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Revelakis:
"I left
Action Laval
because..."



**Jason Bérubé, CEO of Chemtec, says
"Bring on the tariffs"**

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Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis and Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete are seen here with Chemtec CEO Jason Bérubé (far left), along with City of Laval and economic development agency officials and Chemtec employees on February 7 during the announcement. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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'Bring on the tariffs,' says CEO of Laval-based Chemtec

Jason Bérubé unfazed by U.S. threats, while welcoming \$6.2 million in productivity loans

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Although fallout from Donald Trump's proposed 25 per cent tariffs on imported Canadian goods has yet to make a full impact here, as far as one Laval business owner is concerned, the U.S. president's threat is a challenge to be accepted.

"Bring on the tariffs," said Jason Bérubé, CEO of Chemtec Epoxy Coatings, a Laval-based manufacturer and distributor of industrial floor coatings.

The company's products are used all over North America to extend the life of parking structures, stadiums, garages, basements and many other facilities.

Bérubé, who founded the company more than a decade ago, made the wise decision long before Trump's announcement to acquire a coatings company in the U.S. That investment has become part of his formula to help shield Chemtec from the tariffs' impact.



"Bring on the tariffs," says Chemtec CEO Jason Bérubé.

Robotic production

He was speaking during a press conference held jointly by federal and provincial officials to announce \$6.2 million in government loans to improve productivity at Chemtec through the implementation of robotic technology.

According to a joint Canada/Quebec news release, Chemtec is acquiring cutting-edge equipment to automate part of its production. The aim of the \$7.7 million project is to increase production and foster the growth and development of new Chemtec products.

"Since 2013, Chemtec Epoxy Coatings has been committed to providing products of exceptional quality, following the strictest standards, to accompany their clients in a highly competitive market," said Bérubé.

In 2019, according to the CEO, Chemtec took a major step with the opening of its first plant in Laval, where thanks to the sustained efforts of their internal research and development laboratory, they are now manufacturing most of the products they market.

Meeting client needs

"Our new cutting-edge laboratory, equipped with the most advanced technology in the sector, will play a key role in formulating innovative products with stronger internal integra-

tion, responding to the most demanding needs of our clients," Bérubé said.

Answering questions from *The Laval News*, he said the company's decision to shift some of its focus to the U.S. will probably help Chemtec absorb whatever impact comes from Trump's tariffs – even if they are as high as 25 per cent.

"Right now, we are selling directly to contractors there, instead of selling only to distributors," he said, while adding that in the meantime Chemtec is hoping to expand into the European market." Overall, Bérubé said Trump's tariff threats had given Chemtec food for thought, but that he wasn't losing sleep over them.

Loans from Canada and Quebec

Chemtec employs around 30 people. Quebec's support consists of a loan of \$3,080,000 granted under the ESSOR program administered by Investissement Québec as the government's representative, as well as a loan of \$2,200,000 from Investissement Québec's capital funds.

For its part, Ottawa is assisting Chemtec with a loan of \$950,000 under Economic Development Canada's (CED) Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI) program. The loans are part of an overall initiative to assist Chemtec to upgrade to Industry 4.0 standards (rapid technological advancement in the 21st century).

"This new equipment will make it possible to increase the business's productivity considerably and make it more competitive," said Vimy Liberal MP Annie Koutrakis, who is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister responsible for CED Quebec region. "This is excellent news for our region's economy," she added.



"Excellent news for our region's economy," said Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis.

Resilience on another level

Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete, who is Minister for the Economy in the Legault cabinet, said Quebec's decision to support Chemtec was based on its belief that "when you invest in automation, optimization and robotization, you bring your ability to be resilient to another level.

"You're less dependent on a labour force," he added. "You are equally strengthening your ability to keep costs low. The best vaccination against tariffs is to have low costs and optimal productivity. And this is exactly what he is doing."

Skeete went on to say there was an industrial



Photos: Martin C. Barry, Laval News

Chemtec innovation manager Hamid Benadir leads Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis on a tour of the company's facilities in Laval's industrial park on February 7.

productivity issue in Quebec long before the tariffs issue materialized. "Productivity is what's going to get us through this," he said. "We don't

have any control over what happens in the U.S. But we do control how much we invest in our businesses here."



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Arctic energy and mineral race heats up *Nations scramble for Arctic oil, gas and minerals amid rising global demand*

“Go West, young man, go West... and grow up with the country” is a phrase attributed to Horace Greeley from the New York Daily Tribune back in 1865.

In 2025, the phrase might be updated to “Go North, young man, go North” as optimism rises about the potential of oil and gas and critical minerals in the Arctic.

Optimism about the size of the prize of Arctic hydrocarbons rose in 2012 when the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) assessed that the Arctic holds an estimated 13 per cent (90 billion barrels) of the world's undiscovered conventional oil resources and 30 per cent of its undiscovered conventional natural gas resources. The EIA has estimated that the Arctic may hold most of the world's remaining untapped oil and gas reserves.

Although the argument that U.S. shale production is peaking is questionable, the fact that production has grown more slowly in recent years (according to the EIA) is making the challenging but ample reserves in Alaska more attractive. More urgently, the Arctic could also be a vital supplier of critical minerals and the race for those minerals is “heating up the Arctic”.

The Arctic Economic Council's latest “Arctic Mining Report 2024” states that 31 of the 34 materials identified as essential for technologies like renewable energy installations and electric vehicle batteries are found in the Arctic, with Greenland having one of the world's largest deposits of nickel and cobalt, while Alaska has one of the largest zinc mines globally.

U.S. President Donald Trump's Jan. 20 executive order, “Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential,” reversed U.S. President Joe Biden's previous policies, reopened vast areas for drilling and mining, and expedited permits for projects, stoking enthusiasm for

development. Discussions of the challenges, geopolitical elements like tariffs, development costs, and project plans have begun.

I had the chance to catch up with Heather Exner-Pirot, a senior fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and expert on transitioning from ambition to reality and scaling up investment in Canada's North. Exner-Pirot recognizes the geopolitical motivations behind Arctic development, including energy transition, defence and supply chains that are overly dependent on China.

“Trump is talking about Greenland for its critical minerals,” Exner-Pirot said. “Canada's talking about critical minerals and critical mineral alliances. That's positive. I'm definitely in favour of developing the region. But the flip side of that is the economic drivers. Commodity prices have not matched the rhetoric. Investment is still very difficult. Climate change doesn't make it cheaper. In many ways, it is more expensive because things like ice roads are more difficult to build because we have melting permafrost. The rhetoric and the reality are still far apart.”

The upside is that development would benefit communities and the Canadian military as much as resource companies. Infrastructure may be expensive, but sharing the burden for things like fibre-optic communications connecting to a mine could also benefit communities or a NORAD site. Ultimately, according to Exner-Pirot, every territory will have favourite projects.

I also spoke with Katie Kachur, VP of Government Relations West at the Canadian Propane Association, who further described the complications of Arctic development.

“The biggest challenge in Arctic energy development lies in balancing the unique

energy needs of rural, remote, and Indigenous communities with the broader goals of reliability, affordability, and low emissions,” Kachur said. “Unlike urban centers, these communities often face limited access to traditional energy infrastructure and depend on solutions tailored to their geography, climate, and cultural priorities. (They need) an approach emphasizing energy choice—offering diverse and flexible energy options that meet these unique needs.”

A growing trend in Arctic energy development mirrors efforts across Canada—direct engagement with Indigenous and remote communities to understand their energy needs and co-develop solutions. Policies emphasizing energy diversity, equitable access, and Indigenous ownership are gaining traction.

In Northern Canada, regulatory processes are under review as provinces and territories push for resource development. Streamlining regulations remains a key theme in 2025, driven in part by former Trump's push to fast-track federal permits, attract American investment and shorten approval timelines for major energy projects.

One of the largest projects is the \$44-billion Alaska LNG project, which aims to develop natural gas resources on Alaska's North Slope and transport them via a 1,300-kilometre pipeline to a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant. New York-based Glenfarne and the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation are leading the initiative, which has attracted interest from Japanese trading giant Mitsui, a major LNG investor.

Given the high costs of Arctic infrastructure, Canadian stakeholders could look to this project for insights on funding strategies and development approaches in extreme conditions.

Maureen McCall



Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,
Upon picking up a copy of the February 5, 2025 edition of The Laval News, I immediately turned to the Opinion and Editorial section to see who would be delivering insights into matters of the day.

Well, sir, much to my pleasure, I landed on the much-needed return of Robert Vairo's *THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING* column.

While I have always appreciated most of the opinions expressed on page four of your high-quality community newspaper, I had become particularly fond of the uniquely personal but common-sense foundation of Mr. Vairo's thinking.

