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## More housing in Laval



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## Lanvac expands security offerings



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Lanvac Surveillance's Stephanos Georgoudes (second from right) is seen here with associates Victor, Jake and Yianni at the Lanvac booth during the Security Canada East Salon at the Laval Sheraton on April 30. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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## Madame Giuditta Giuzio celebrating 100 years!

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# Laval announces push to expand affordable and social housing

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**  
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Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer unveiled a \$21 million initiative on May 24 aimed at accelerating the city's supply of social and affordable housing.

"We want solutions for housing to be affordable," said Boyer. "Housing is often the biggest expense families face, and it's directly tied to quality of life."

The announcement outlined four measures that will be folded into Laval's next housing action plan, set to launch later this year. These include a tax credit for developers, a new legal tool to fast-track construction, and funds for both land acquisition and early-stage project support.

## 10-year tax credit program

A centrepiece of the announcement is a new property tax credit for private developers who include affordable units in their residential projects. Eligible developments can receive a credit over ten years, with incentives increasing if the units are family-sized.

From the mayor's perspective, the goal is to bridge the gap between policy ambition and market reality. "We can demand affordable and social housing, but if it doesn't make financial sense in a developer's business plan, the project simply won't happen," he said. "It's that simple."

Developers will be required to verify tenant incomes to ensure units remain accessible to

those in need. According to Laval's urban planning department director Hugo Rousseau, the city has set a goal of reaching 10% non-market housing by 2028. "We're supporting developers—they're the ones building most of the new housing," Rousseau said.

The credit complements federal programs such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) MLI Select and is expected to spur construction in high-demand areas, especially Laval's rapidly growing downtown area.

## Zoning flexibility through new "superpower"

The second measure involves the use of a regulatory tool dubbed the "superpower." The mechanism enables cities to approve housing projects that slightly deviate from current zoning rules—provided they include public benefits like parks, community centres, or a strong share of affordable units.

"We don't want concrete boxes—on the contrary, we want to maintain the same standards of aesthetics and sustainability," said Boyer. "But if a developer includes affordable housing or donates land for a school, and the project brings real public benefits, then we'll accelerate it."

The City Council adopted the framework for using this tool on May 20. Rousseau said it will be applied under conditions to help move along large-scale projects already in development. According to him, in Laval's downtown alone, the city is in active discussions regarding more than 28,000 new housing units.

## Preserve existing rental stock

In addition to stimulating new builds, the city will invest \$3.75 million in 2025 to acquire existing rental properties and remove them from the speculative market. Once purchased, the buildings will be transferred to non-profit organizations for long-term management.

"Buildings built 10 or 20 years ago were built at lower construction costs, and therefore today can afford to have much lower rents than new constructions," Boyer said. "Whereas a non-profit organization, on the other hand, its rent increase will certainly reflect immediate maintenance costs."

Rousseau noted that the strategy is modeled after similar efforts in Montreal and abroad, where municipal property acquisition has proven effective at stabilizing rent levels.

For Tommy Théberge, general director of the Association des Groupes de Ressources Techniques du Québec (AGRTQ), this approach addresses a pressing need, calling it a "meaningful step" in tackling the housing crisis.

## Startup fund

The fourth measure introduced is a \$300,000 per year startup fund, which will help up to six community organizations annually with planning costs. These are essential for applying to provincial and federal housing programs.

"It's a first step—and knowing how dynamic the mayor is, I think this initiative will keep gaining momentum," said Théberge. "In the



Mayor Stéphane Boyer informing attendees about the city's new initiative on May 24, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

future, it's likely to be renewed—and probably expanded."

Boyer emphasized that cities don't build social housing on their own. "We may have bold goals—but we're not the ones building the city. It's the partners—sometimes from the University of Ottawa, but also from the private market."

Between 2020 and 2024, Laval delivered or initiated over 1,070 new social and affordable housing units. More are expected as the city moves ahead with its 2025–2028 action plan.

"Obviously, we're doing all of this to create beautiful living environments—we're doing it for our families," Boyer said.

