I feel as if I'm a plain old pest with all my flowery stuff. How would I know if she's put off by all the romantic talk? Am I wrong to expect something she might not be wired to give?

Emi

Emil, let me give you three ways of looking at this. First, you are a writer who is looking for a reader. You are looking for someone who

appreciates your poetry, but only a true fan of poetry can express that appreciation. Your girlfriend is not a true fan of poetry. It is as if you are a chef whose specialty is Italian, and she prefers Chinese.

Or maybe it's this. You're giving her flowers seven days in a row and expecting the same reaction on the seventh day as on the first. It's almost as if you are making her dislike what you give her. Have you run her out of appreciation? Are you making her wallow in it? People like a little rain, but they don't want a flood.

Or finally, maybe this is it. Part of what you find attractive in a woman is an appreciation of your nature. You want to be respected and praised for the way you are. That is also a negative element. Instead of this flowing from your nature, you also require praise for it. You want a certain kind of thanks for your gift.

Poetry, when it works, allows the essence of a thing to show through. She may feel the essence of your relationship is that you are looking for a fan of yourself. You are trying to get praise from her without appreciating her.

What do you appreciate about her? Is it the way she really is? Or the hours spent writing about how much you love her? What might she appreciate more: two hours spent writing a flowery email on your computer, or two hours spent dancing with her?

If you require, for your happiness, appreciation of your romantic nature, then you must find someone who loves romance and can express it to you. They say opposites attract, but only when the opposite is appreciated for its difference.

Tamara

FIRE AND ICE

I'm recently divorced, and I've found a great but not-so-great guy.
We love old movies, working out at the gym together, and we think a lot

alike. The one important thing is he says his heart is a block of ice, and he won't have a serious relationship with anyone. He plays the field. Yet he says he will commit to being a great friend.

We watched movies together the other night, and now he wants more physically. He asked me

to be his sex buddy. I've never had sex outside marriage. Yet he's wonderful with my child, fixes my car, and even does my dishes!

Heather



Heather, he is a block of ice, and you are playing with fire. The longer you have contact with him, the more likely he will get you

where he wants you, not where you want to be.
Wayne

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)
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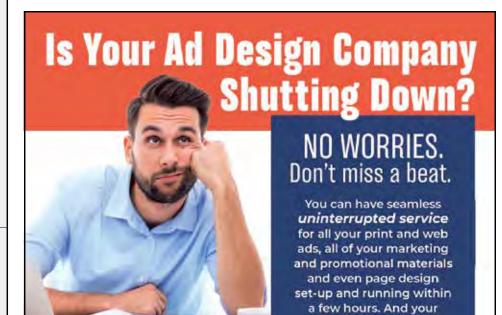
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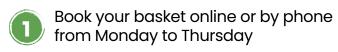
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H7P 1T8

Duvernay(Action Sport Physio)
4731 Boul Lévesque E
Suite 201, H7C 1M9

Chomedey / Sainte-Dorothée (Action Sport Physio) 2316 rue Desserte Ouest, A. Chomedey, H7X 4G8

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Week of JUNE 30 TO JULY 6, 2024

The luckiest signs this week: **GEMINI, CANCER AND LEO**



ARIES

Money problems could stress you out this week. Don't let yourself get overwhelmed. Remember that there are more mportant things in life. Stay hopeful and focus on what brings you happiness.



TAURUS

You're an energetic and ambitious person who loves a challenge. You'll achieve something extraordinary at work or home that will lead you to success or bring you closer to your dreams.



GEMINI

This week, you may be troubled by something like a secret you don't want to keep. Think it over carefully and seek the advice of your quardian angels.



CANCER

Limit how much coffee you drink to prevent anxiety and unrest. Stop trying to control things that are out of your control. You'll have to manage your priorities and deal with unexpected situations at work



You'll soon face a professional challenge that will make good use of your skills and experience. You'll have to adapt but will manage to achieve your goals and improve your financial situation.



VIRGO

A spiritual quest could bring you immense fulfillment and help you expand your horizons. You'll align with your principles and beliefs and feel a profound sense of peace.



Don't be ashamed to seek professional help when dealing with emotional problems or other worries. A professional can help you heal. You deserve to feel better and live life to the



SCORPIO

Your relationship may be going through a rough patch. Your partner must show you more affection. Don't overlook small details during a negotiation at work, as they could change everything.



SAGITTARIUS

Many healthcare professionals believe that mental health is essential for physical well-being. If you have a chronic illness, try to find out if it stems from your life experiences or your subconscious.



CAPRICORN

You must boost your self-confidence to achieve success. Learn to value yourself and exhibit infectious charisma to attract admiration and respect.



AQUARIUS

You'll have a busy week. Between moving and taking on a project close to your heart, you'll need the support of your significant other. An organized space makes for a clear mind. Make sure yours is clean and uncluttered.