True enough, as a loyal reader and friend of The Laval News, going back to the days when it was The Chomedey News, I have regularly come across the words of wisdom written by various opinionated individuals whose credentials are impressive, but to be specific about all this, it takes the objectivity of an editor to publish views that may not be to everyone's liking, albeit worthy of public dissemination.

Thank you for the respect you show for the readers of The Laval News by publishing the thinking of different commentators, and for your openness in shedding light on issues of public concern, especially when the editorials deal with controversial approaches to solutions to problems that are part of our community's

daily life.

Yes, I don't always agree with the content of the editorials and opinions you publish, but rest assured that I'm consistently made to think about the views expressed through the thinking of writers such as Robert Vairo.

Oh yeah, the rest of the paper isn't bad either. It covers the people, places, and things of Laval Island and other parts of the province, the country, and the world in a comprehensive, timely, and timeless manner.

To steal and paraphrase Mr. Vairo's catchy line ... This is what I am thinking!

Janice Parnell
Chomedey, Laval

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Mayor warns of impact on local finances and economy from Trump tariffs

'We will have to develop an economy that is diversified,' said Boyer, warning of consequences

During the February 4 meeting of Laval city council, Mayor Stéphane Boyer led off with an issue that's been on the minds of many people these days – the impact that the policies of newly-inaugurated U.S. president Donald Trump are going to have, not only on countries and regions, but also on cities like Laval.

"It's true our world is in the process of changing," he said, while observing that Quebec Premier François Legault had made the same observation about the Trump effect in the National Assembly just a few days earlier.

Local impact of tariffs

While also noting that over the past four years the Covid pandemic caused a lot of disruptions – including inflation, pressure on the city's revenues, as well as on those of governments in general and on Laval residents – Boyer said, "this is going to affect us here in Laval," even if relations with the U.S. are a federal issue.

Mayor Boyer had spent the better part of a day a few days before speaking with the leaders of several major businesses located in Laval (including representatives of the food, aerospace and plastics transformation sectors), to be able

to assess what's been happening to them lately.

Looming unemployment

He acknowledged that the picture that emerged "isn't rosy," with potentially thousands of jobs which might have been created in Laval now hanging in the balance if Trump's tariffs go through.

He suggested that a local rise in unemployment could result in a corresponding increase in residents' needs, for which the city would have to find appropriate solutions. "If businesses close, this will also mean less revenue to pay for our public services," said Boyer.

"And if tariffs are applied, this will also mean much higher costs for the municipality." He pointed out that although the city tries as much as possible to make its purchases from local businesses, there are certain types of purchases which are available only from providers in the U.S., including police cars, firearms for police officers and firefighting equipment.

U.S. imports affected

As well, the City of Laval's water filtration plants use specialized equipment available only

in the U.S., "and this will mean much higher bills," said Boyer. "So, this all means we will have to do more with less. And there could sometimes be choices that will be difficult in the months and years ahead."

While noting that among the issues to be discussed during the council meeting would be grievances by Laval's unionized police and blue-collar workers about the slowness of negotiations for new collective agreements, Mayor Boyer said that if this and other issues are to be addressed, "then we will have to be able to innovate, to make compromises – that we rise above partisanship."

More diversification

"We will have to develop an economy that is diversified. During the pandemic, Laval's economy was fairly resilient, because we have this advantage and we must continue to use this even more so."

He said local businesses will have to be encouraged as much as possible. "But mostly, we will have to remain attentive to all those who will be the most affected by these impacts, because, yes, unfortunately there will be negative impacts."



Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer says the impact of U.S. president Donald Trump's policies will be felt not just on a global scale, but also locally in cities like Laval. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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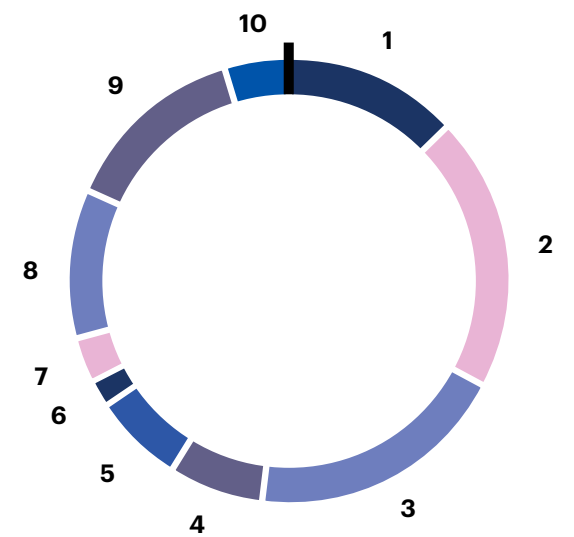


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Frédéric Mayer to be Action Laval's mayoralty candidate in November

'This administration's third term is one too many,' says party's deputy chief at city hall

MARTIN C. BARRY

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The Action Laval opposition party at Laval city hall has chosen a university lecturer who is also a senior member of its staff to be Action Laval's mayoralty candidate in the municipal elections set for Sunday November 2.

Party president and city councillor for Val-des-Arbres Achille Cifelli made the announcement at a press conference last week that Frédéric Mayer will spearhead their efforts leading towards election day.

They were surrounded by three current Action Laval city councillors and a few candidates who will be on the Action Laval slate this fall.

A Vaillancourt opponent

According to biographical notes furnished by the party, Mayer is a native of Laval and has two teenage sons. He began his involvement in municipal politics in 2009 as a political organizer who was galvanized into action by his opposition to then-mayor Gilles Vaillancourt.

Mayer's academic credentials are noteworthy. He holds a PhD in public administration from École Nationale d'Administration Publique (ÉNAP), where he is a part-time lecturer. Mayer also completed a Master's degree in management and international relations.

As well, he completed a thesis on relations between Canadian provinces and China while working for Services Canada and Elections Canada. He was most recently deputy chief of staff for Action Laval's opposition team at city hall.

From China to Laval

According to his biography, Mayer spent time in China, where he lived and worked for four years. On his return, he was employed as an attaché to former Bloc Québécois MP for Alfred-Pellan Robert Carrier, who was present last week for the announcement.

In 2009, Mayer began working with city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis to set up the Mouvement lavallois, where Mayer was responsible for the party's organization and communications. From 2014 to 2016, he was director of the Mouvement lavallois' office for its elected officials at city hall.

Following De Cotis's rift and departure from the Mouvement lavallois which he had co-founded, he turned to Mayer to organize Action Laval's 2021 election campaign.



Action Laval's newly-announced mayoralty candidate Frédéric Mayer is seen here with three of the opposition party's remaining city council members as well as four candidates who will be running in the November 2 elections. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

'Time to focus,' says party

Mayer said he intends to draw on his experience as an administrator in both the private and public sectors, as well as his doctoral training at the ÉNAP, in an effort to take control of the city's finances.

"The city has been suffering from a lack of coherence and vision for too many years and this administration's third term is one too many," said Mayer. "It's time to focus on the services for which citizens pay their city taxes."

In a statement outlining what is likely to become a part of Action Laval's election platform, the party said they intend to set up a commission on the city's finances, as well as to review the relevance of the costs of some of

the Boyer administration's projects.

They also want to lower the city's debt by carrying out projects paid for in cash up-front rather than through long-term loan by-laws, and to return to the city's core mission, which they said "is to ensure the delivery of community services at the highest standard."

Lower council presence

Action Laval has been reduced to three members of Laval city council after recently losing two councillors. Saint-Vincent-de-Paul

councillor Paolo Galati left the party caucus after being investigated for spending irregularities by the Quebec Municipal Commission.

Although he was exonerated of wrongdoing, party president Achille Cifelli said last week that Galati is not being taken back in.

In the meantime, longtime Action Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis announced during the February 4 city council meeting that she decided to leave the party and will run as an independent in the November elections.



Action Laval mayoralty candidate Frédéric Mayer (seen with party president Achille Cifelli) has an employment history that includes stints as a political attaché and most recently as Action Laval's deputy chief of staff at city hall. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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How to help



Call 8-1-1 before going to hospital emergency, Santé Québec advises



Public health agency warns of pending flu season peak across the province

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Santé Québec, the agency that now oversees public health services all over the province, is advising patients and caregivers that with influenza rates up and the winter flu season almost peaking, turning up at a hospital's emergency department isn't necessarily the best course of action to take when there are other alternatives.

Challenging situation

According to Santé Québec, close to half the visits made by patients to emergency departments between February 4 and 10



Robin Marie Coleman, Santé Québec's assistant vice-president for access to health services, says calling 8-1-1 is often the best course of action to take before heading to a hospital emergency department.