# Action Laval condemns Mayor's democratic drift

**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
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Action Laval's municipal councillors, David DeCotis (Saint-Bruno) and Achille Cifelli (Val-des-Arbres), along with mayoral candidate Frédéric Mayer, have strongly criticized the outgoing mayor's administration for granting itself exceptional powers. These powers allow the administration to bypass urban planning by-laws without a clear framework, referendum process, or sufficient democratic checks and balances. This move effectively places the decision-making power solely in the hands of the executive committee, enabling them to disregard the city's urban planning by-law and circumvent citizen opposition.

The administration claims that these measures are necessary to accelerate development. However, Action Laval argues that this approach undermines transparency, urban balance, and citizen participation. At a time when Laval is experiencing a significant democratic deficit, this new by-law is likely to increase public cynicism towards democratic institutions.

"This is a major democratic setback. Laval residents are being deprived of their right to be heard and to influence decisions that transform their neighborhoods. By centralizing power in the hands of the executive committee, we marginalize both citizens and the municipal

council," lamented David DeCotis.

The criteria for exercising this power are vague and at the discretion of the administration, failing to ensure equity between different projects and neighborhoods. This superpower allows for the authorization of major real estate projects without giving citizens the opportunity to contest decisions through referendums, as is currently the case. Public consultations, which are meant to replace these processes, lack binding power and become mere formalities, allowing for arbitrary decisions without genuine public debate.

"It is not about denying the housing crisis or blocking residential projects, but this power is too broad, too susceptible to abuse, and comes at the expense of local democracy. A well-governed city does not undermine the powers of its population," stated Frédéric Mayer.

Action Laval acknowledges the urgency of increasing the housing supply but refuses to let this emergency be used as a pretext to sideline citizens. They advocate for supervised, well-thought-out densification that is socially acceptable. Respect for urban planning rules, balance between living environments, and public trust must remain central to Laval's development.

"We want a city where citizens participate, not one where they suffer. Laval residents must be involved in the development of their city, not have it imposed on them," concluded Achille Cifelli.

Laval English-speaking Senior Wellness Centre

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Is Laval's Cité-de-la-Santé an exception to the rule?

Visited an emergency room (ER) lately? Witnessed moments of drug-overdoses and head-wounds? The wait long, unless there was bleeding or fainting? Great place to catch exotic-infections or film dramatically-scary-medical-shows?

Unless heart attacks were involved, the wait lasted numerous hours. Here's a hint: want immediate attention? Call 911 to get instant attention upon arrival.

This isn't about when it's best to visit ER, it's about triage, the crucial assessment to determine severity-of-illness levels-of-urgency.

Before ERs emerged, medical assistance came at doctors' offices which might not be open when needed, and unable to treat you if open. Consequently, hospital ERs undertook treatment of non-problems that aren't life-threatening, misusing expensive resources, preventing Injuries-and-serious-illnesses from being treated expediently, as needed.

Overcrowded ERs are widespread global phenomena impacting negatively throughout hospitals, diluting resources and quality-of-care. Overcrowding increases ER traffic, fueling mortality and morbidity, while decreasing provisions of critical services to patients suffering from real-medical-emergencies. Purpose of ERs should be treatment of cases needing immediate assistance through rapid diagnosis and rendering of medical/surgical attention.

Malfunctioning health services leads to improper ER access, especially in geriatric-and-pediatric-age-groups, resulting in reaching and too-often exceeding optimal capacity. On weekends, revealed a doctor-on-duty at Laval's Cité-de-la-Santé, only two physicians work ER. Thus, the long exhausting-and-exasperating wait.

Solutions? Supermarkets have 8-12-items-or-fewer-checkouts to prevent waiting behind full-carts, just to process toilet-paper-or-six-pack. Fast-food places expediently serve people who don't need gourmet meals. Repair people fix home-problems that don't demand skilled labour. Some auto-maintenance-outlets change-oil-or-replace-tires more-cheaply, faster than car-dealers.