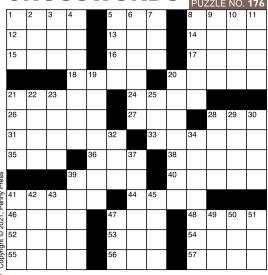


PISCES

You'll have the courage to speak your mind, even if it makes some people mad. With your charisma and eloquence, you can persuade and inspire people to support your ideas. Art is a powerful means of communication that can touch hearts and minds.

ee Break

CROSSWORDS



- 1. Lengthy tale
- Housekeeper's tool
- 12.Kind of school, for
- 13.Yoko
- 14.
- 15.Canine's cry
- 17.Bar beverages
- 18.Mountain sound
- 20.Layers 21. Take a sheep's wool
- 24.Lunchtime 26.Father, in Madrid
- 27. Hero sandwich
- 28.Hooting bird 31.Up and about
- 33. Movie with sound
- 35. Fishing tool 36.Set (down)
- 39 Presidential "no"
- 38.Terminate

- **ACROSS**
- Small bit
- short
- -and-take
- 16.Pointed end
 - 54.Rigging line 55 Marsh stalk
 - 56." Sir. That's My

tion

57. Altered the color of

40.More shy

44.Fall wetly

46.Shoe filler

47.Resort hotel

53.Up in years

48.Not completely shut

52.Poker-pot contribu-

41.Role player

DOWN

- 1. Snoop
- you? 2. How
- 3. Stylist's goop Emerges
- 5. Nocturnal insect
- Bulb vegetables 6.
- 7. Uncorking sound 8 "Hello

- 9. Ceramic piece
- 10.Above
- 11. Military meal
- 19.Vine
- 20.Cigarette filling
- 21.Bridge
- 22. Hound's quarry
- 23.Fix text
- 25.Away from home
- 28.All right!
- 29 Sensible
- 30.Sly look
- 32.Almond, e.g.
- 34.Spotted cat 37.Tumble
- 39.Cast a ballot
- 41.Way off 42 Pine
- 43.Handbag
- 45. Youngsters 47. Type of sauce
- 49.Delight
- 50.Monkey's relative
- 51.Royal-carpet color

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.

NO. 901			7	9		8			5
= NO	8					2			
)77F		2	5		6		7	8	
PU.		1	6		3		5		8
	7		2		9	5	3	6	
	5	3					4		
			1		2	9	8		
		8	4		1	3			
	3	5							

Last Issue's Answers

ABED F L O W W A S G A V E H U E LOBE E Y E S ONESIDED THATEPREYS SHORE M A TPANORAMA TRUE HOE ALLY TOY OBSTACLE PAY INSET OGLEDWINK GRANDSON AWAY R I N D HEN RACE E N D S E S S |D|R|E|W

7	8	1	4	6	2	5	3	7	9
,	3	7	6	9	4	8	1	5	2
4	5	9	2	1	7	3	8	4	6
	1	3	9	4	6	7	5	2	8
7	7	2	5	3	8	9	6	1	4
<u> </u>	4	6	8	2	5	1	9	3	7
3	6	8	1	7	3	2	4	9	5
١	2	5	3	8	9	4	7	6	1
J	9	4	7	5	1	6	2	8	3

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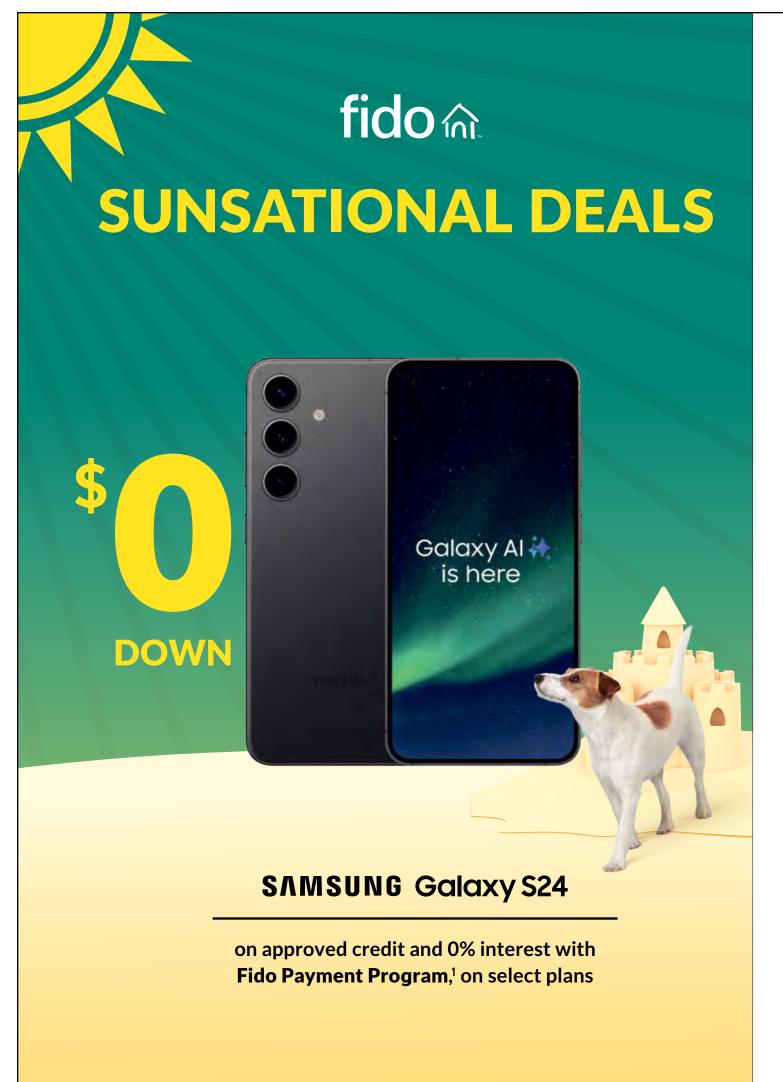
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