Dr. Luc Boileau, director of public health for the province, said last week that flu activity in Quebec is elevated and we could be seeing the worst flu season of the past decade.

were by people whose needs were not in fact of an emergency nature.

"It is a challenge," Robin Marie Coleman, Santé Québec's assistant vice-president for access to health services, conceded regarding the misconceptions during a video conference call with journalists last Friday.

Long wait times

"This is definitely something we're trying to work on," she added, while agreeing with a journalist that wait times for some of the agency's services, such as the 8-1-1 medical triage phone central for non-urgent health issues, can be long, although less so in comparison to hospital emergency department wait times. "Sometimes the wait times are long," she said. "But to put

it in perspective, with the long wait times sometimes in the emergency rooms, it's better and healthier for people to stay at home if they have non-urgent care, and wait in order to be re-directed to a clinic directly with an appointment, rather than expose themselves in an emergency room when it's not an emergency situation."

Sometimes the best option

According to Coleman, 70 per cent of those patients who turned up at emergency departments in early February had family doctors, while others may have had other options available to them. In cases like these, she continued, "the best option is to stay safely at home if it's a non-emergency situation and be directly directed to the right service."

But at the same time, she acknowledged that the province's hospital emergency departments remain inadequate to handle the burden with which they are currently tasked. "We need to improve the different services, and first-line services, and make things much easier for people," she said.

Worst season in a decade

Late last week, the level of flu activity in Quebec was elevated, said Dr. Luc Boileau, director of public health for the province. He said Santé Québec was following the situation closely, since the province could in fact be facing one of its worst flu seasons in the last 10 years.

He said that in other Canadian provinces, like Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, the presence of influenza had been notably higher this year. "We expect the peak soon to be reached, or that it soon will be," he continued.

According to Dr. Boileau, it's never too late to be vaccinated against influenza, and that it is recommended especially for persons regarded as vulnerable, which includes those with compromised immunity and the elderly.

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Chomedey councillor Aglaia Revelakis distances herself from Action Laval

Veteran district rep blames decision on the party's mayoralty candidate choice

MARTIN C. BARRY

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For elected as well as unelected members of the Action Laval opposition at Laval city hall, long-time Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis's announcement that she was abandoning the Action Laval caucus was as unexpected as it was astonishing.

Three terms in office

Revelakis was one of the first Action Laval city councillors to be elected in 2013 after former mayor Gilles Vaillancourt's monopolistic grip on Laval city council had finally been broken.

Since then, she won clear majorities in three elections, while retaining a large and reliable base of support for Action Laval from within her territory.

Before entering Laval municipal politics, Aglaia Revelakis gained political experience as a key organizer for councillor Mary Deros's many election campaigns in Montreal's Parc Extension district.

Kept Action Laval alive

When Action Laval's political fortunes were reduced at one point almost to nil, Revelakis remained a reliable supplier of voter support. The Chomedey district could always be counted on to bolster Action Laval's share, based largely on Aglaia Revelakis's consistent popularity with voters.

At one point, when the party's fortunes flagged, Revelakis was the lone Action Laval councillor left on city council, and she managed to hold the fort until Action Laval got back its strength.

During the February 4 council, Revelakis read out a few routine community announcements, before finally getting around to dropping the bombshell about leaving the party.

Announced in Council

"As of today, I will no longer sit as municipal councillor with Action Laval," Revelakis said,



Former Action Laval councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis (seen in a 2018 file photo) says she decided to leave the party largely because of the way she claims they chose their mayoralty candidate for the November 2 elections. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

adding that she was giving up her membership in the party at the same time.

"Moving forward, I will sit as an independent councillor to continue representing and serving my citizens of Chomedey who have supported me over the past eleven years," she continued.

"It has been a privilege and honor to represent them at city hall and I think them for their confidence. The citizens of Chomedey are and will continue to be my priority. Chomedey will always be my priority."

In a phone interview last week with *The Laval News*, Revelakis suggested that her decision was closely related to her disagreement with the party's choice of Frédéric Mayer as mayoralty candidate for the November 2 elections.

Not the right one, she says

"That is my choice and my belief," she said. "Everybody is allowed to believe whatever they

want. I have to go with what I believe. And I don't believe he was the right candidate."

She said she was never consulted when a decision on a mayoralty candidate was being made. Although she is registered with Élections Québec as one of Action Laval's two "dirigeants" (directors), she maintained she was never asked.

"As a dirigeant, I should have had some say in this, but I didn't even have a say in whom they were going to choose," she said. "This is who they wanted, this is what they wanted, so I said okay, thank you, no problem, I'll just walk away, that's all."

Difficult choice for Revelakis

In the last three City of Laval elections, Revelakis consistently drew around 50 per cent voter support. She said she found her decision to leave Action Laval was difficult, but "I had to go with my beliefs."

When asked whether she had considered affiliating herself and running with another municipal party (including the Mouvement lavallois), Revelakis said she'd been approached by the ML, as well as by the official opposition Parti Laval.

"Offers have come around from both parties," she said. "But it's too early to say. Right now, I want to concentrate on my district and I want to concentrate on my citizens."

Action Laval's response

The Laval News reached out to Action Laval's leadership for their explanation of the procedures they followed when choosing the party's mayoralty candidate.

According to AL spokesperson Geru Schneider, party president Achille Cifelli was not available earlier this week as he was away on business outside the country. Longtime Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis provided the following e-mailed response.

"Our nomination process reflects our internal democratic tradition," he said. "As in 2021, the selection of our candidate is based on an in-depth caucus discussion followed by a vote. This enables meaningful dialogue and a shared decision that reflects the values and objectives of our political party."

Mayer had support, said De Cotis

"I would like to point out that our candidate received overwhelming support for his nomination, demonstrating a strong bond within the party," added De Cotis. "Representatives have also shown their unanimous support for this nomination, confirming the solidity of our choice."

As for Revelakis's recent comments, De Cotis said "we find it hard to understand the reaction of our former colleague, especially as she held a position on the party's executive board."

He said "her abrupt departure took the whole team by surprise, particularly given her involvement in our decision-making bodies. Nonetheless, we remain focused on our primary mission: to serve the interests of our citizens and work on our community's priority issues."

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Mille-Îles MNA Dufour calls out CAQ for opposing petition's rail transport request

Grondin 'preferred to align herself' with her party's positions, PLQ MNA said

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Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Virginie Dufour is taking issue with her National Assembly CAQ colleague from Argenteuil Agnès Grondin's failure to support a petition submitted by some of Dufour's constituents who are asking the government to support development of rail transport.

"Last week in the National Assembly, I had the opportunity to participate in a work session whose purpose was to persuade elected officials with the CAQ to examine a petition, begun by a citizen of my riding, which requested that the government consider a strategy for the development of railway corridors for the transportation of goods and person," said Dufour, who is the Liberal Party of Quebec's official spokesperson on environment and climate change issues.

More rail transport

Since it is estimated that the distance travelled by a corresponding quantity of merchandise by train emits 92 per cent less

greenhouse gas on average into the atmosphere, compared to road transport, the petitioners are proposing that a \$1.7 billion surplus accumulated in the government's electrification and climate change fund should be used to plan a transition towards rail transport.

During the working session, according to Dufour, CAQ MNA Grondin, along with her colleagues, opposed the petitioners' request.

Ditto MRC d'Argenteuil

Dufour noted that in the last few weeks, the MRC d'Argenteuil adopted a resolution making a suggestion very similar to the one in the petition submitted by her constituents.

"Mme Grondin's opposition is somewhat surprising since she herself, for more than 10 years, was a consultant for environment at the MRC d'Argenteuil," Dufour said.

"Apparently, the CAQ's MNA preferred to align herself with the positions taken by her party, rather than defend her citizens, the mayors in her riding and maybe also her personal convictions," she added.



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CAA conducts road test of EV range, charge in winter conditions

Results highlight the impact of sub-zero temperatures

(NEWSFIRST) - Driving an EV in a Canadian winter just got the ultimate stress test in a real-world winter EV performance study conducted this week by the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA).

Vehicles representing more than two-thirds of Canadian EV sales were driven from Ottawa to Mont Tremblant in sub-zero temperatures. The CAA EV Winter Test measured how many kilometres EVs drove before their batteries died, and how long it took to get a reasonable recharge.

“CAA is responding to a top concern of Canadians when it comes to EVs,” said Ian Jack, vice-president, public affairs, CAA National. “We measured the effective range of electric vehicles in cold weather and how quickly they charge. These insights are critical for both current EV owners and those considering making the switch.”

More than two thirds of Canadians in a recent poll told CAA that the drop in range during winter is a top barrier to buying an EV. And among Canadian EV owners, more than 65 percent say they have experienced lower battery range in extreme cold weather.