Customer service for internet, software, travel reservations, or tax questions can be dreadful. "I just have a quick question," you think, but once on hold you'll wait a long time. Chat-based-service is excruciating, and AI chatbots rarely interpret questions. Customer-service tries to fix this with phone menus (touch 1

for billing, touch 2 for technical support), but often-enough, you can't easily figure out which department you need. What's needed is triage. When calling, there should be quick connection with a which specialist. Simple problem? Pass it off to someone for who can solve it. Why wait-in-line behind people with complex issues? If complicated, it will take time. Rapid access to experts is of prime importance; to allow for resolution of complex problems.

Triage should be in force at Revenu Québec, or when an iPhone needs service. Callers are smart enough to know when problems are simple or complicated enough to require an expert. Why aren't the people answering calls equally smart? If the screwed-up Canadian-health-care-system can manage urgent-care through triage, why can't every other industry replicate?

Although crucial to healthcare, hospitals can't always provide comprehensive support for all, due to limitations in staffing, resources, and funding. This is a common experience in all hospitals, including Cité-de-la-Santé. Yes, hospitals provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services, but they also face challenges of long-wait-times, delays-in-discharge, and limited access-to-specialized-care. However, Cité-de-la-Santé tries hard and often succeeds in effectively treating patients, even with obvious medical-staff-shortages.

Kudos to Cité-de-la-Santé staff, kitchen-crew to nurses, technicians, specialists and physicians. A recent witnessing of a 96-year-old's stay at Laval's one and only hospital, is proof-positive of public-health-care. The superb-care received from dedicated professionals saved her life at least three times in recent months.

Few words can accurately describe the money, medical-materiel, human-resources-power and medical-acumen poured into her recent care. Admitted for cardiac-arrest-treatment last July, and shortly after two more heart attacks, professionally-genuine-compassion was the-order-of-the-moment, the family explained. Too good to be true? Certifiably-true from what was witnessed throughout this ordeal.

Make no mistake, this is not a whitewash of our often-accurately-maligned public healthcare system. Clearly, it's not smooth for everyone. But occasionally it does society a lot of good to hear of exceptions to the prevailing perceptions, and this is definitely one of these extraordinary scenarios. Is it just pure luck for those involved? Consider this: three times with exactly the same exemplary service? Coincidence? No! Recently, although it took 14 hours for a patient's concus-

sion to be addressed at Cité-de-la-Santé, the emergency wasn't, appropriately, considered urgent even though headaches-and-nausea ensued. Clearly, near-death-patients had, and continue to have, priority, and rightly so.

Equally, respect-for-patients is non-negotiable. Patients deserve dignity-and- acknowledgment of their value-as-individuals. The most widely-cited element of disrespect is failure to pay attention to their needs, by leaving them unattended-or-ignored. How are patients greeted by admission desk or when they appear lost-in-the-halls? This respect-for-dignity is demonstrated by listening, asking opinions, recognizing the importance of incorporating patients' personal values-and-priorities into treatment decisions.

Doctors and nurses at Cité-de-la-Santé convey respect by being considerate of patients' time (e.g. striving to provide timely service and apologizing when failing-to-do-so). Physical environments created for patients reflect respect. Privacy, cleanliness, quiet surroundings speak volumes. When staff request permission to enter patients' rooms, ask them how they would like to be addressed, and explain who they are and what they plan to do - it communicates respect for them as individuals. Cité-de-la-Santé demonstrates that the healthcare system isn't as deplorable as many believe. To the contrary, in many ways, at least at Cité-de-la-Santé.

Others, who feel likewise, should take-the-time-and-effort to express appreciation for our health-care-system which can be too-easily seen as mind-bogglingly. Grasping the dynamics of everything needed to run the system is difficult. Effort, time, materials/equipment for treatment of any ailment known or unknown is incomprehensible; those committed to making it work must be thanked.

Yes, as the 96-year-old who received miraculous treatment will never be cured, she is home to enjoy more precious days. There's much to appreciate about folks working, studying, and diagnosing, just to heal. Their dedication and resources required to do that, unfathomable as it may be, works more often-than-not.

This extraordinary woman is gratified in knowing that her health is held in magnificent caring by extraordinarily-gifted institutional hands, receiving the same care-at-home from doctors and nurses assigned by Cité-de-la-Santé.