Officially posted Canadian EV ranges are based on overall, year-round numbers. CAA’s test shows the difference winter makes. Across the board, the vehicles drove 14 to 39 percent less than their official range. Two vehicles in particular performed well in the cold, the Chevrolet Silverado EV and the Polestar 2. Both drove just 14 percent less than their posted range.

CAA found the cold weather affected EVs very differently, with some doing better than expected

while others did not. The full list of vehicles and their performance is in the chart below.

“The vast difference in results highlight the importance of truth in advertising when it comes to EV range, and of comparing numbers if winter performance matters to you,” said Jack. “CAA would like to see a made-in-Canada standardized labeling system for EVs that includes winter driving performance rather than just a single average.”

The CAA EV Winter Test featured 14 EVs, which includes 7 out of 10 of the top sellers in Canada. Models came from sport, luxury, SUV, sedan and truck categories, capturing a diverse range of vehicle types. Temperatures during the drive varied between -7 and -15 degrees Celsius, representing a typical Canadian winter.

Each vehicle was driven until the battery ran completely out of power to determine range in winter conditions. The results were compared to the estimated driving range published by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). In Canada, only a single average is published, so consumers don’t have an accurate picture of winter range.

CAA also put to the test charging speeds, a critical factor for longer trips in an EV. In CAA’s recent survey of EV owners, 4 in 10 EV drivers said significant slower charging in extreme cold weather is a problem. And more than half (53 percent) of EV drivers still prefer to take their gas vehicle on long trips in extremely cold weather.

Each vehicle in CAA’s test was connected to a DC fast-charger. The test measured how many kilometers of range were added in a 15-minute session. On average, EVs managed to add around

100 kilometers of range, which amounted to 28 percent of battery charge. The Tesla Model 3 charged the fastest, adding over 200 kilometers in just 15 minutes. CAA found significant variations in how much charge an EV could gain in 15 minutes, highlighting the importance of considering charging rates for those who frequently drive long distances.

The CAA EV Winter Test is the latest initiative in CAA’s consumer education on electric vehicles, which includes providing unbiased information about the price and performance of electric vehicles in CAA’s EV Buyer’s Guide.

CAA has a few tips for drivers on ways to maximize EV performance in cold weather:

- 1. Precondition the EV:** Warm the cabin while it is plugged in before starting your drive. Many EVs allow you to schedule preconditioning for a specific departure time, which maximizes range and comfort.
- 2. Clear Snow and Ice:** Remove excess snow and ice from the vehicle to reduce weight and aerodynamic drag, helping to extend your range. In fact, in some provinces this is the law, ensuring drivers can see where they are going and keeping roads safer.
- 3. Use Heated Seats:** Heated seats consume less energy than cabin heaters, allowing you to conserve battery power.
- 4. Park Indoors:** Whenever possible, park in a garage or other sheltered area to keep the battery warmer, which can improve both range and charging speed. If not possible,

park the car on the sunny side of the street. Complete results of the CAA EV Winter Test are contained in the charts below.

Mobile charging was provided by CAFU, an on-demand charging solution designed to enhance convenience and accessibility for electric vehicle owners.

Some vehicles were provided by Plug ‘n Drive, a non-profit organization committed to accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles through education, advocacy, and innovative programs that promote sustainable transportation.

CAA’s survey of EV owners was conducted October 3rd to October 22nd, 2024. A total of 16,041 EV drivers responded across all provinces. This is the second time CAA has surveyed EV owners in collaboration with PlugShare Research. Results of the 2024 survey can be found here.

General population findings were based on a poll of 2,880 Canadians carried out from September 13 to 21, 2024. A probability sample of the same size would yield a margin of error of +/-1.9%.

About CAA

CAA is a federation of eight Clubs providing over 7 million Members with exceptional emergency roadside service, complete automotive and travel services, Member savings and comprehensive insurance services. As one of Canada’s most trusted brands, CAA also advocates on issues of concern to its Members and all Canadians, including road safety, the environment, mobility, infrastructure, and consumer protection.

Range test				
Vehicle (alphabetic order)	Rank: Longest Range	Total kilometers driven on single charge	Official range published by NRCan	Difference Between Actual and Official Range
Chevrolet Equinox EV	6	337 km	513 km	-34 %
Chevrolet Silverado EV	1	456 km	724 km	-14%*
Ford F-150 Lightning	9	296 km	515 km	-35%*
Ford Mustang Mach-E	7	334 km	483 km	-31 %
Honda Prologue	8	334 km	439 km	-24 %
Hyundai IONIQ 5	11	262 km	410 km	-36 %
Kia EV9	4	349 km	435 km	-20 %
Kia Niro EV	10	285 km	407 km	-30 %
Polestar 2	3	384 km	444 km	-14 %
Tesla Model 3	2	410 km	584 km	-30 %
Toyota bZ4X	12	255 km	406 km	-37 %
Volkswagen ID.4	5	338 km	468 km	-28 %
Volvo XC40 Recharge	13	248 km	409 km	-39 %

*Calculation was adjusted to reflect that Chevrolet Silverado EV started at 73% state of charge and that Ford F-150 Lightning started at 89% state of charge. Note: due to a complication Kia EV6 did not participate in the range test, but did participate in the charge test, see results below.

Charge test				
Vehicle (alphabetic order)	Rank: Charged the fastest in 15 minutes	Displayed kilometers added in 15 minutes	Time to charge from 10 to 80 percent	Average charging speed
Chevrolet Equinox EV	3	131 kms	42 mins	100 kW
Chevrolet Silverado EV	2	199 kms	42 mins	233 kW
Ford F-150 Lightning	6	109 kms	45 mins	128 kW
Ford Mustang Mach-E	9	71 kms	46 mins	85 kW
Hyundai IONIQ 5	10	64 kms	45 mins	80 kW
Kia EV6	11	58 kms	43 mins	85 kW
Kia EV9	7	105 kms	33 mins	139 kW
Kia Niro EV	12	35 kms	77 mins	36 kW
Polestar 2	4	120 kms	40 mins	94 kW
Tesla Model 3	1	205 kms	37 mins	96 kW
Toyota bZ4X	13	19 kms	92 mins	33 kW
Volkswagen ID.4	5	112 kms	34 mins	104 kW
Volvo XC40 Recharge	8	90 kms	40 mins	87 kW

Note: Honda Prologue was not included in the charge test as it encountered an error and data was unavailable. All vehicles were charged using 350 kW chargers, while the Tesla was charged at 150 kW due to compatibility requirements with the non-Tesla adapter.



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Troubling diagnosis: Comparing Canada's healthcare with international peers

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continued from previous edition

Administrative Efficiency

Administrative efficiency measures how effectively health systems minimize the paperwork and bureaucratic tasks for patients and primary care physicians. It includes six metrics on primary care physicians' time spent on administrative issues, referrals, and documentation required by insurance plans and government agencies. Two patient-reported measures assess emergency department visits due to the unavailability of regular doctors and time spent on medical bill paperwork or disputes.

In this category, Australia and the United Kingdom were the top performers (Figure 5), and they both minimize payment and billing burdens for patients and physicians. In Australia, electronic claims processing enables instantaneous payments from both public and private payers (Blumenthal et al. 2024). Similarly, UK physicians are compensated directly by the National Health Service based on patients' electronic health records, eliminating the need to bill patients or the government for each service.

Canada ranked sixth in this category. Notably, its performance remained unchanged compared to 2018. Canadian primary care physicians were more likely to report significant time spent updating electronic health records and coordinating referrals with specialists. Close to one-half of Canadian physicians indicated that coordinating referrals with specialists is a major problem, significantly higher than the international average of 33 percent.

Both American and Canadian adults are more likely than those in other peer countries to visit the emergency department for non-emergency care, leading to inefficient use of hospital resources and higher costs. Notably, 40 percent of Canadian respondents indicated that they visited an emergency department for a condition that could have been treated by regular doctors, had they been available.

Equity

Equity measures patients' experiences of unfair treatment because of their racial or ethnic backgrounds, as reported by physicians and seen in income-related disparities in access to care. It reflects how people with below-average and above-average incomes differ in their access to care and care experience. France and the Netherlands ranked the highest in this category, meaning adults in these countries experienced among the lowest rates of affordability problems and the fewest income-related disparities (Figure 6). The US ranked last, demonstrating the largest disparities between income groups.

Canada ranked seventh, showing a slight improvement over recent years (Schneider et al. 2021). Compared to other countries, Canada shows notable income-related inequities in healthcare afford-

ability. Approximately one-quarter of Canadians with lower or average incomes reported experiencing at least one cost-related barrier to accessing healthcare in the past year, such as not receiving medical care or following prescribed care instructions. This rate is double that of higher-income counterparts, who reported fewer cost-related barriers to healthcare access.

The difference in adults reporting skipped dental care due to cost was also statistically significant between income groups: 36 percent of those with lower or average incomes compared to 24 percent of those with higher incomes.

In general, 15 percent of Canadians have reported experiencing unfair treatment when receiving healthcare. Among those individuals, the most commonly cited reasons were age (31 percent), disability or chronic disease (25 percent) and gender (20 percent). Due to these factors, between 69-to-78 percent felt they did not receive the care or treatment they needed.

Except for PEI, all Canadian jurisdictions have among the lowest equity scores across most comparator countries. Fewer seniors in PEI thought the healthcare system treated them unfairly, and fewer adults reported experiencing unfair treatment when receiving care. In contrast, a higher percentage of adults in New Brunswick, Manitoba and Yukon felt they have been treated unfairly, with these regions scoring significantly below the international average.

Healthcare Outcomes

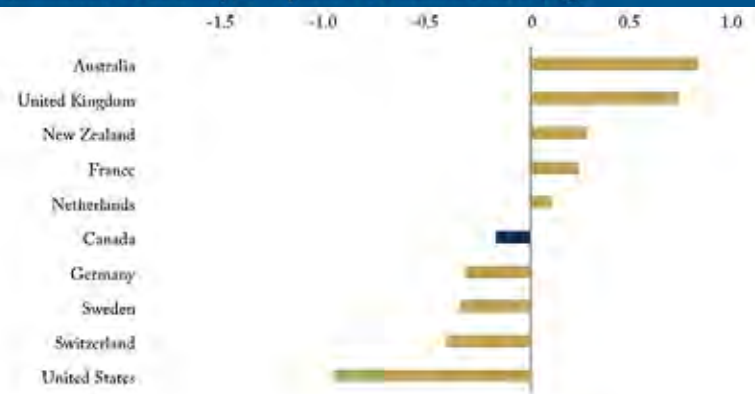
Healthcare outcomes refers to health results such as infant mortality, maternal mortality and suicide rates. Sweden and the Netherlands performed the best in this category (Figure 7). Sweden had the lowest infant mortality rate (1.8 deaths per 1,000 live births), while the Netherlands reported the lowest 30-day-in-hospital mortality rate following acute myocardial infarction for those aged 45 and older (2.9 deaths per 100 admissions).

Canada ranked sixth, slightly below the international average. Among the nine measures, Canada had the second-highest infant mortality rate and second-highest 30-day-in-hospital mortality rate following stroke. Within Canada, only British Columbia had a notable positive score in healthcare outcomes. In contrast, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were performance drags, scoring significantly below the international average, largely due to their higher rates of avoidable mortality and suicide deaths. Nunavut ranked last on healthcare outcomes, driven by its alarmingly high suicide rate, which was eight times the Canadian average. This highlights the critical need for enhanced mental health support and life promotion initiatives in the territory.

Improvement Potential

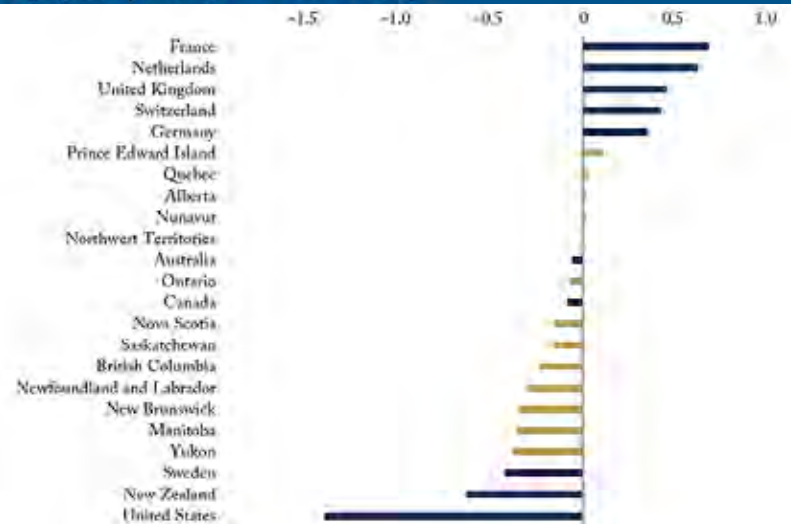
According to the latest CMWF surveys, Canada

Figure 5: Administrative Efficiency, Comparison to International Average



Source: Author's calculations from Commonwealth Fund data (CIHI 2023 and 2024).

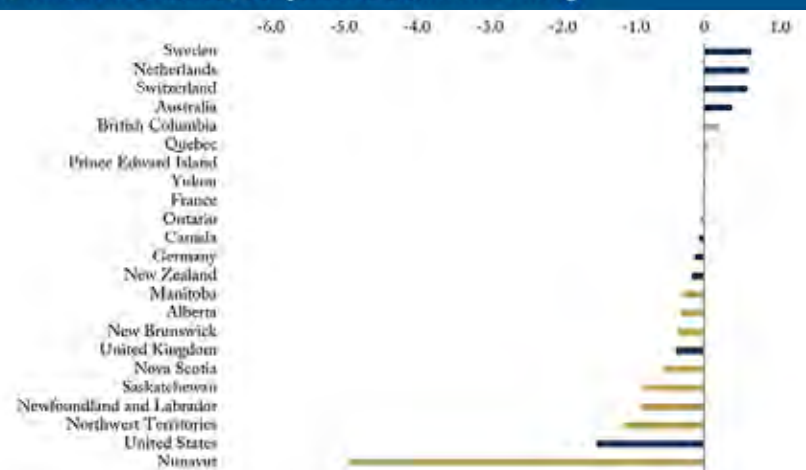
Figure 6: Equity, Comparison to International Average



Note: Blue highlights represent comparator countries, while yellow represents provinces and territories.

Source: Author's calculations from Commonwealth Fund data (CIHI 2021, 2022 and 2023).

Figure 7: Healthcare Outcomes, Comparison to International Average



Source: Author's calculations from Commonwealth Fund, OECD, WHO and CIHI data.

has fallen behind its international peers in several key areas, including access to care, administrative efficiency, and equity. To understand how Canadian provinces and territories could improve, I simulate scenarios where these jurisdictions meet the highest international standards for specific survey metrics. Given Canada's critical primary care access challenges, I have identified the access-to-care category

as the top priority for improvement.


Scenario 1: Improving Timely Access to Care

Access to care requires both insurance coverage and convenient and timely primary care. The first

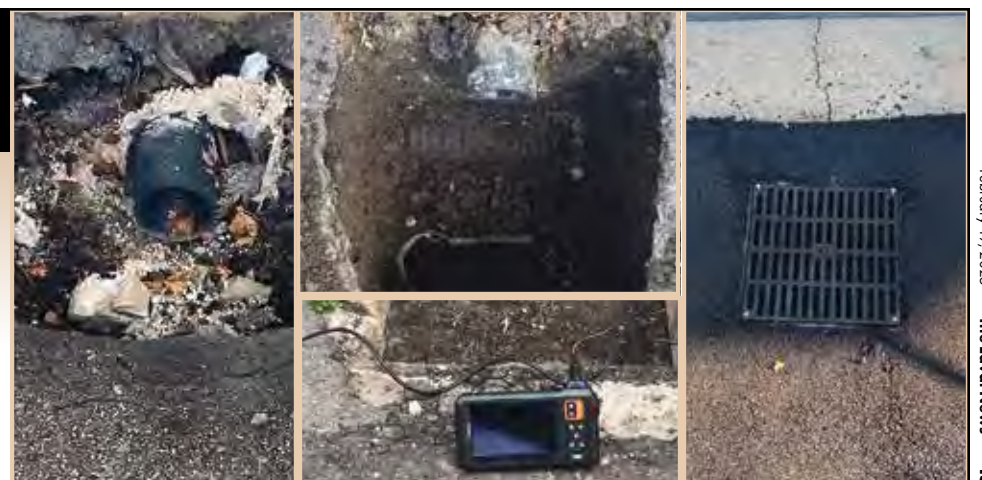
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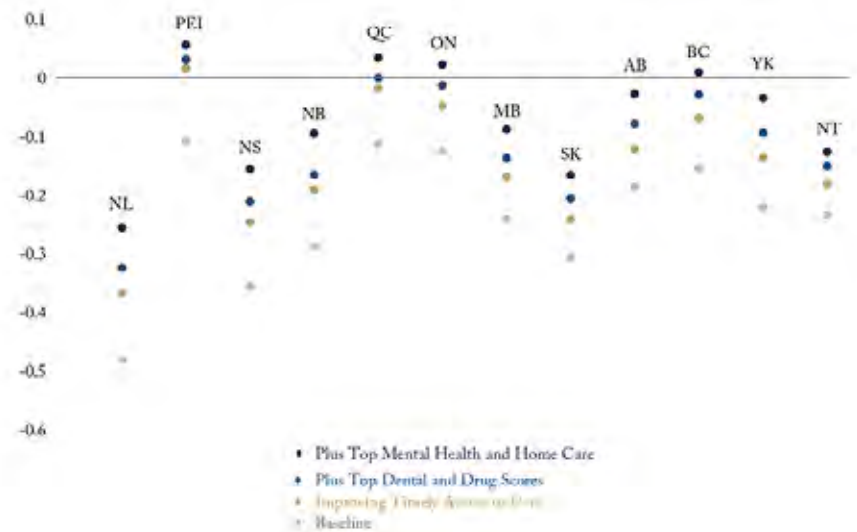
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Figure 8: Simulation of Improved Policy for Provinces and Territories (Nunavut excluded), by Scenario



Source: Author's calculations from Commonwealth Fund data (CIHI 2022, 2023 and 2024).

◀ **Continued from page 15**

simulation focuses on improving timely access measures to match top performers like Germany and the Netherlands. Specifically, all provinces and territories would have 98 percent of adults with a regular doctor or place of care, 51 percent of respondents reporting they can get same or next-day appointments with a doctor or nurse, and only 54 percent experiencing difficulty to obtain after-hours care. By achieving these improvements, all jurisdictions would see a boost in access-to-care scores, with Prince Edward Island and Quebec surpassing the international average. PEI's overall healthcare performance would shift from negative to positive (Figure 8).

To increase the percentage of Canadians attached to a regular doctor or place of care, it is essential to expand the number of primary care providers to meet the needs of a growing and aging population. Optimizing the efficiency and utilization of the existing workforce is equally important. Substantial reforms in the organization and funding of care delivery, along with an expanded scope of practice for other primary care providers, will be necessary to address both current and future demands (Zhang 2024). The use of telehealth and remote monitoring can also improve access to care while potentially reducing costs.

Both the Netherlands and Germany provide universal coverage and remove cost barriers, ensuring people can access care when needed. This coverage includes essential preventative services, primary care and effective treatments for chronic conditions. In the Netherlands, for example, primary care physicians are obligated to provide at least 50 hours of after-hours care (between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.) annually in order to maintain their professional licensure. The country also has local and regional GP posts that provide after-hours care and help reduce the need for emergency room visits (Blumenthal et al. 2024). Most GPs are also part of networks that offer care during evenings or weekends. In Germany, physicians are also required to offer after-hours care, with regulations varying from region to region (Blumenthal et al. 2024).

Strengthening enforcement of contractual obligations, such as after-hours care, in Canadian jurisdictions could yield significant benefits. While some Canadian provinces use financial incentives to encourage after-hours care, many do not require it. In Ontario, after-hours care is required for all models except comprehensive care and nurse practitioner-led clinics. However, there are no regulations enforcing this requirement, nor have evaluations been conducted on its effectiveness in improving patient access (Zhang 2024).

Scenario 2: Improving Drug and Dental Care Access

Reducing cost barriers to drug and dental care would also improve the overall health performance ranking of provinces and territories. If all Canadian jurisdictions improved drug and dental access to levels with the top two performers (where only 6 percent of adults skip medications and 9.7 percent forgo dental care), alongside improvements in

timely access to care, all regions would see improvements in their total scores. However, only Prince Edward Island would top the international average, with Quebec aligning with the average.

Prince Edward Island and Quebec already make prescriptions more affordable due to their special strategies aimed at addressing the care gaps. The fill-in-the-gap collaboration between the federal and PEI governments has improved the provincial drug formulary, reduced copays and deductibles and expanded eligibility for public programs.

Quebec's pharmacare model requires mandatory patient enrolment in either a public or private plan. The public version includes deductibles and copayments, similar to private plans, but with monthly caps on out-of-pocket costs. Risk pooling helps keep premium costs relatively lower than in non-mandatory, universal eligibility, public insurance schemes such as Alberta's. Adopting a prescription drug insurance model that includes a funding mechanism, where enrollees pay an annual premium, would help reduce the potential for short-term strain on government budgets (Wyonch and Robson 2019).

In Germany, public coverage for pharmaceuticals is more comprehensive, with 82 percent of pharmaceutical costs covered through government or compulsory insurance schemes. Overall, medical costs are capped at 2 percent of gross income for all patients and 1 percent for people with chronic illness (Blumenthal et al. 2024).

Canadian jurisdictions can draw valuable lessons from both domestic and international best practices. Efforts should prioritize achieving universal coverage, expanding formularies and reducing out-of-pocket payments. Provinces and territories must commit to maintaining their current level of coverage while addressing gaps in access to health insurance, ultimately working toward universal coverage for all. These affordability objectives are achievable as ongoing federal initiatives continue to address gaps in pharmacare and dental care access.

However, while the Canadian Dental Care Plan's focus on dental services for seniors is a step forward, those who are uninsured or unable to pay should also be included. In Ontario, the consideration of portable benefits to extend health benefits coverage to workers without employer-sponsored insurance is another important strategy (Bonnert 2023). These steps are crucial in bridging gaps in access to health insurance and working towards broader universal coverage.

Scenario 3: Improving Mental Health and Homecare

If provinces and territories were to achieve the top-tier performance in mental health and homecare affordability (meaning only 2.7 percent and 4 percent of people, respectively, forgo these services due to cost), alongside improvements in timely access to care and drug and dental access, PEI and Quebec would advance to middle-tier performers, similar to Germany and Switzerland. Ontario and BC would also reach the international average, though many other regions would still lag behind.

▶ **Continued on page 17**

◀ Continued from page 16

This implies that these other jurisdictions need to reduce wait times, improve patient engagement, increase use of virtual care and improve equity to further improve their international standing. Addressing affordability barriers could also help enhance equity across Canada.

Top-performing countries such as the Netherlands and Germany have limits on cost-sharing to ensure that the ability to pay is not a significant barrier to accessing necessary health services. In Germany, out-of-pocket expenses are capped at a fixed percentage of income while in the Netherlands, healthcare services, except for primary care visits, maternity care and child health services, are covered once patients meet their annual deductible. As a result, fewer than 5 percent of adults in these two countries reported cost-related barriers to accessing needed mental health services, regardless of income level.

The Netherlands and Germany also invest in homecare and encourage seniors to live independently for as long as possible (Wyonch and Zhang 2023). The German long-term care system prioritizes cost containment through emphasizing the role of informal care alongside formal healthcare and homecare with institutional inpatient care considered a last resort (Wyonch 2021). Community nurses play a key role by encouraging and training seniors' relatives and family to participate in their care, providing both preventative and curative care. This municipal-level approach to care empowers seniors and gives them freedom, autonomy and wellness.

Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, where a higher than average proportion of adults reported forgoing needed mental health services or homecare due to cost concerns, should look to these international examples for guidance. Investing in mental health services and homecare, alongside adopting similar funding mechanisms, is important. By implementing comprehensive coverage models, these regions can reduce financial barriers, improve

access to essential care and alleviate the financial burden on the public system.

The lack of provincial and territorial data for the 2022 CWMF survey makes it difficult to identify which provinces excel in areas such as administrative efficiency and which are lagging behind. However, the country-wide results still point to this as an area that needs improving.

Administrative inefficiency imposes significant costs in both time and money for patients and physicians. Top-performing countries often reduce administrative burdens that detract from time, resources and expenditures that could otherwise be directed toward improving healthcare outcomes. They simplify their health insurance and payment systems, usually through legislation, regulation and standardization (Schneider et al. 2021). Reducing the variation and complexity of insurance plans is particularly crucial (Blumenthal et al. 2024). By minimizing administrative burdens, Canadian primary care physicians could dedicate more time to direct patient care, ultimately enhancing healthcare delivery and outcomes.

Some provinces, such as Nova Scotia, have taken positive steps to reduce healthcare red tape. Other jurisdictions also need to evaluate areas where forms can be streamlined and duplication of information eliminated (Zhang 2024). Additional strategies to ease administrative workloads and improve care delivery include redesigning healthcare processing technology – such as electronic health records and other electronic administrative tools – with direct input from physicians to ensure efficiency and usability (Gumas et al. 2024). The integration of artificial intelligence, including tools for automatically summarizing or transcribing patient conversations into electronic medical notes, offers further potential to simplify complex billing and documentation systems, reducing the administrative burden on healthcare providers (Zhang 2024).

Conclusion

Countries worldwide are developing new models of care, aiming to enhance population health, improve patient experiences, reduce healthcare

costs, support the well-being of healthcare professionals and promote health equity. Benchmarking the performance of Canada's healthcare system against international peers shows our relative performance and priority areas for improvement and provides international examples that can inform domestic policy and healthcare delivery changes.

This Commentary indicates that Canada's healthcare system still faces challenges, particularly in access to care, administrative efficiency, and equity. In international comparisons, Canada ranks ninth out of 10 countries, falling below the international average on many measures and ranking last for timeliness of care. However, Canada performed relatively well in the care-process category, suggesting many Canadian provinces excelled in preventative care and safe care, despite broader systemic challenges.

Compared to previous survey findings, Canada's performance has improved slightly in some subcategories such as affordability, coordinated care, equity and healthcare outcomes. However, Canada's performance has worsened in other critical subcategories, including timeliness of care. This decline once again highlights the pressing need to address access-to-care issues in Canada.

Among Canadian provinces and territories, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut are the main performance laggards, with Nunavut ranking below all comparator jurisdictions, including the United States. Across all 10 provinces and three territories, common challenges include access to timely care, obtaining after-hours care and long wait times. Only one jurisdiction reported scores above the international average in these measures. The Atlantic provinces appear to face the most serious issues, with significant difficulties in these categories.

Recent expansions in drug and dental care coverage, while not yet reflected in the most recent surveys, have the potential to enhance Canada's performance in the affordability subcategory. However, simply addressing coverage gaps on drug and dental care and improving timely access to care

would enable only two provinces to surpass the international average in overall health rankings. This highlights the need for broader improvements across all jurisdictions, particularly in mental health and homecare affordability, reducing wait times, enhancing patient engagement and addressing equity challenges.

To achieve these improvements, Canadian jurisdictions can draw on best practices from countries like the Netherlands and Germany, which have successfully implemented funding mechanisms and ensuring affordability for all. While closing the affordability gaps may require increased public spending, evidence from these countries demonstrates that it is possible to spend wisely by focusing on value-based care. Investing in targeted improvements that enhance both access and quality of care can yield better outcomes without unnecessarily escalating overall costs.

Canada has a positive reputation for its pilot projects and innovative strategies, yet provincial and territorial health silos often prevent horizontal collaboration and sharing of lessons learned across jurisdictions (Bégin, Eggertson and Macdonald 2009). To avoid duplicating efforts, provinces and territories should share best practices to improve care access and healthcare performance.

However, domestic solutions alone may not be enough. Even Canada's highest-performing provinces fall behind most international comparators. Drawing insights from countries like the Netherlands, Germany and the UK could provide Canadian jurisdictions with actionable strategies to exceed the international average and achieve better healthcare outcomes. Cross-jurisdictional collaboration, combined with the adoption of proven international practices, represents a critical pathway to closing performance gaps and improving healthcare systems across the country.

The road to a high-performing healthcare system is long and requires addressing fundamental policy and organizational challenges. It is a complex challenge that requires the implementation of targeted and comprehensive strategies.



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Things to do

UPCOMING

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

TIAKOLA

Shows and concerts



February 20
8:00 PM

Place Bell

1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 5H9

With 7 million monthly listeners and his triple platinum album "Mélo", Tiakola is passing by Laval on his world tour.

Visit [Ticketmaster](#) for tickets

MEDJY

Shows and concerts



February 22
8:00 PM

Place Bell

1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 5H9

A chance to see songwriter and producer Medjy in concert for his album 48 Rebecca.

Visit [Ticketmaster](#) for tickets

MOTHER MOTHER

Shows and concerts



March 2
7:00 PM

Place Bell

1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 5H9

Canadian alternative rock band returns to the road with special guests Cavetown and Winnetka Bowling League.

Visit [Ticketmaster](#) for tickets

ARNAUD SOLY

Humour



March 4
8:00 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 Boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

Arnaud Soly returns after his one-man show sold nearly 70,000 tickets and having now thousands of subscribers on social media.

Regular ticket: \$45.50

KATHERINE LEVAC

Humour



March 6
8:00 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 Boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

A must-see comedian of her generation, Katherine Levac is finally back on stage for her show *L'homme de ma vie*.

Regular ticket: \$49.50

MATOU

Theatre



March 8
7:30 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 Boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

A work of Quebec literature and cinema, *Le Matou* takes to the stage for the first time with a musical comedy that is as entertaining as it is moving.

13 actors bring to life the famous characters, in addition to introducing new original songs that are an integral part of the story.

Regular ticket: \$79.50

OUR LADY PEACE

Shows and concerts



March 10
7:00 PM

Place Bell

1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 5H9

To celebrate their 30-year career, iconic Canadian rock band Our Lady Peace announced their highly anticipated OLP30 Tour.

Visit [Ticketmaster](#) for tickets

ANDRÉ-PHILIPPE GAGNON

Culture



March 11
8:00 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 Boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

In this new show, André-Philippe Gagnon continues to amaze us with his vocals, as he has done for 40 years.

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Longueuil man jailed 30 months for bombing attempt in Laval

A 26-year-old man from Longueuil on Montreal's South Shore has been sentenced to 30 months in prison after being found guilty of a range of criminal charges, including bomb-making, related to a dispute with his former girlfriend and her new partner.

Henri Chevalier Hogue pleaded guilty at the Palais de Justice de Laval in January to the charges, which included possession of explosives and criminal harassment.

In November 2022, Hogue's ex-girlfriend, identified as Rachel, found a note on the

windshield of a car in Pont-Viau belonging to her new boyfriend's father, wishing them season's greetings. A little earlier, according to testimony, an unidentified man had been seen placing an object under the car.

A few days later, a man was seen again, but this time placed an object under a car belonging to the new boyfriend, who was identified in court as Jacob, with a note left on the windshield saying "good day" in French.

It was later determined that the bomb had mistakenly been left under the wrong car in

the first place, and that the second attempt was made to put it under Jacob's car.

When the couple became aware of the situation, they called 9-1-1, which sent the Sûreté du Québec bomb squad. The squad proceeded in turn to evacuate part of the neighbourhood.

It was later determined that the object placed under the car was indeed a bomb containing an explosive charge and a load of steel screws capable of inflicting serious injuries and damage.

Following a raid at Hogue's home, the police

found a range of materials for bomb-making, including batteries, explosive powder, electric insulation tape and electric wiring. They were unable to determine exactly how he learned how to make a functioning bomb.

Hogue never admitted to having placed the bomb. The investigators reported that he put up a strong resistance to being fingerprinted, including trying to remove his own fingerprints from his fingers. He could have received a five-year prison sentence, but the court showed leniency, citing mitigating factors.

Recent LFD fire calls

February 12 | 22:35 // Building fire on Trépanier St. in the heart of Chomedey. Residential structure. Flames apparent on rear balcony of 2nd storey and propagation onto exterior wall of the building, as well as to part of the roof.



February 4 | 00:56 // Building fire on 4th St. in city's Laval-des-Rapides sector. Multi-unit residential building. Flames apparent in the garage. Code was 10-09, meaning full assistance required. According to the Laval Fire Dept., this dossier was forwarded onto fire investigators for further inquiry.



Jan 28 | LDF calls in a fire in progress. Building fire on Cléroux Blvd. in the Sainte-Dorothée sector. Residential building. Smoke apparent. Code was 10-07, meaning intervention necessary.



Keep those snowed-over hydrants clear

The Laval Fire Dept. has issued a reminder to all City of Laval property owners who have fire hydrants nearby that they have a duty to keep them clear of now in case a fire breaks out and firefighters need access.

"The storms these last few days have left us with a LARGE white carpet but also a few challenges," the LFD posted on their X social media feed.

"We remind you to carefully clear your emergency exits and to not bury the fire hydrants under mountains of snow," they added.



Laval man posing as DJ charged with online luring

The Laval Police say they have arrested a man suspected of luring children online and investigators believe there may be more victims.

Steve Martin Dubuc, 58, was arraigned on the charge at the Palais de Justice de Laval. Police say the charges stem from actions he

allegedly committed between November 2024 and February 2025.

"Using a Facebook profile in the name of Stefano Tremblay and identifying himself as a DJ working at a popular radio station in the Montreal area, the suspect allegedly contacted

minors via the Messenger platform," the LPD said in a communiqué.

Anyone who believes they have additional information is asked to contact the LPD's crime hotline at 450-662-4636 or call 911. The file is RPY-241124-015.



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3 kids that made history

Some people are destined for greatness. Here are three children who've made history in their own way.

1. ANNE FRANK

Born in 1929, Anne was only 13 years old when she was forced into hiding with her family during the Second World War. During this difficult time, she wrote a diary about her daily life, thoughts and feelings. The Diary of Anne Frank became a worldwide bestseller and is a stark reminder of the dangers of discrimination and antisemitism.



PHOTO: Robert Sullivan / Flickr / Public Domain

2. BUDHIA SINGH

Budhia Singh was born in 2002 in India. He was just two years old when his mother sold him to support herself. His local judo coach discovered Budhia's hidden talent when he punished him by having him run. In 2006, Budhia ran 65 kilometres in seven hours. By the age of four, he had already completed 48 marathons.



PHOTO: THELOGICALINDIAN.COM

3. GRETA THUNBERG

Born in 2003, Greta Thunberg is an environmental activist who fights against climate change. In 2018, at the age of 15, she started a school strike that later spread around the world. She has given several speeches at major events in Poland, the UK, France and several other countries. In 2019, the prestigious TIME magazine named her Person of the Year.



Do you want to learn more about these famous children? Do some research on the internet or visit the library with your parents.



KIDZONIE

JUST kidding

Q: What did the grape do when it got stepped on?

A: It let out a little wine.



JUST kidding

Q: What did the fish say when he swam into the wall?

A: Dam!



JUST kidding

Q: What did the judge say when the skunk walked into the courtroom?

A: Odour in the court.



Sudoku 4 x 4

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH NUMBERS FROM 1 TO 4, KEEPING IN MIND THAT:

- a number can only appear once per row
- a number can only appear once per column
- a number can only appear once in each box of 4 squares

4			
	3	4	
	1	2	
			1

1	3	4	2
4	2	1	3
2	4	3	1
3	1	2	4

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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

THE CROOKED PATH

Q My boyfriend and I have only been dating 10 days, and I already want to end the relationship. It's not like he's psycho or anything. Actually he's really nice to me, but there are no sparks! I just know he's not the one for me, so why waste my time on something that won't last?

When we kiss he is overly aggressive, and I have to wipe the spit off my face! It's so gross. My problem is my sister is dating his older brother, and they would be mad if I broke his heart. Also, I love his whole family and don't want them to hate me for hurting him.

It seems cruel to break up with him so soon. Should I try to get him to break up with me? Dating is really complicated, but I know this is not working. Please, please, please help me!

Rhonda

A Rhonda, we have a German friend who has been divorced

many years. After telling us about the constant conflict in her marriage, she said, "The first time he called, my mother answered the phone. I said, 'Mom, tell him I'm not home.' But my mother made me come to the phone, and I ended up married to him."

Because she didn't follow her instincts, she didn't marry the right man. There is no rule which says the first one who dates you gets you. The rule says, as soon as you know it's not right, you end it. We get many letters from people who married someone they didn't even like.

There is a time to honor good manners, politeness, and the wishes of others, and there is a time to ignore all three. There is a price to be paid for following what others want. A character in an Ursula K. Le Guin novel makes a remark which can serve as wise advice. "I have given my love to what is worthy of love. Is that not the kingdom and the unperishing spring?"

Wayne

JACK AND JILL

Q I have been best friends with Penny since high school. A few years later I became good friends with Jack. A year after this Penny and Jack began dating. I moved across the country and maintained both friendships through phone calls. However when I returned home, things changed.

I was suddenly single, and Jack professed he'd had feelings for me since we met. One night we went out together, and he got drunk. When I took him home, he groped me. I would have let it slide, considering his condition. But after getting him inside his apartment, he pulled me down on his bed. I immediately left, but kept the information to myself, not wanting to make waves.

We stopped spending time together. I cannot be friends with a man who will so easily cheat on his girlfriend. This week, while visiting Penny, she asked why I don't speak to her boyfriend anymore. Apparently Jack told her I have thrown

our friendship away, and Penny is upset. I don't know what to tell her. She is considering marrying this man but telling the truth may lose her friendship.

Hailey

A Hailey, sometimes you can't win for losing, but when you have to lose, it's better to lose with the truth. Talk to Penny. Tell her three things. One, why you have to tell her what you are telling her. Two, what occurred with Jack. Three, why you didn't want to tell her.

Why must you tell? Because Jack is complaining to Penny without telling her why you are giving him the cold shoulder. Jack is lying to Penny because he wants to use her to get to you.

Penny may not believe you, and Jack will continue to lie. You cannot control their actions, but you can act to protect yourself. What do you know. It's unsafe to be alone with Jack.

Tamara

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

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Week of FEBRUARY 23 TO MARCH 1

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI

ARIES
Before diving into a big project, take a moment to unwind and have some fun. Celebrate your promotion in good company. Embrace new challenges with open arms!

TAURUS
The idea of embarking on a journey or adventure will ignite your sense of wonder. You'll be able to free up the time and resources needed for a well-deserved vacation that promises a refreshing change of scenery and an escape from everyday life.

GEMINI
A disturbance is looming on the horizon. It will be the perfect opportunity to make some changes in your life and bring back your smile. Embracing change is the first step toward finding harmony in your life.

CANCER
Finding balance in your personal and professional life will require some give and take. After finalizing deals with potential clients or partners, get ready for exciting progress and positive outcomes.

LEO
This week is all about work. If you're on the lookout for a new job, you're likely to come across one that not only challenges you but also promises great prospects for your career growth.

VIRGO
If you're feeling dissatisfied at work, you'll make significant changes. This will help you secure a position that aligns with your dreams. You may find yourself in a management position or starting your own business.

LIBRA
Your home and family relationships need your attention. Once you've overcome these obstacles, you'll be able to pave the way for stronger and more harmonious connections with your loved ones and your significant other.

SCORPIO
Getting a new electronic device can be exciting, but it can also bring up a lot of questions. You may make multiple trips to the store to get all the information you need and ensure you're completely satisfied with your new purchase.

SAGITTARIUS
Embrace life with passion and excitement! You may receive a large sum of money, allowing you to indulge in some luxury. You'll go on a trip or participate in an activity that will impress everyone around you!

CAPRICORN
It's essential to take a break before diving into a big new project. Step away from your daily routine to help break up the monotony. You'll find inner peace by speaking your mind.

AQUARIUS
You may be easily distracted this week, which could be a sign of fatigue. After you've taken a break and rested up, your creativity will shine, and everyone will be amazed by the masterpiece you create.

PISCES
At work, various matters will require your immediate attention. This will be the perfect opportunity to level up your organizational skills, which will boost your productivity and lower your stress levels.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 274

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19		20				
		21	22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30		31		32				
33			34			35		36		
37		38		39				40		
41				42		43				
		44	45			46	47	48	49	
50	51	52		53		54				
56				57		58				
59				60		61				

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ACROSS

- Pupil site
- Catch a glimpse of
- Cigar end
- ___ and rave
- Have being
- Days of ___
- High flier
- London brew
- Fix
- Not busy
- Complainer
- 18-wheeler
- Scattered
- New York player
- Sucker
- Pond scum
- Jug handle
- Navajo or Sioux
- Can material
- ___ diver
- Pave
- Farm pen

DOWN

- Part of a foot
- Chip in chips
- Direction left of north
- Rebel against
- Stop, to Dobbin
- Hurt
- Festive party
- Lunch period
- Infant's sound
- By any chance
- Fairy-tale villain
- Hill insect
- ___ Sea Scrolls
- Fourposter
- Affirm
- Landed property
- Damage
- Comics
- Give forth
- Disclaim
- Untidiness
- To ___ his own
- Actual
- Outlaw
- Word of warning
- Approached
- Epic
- Roof projection
- Dog's hounder
- House surroundings
- Which person?
- Pig
- "___ Town"
- Fate

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 967

			5	6				
					5			
	8	2						3
4				2				
	7							8
	9				4	5	1	
	1			9				4
		1			6			
6	3			4			9	

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 Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS

A	D	D		W	H	O	A		C	A	V	E
W	O	E		H	A	I	R		A	L	A	S
E	E	L		I	D	L	E		D	E	N	S
D	R	I	F	T			A	T	E			
			R	E	B	S		I	T	E	M	S
A	C	H	E		L	O	R	E		Y	E	A
C	H	E	E	S	E	B	U	R	G	E	R	S
E	A	R		O	W	E	D		A	D	E	S
D	R	E	S		R	E	A	P				
			T	O	M			G	E	N	T	S
A	B	L	Y		I	N	T	O		E	R	A
R	A	I	L		N	O	U	N		A	I	L
M	A	T	E		E	D	G	Y		T	O	T

Sudoku

5	3	9	1	2	7	6	4	8
7	2	6	3	4	8	5	1	9
1	4	8	9	6	5	7	3	2
6	9	2	5	1	4	3	8	7
8	7	1	6	3	2	9	5	4
4	5	3	8	7	9	1	2	6
9	1	5	2	8	6	4	7	3
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3	8	4	7	9	1	2	6	5



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