Renata Isopo  
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## Laval honoured for innovative Val-Martin social housing project

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The City of Laval has received provincial recognition for its transformative Immeubles Val-Martin social and affordable housing project, securing the prestigious Mérite Ovation municipale from the Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ). The award, presented in the Urban Planning and Development category during the UMQ's 20th annual gala on May 16th in Quebec City, celebrates the project's innovative approach and significant positive impact on the Chomedey sector.

The ambitious 359-unit development has revitalized an aging residential complex, laying the groundwork for a sustainable and inclusive community. The project, which began construction in 2017 and reached completion in 2024, replaces dilapidated 1950s buildings, some of which were dismantled due to insalubrity, with modern, quality homes.

"Val-Martin is much more than a real estate project," stated Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

"It's a bold vision that rethinks how you transform a neighbourhood. Thanks to an innovative approach and unprecedented mobilization, we have gone far beyond the construction of social and affordable housing, by laying the foundations for a real, sustainable and inclusive living environment. I extend my sincere congratulations to the teams who worked on this project."

The Immeubles Val-Martin project stands out for its comprehensive urban regeneration strategy. Spearheaded by the City of Laval and the Office municipal d'habitation de Laval (OMHL), the initiative successfully brought together citizens and various partners. This collaborative effort was crucial in reshaping a devitalized area into what is now described as an inspiring living environment. Key support for the project came from the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Aimed at achieving LEED-ND (Neighbourhood Development) certification – a first for Laval in this regard – the project emphasizes sustainable practices and community well-being. Beyond



the new housing units, the development includes the Simone-Monet-Chartrand community centre, which will now house the relocated Val-Martin community centre, further enhancing the neighbourhood's social infrastructure.

The UMQ's Mérite Ovation municipale awards are highly regarded in Quebec's municipal

sector, recognizing municipalities that demonstrate innovation and excellence in various public service domains. The Val-Martin project's success in the Urban Planning and Development category highlights its significance as a model for future social and affordable housing initiatives across the province.

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# Action Laval commission calls for lower speed limits near retirement homes

Responding to seniors, CALA also wants city to reduce barking noise at dog runs



Left, Action Laval mayoralty candidate in the November elections Frédéric Mayer is seen here with former Laval-Les Îles NDP MP François Pilon who led the Action Laval commission which made recommendations to improve the safety and living conditions of senior citizens in Laval. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The Laval News  
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The president of the Laval Action Commission for Seniors (CALA), François Pilon, accompanied by Action Laval mayoral candidate Frédéric Mayer unveiled the commission's preliminary report during a press briefing held on May 13.

The report's various recommendations are the result of several months of consultation with groups of Laval seniors, non-profit associations dedicated to retirees, as well as representatives of seniors living in Laval.

### Focus on seniors' needs

CALA, an initiative undertaken by the municipal opposition party, has a mandate to consult, identify and take into account the needs of Laval's seniors, while encouraging them to participate in the city's development. The results of the consultations will help develop Action Laval's electoral platform for the November elections.

"With the recommendations in the report, we will be able to concretely improve the quality of life of the elderly and encourage them to remain healthy at home for as long as possible," noted the president of CALA, François Pilon, a former NDP MP from Laval. "Action Laval is already putting pressure on the city on various issues affecting seniors," he said.

### Proposals taken seriously

According to Pilon, the city has already begun following at least one proposal from Action Laval, namely that the Société de transport de Laval (STL) bring back bus service for certain seniors' residences. With that in mind, the party believes that CALA's consultations are already bearing fruit, helping to find solutions to improve the lives of Laval's seniors.

"Laval has been an age-friendly municipality since 2014," said Mayer, noting that the city decided to become a standing member of

Municipalités Amies des Aînés more than a decade ago. "However, CALA quickly realized that the current administration was disconnected from the reality and needs of its Laval seniors," he added. "We have a duty to act with respect and take care of them. It is the foundation of a good society."

### From ideas into policies

It's expected that the report's recommendations will eventually be integrated into municipal policies to better safeguard the elderly, so that Laval truly becomes an age-friendly city.

Encouraged by the positive response they encountered during the consultation tour, CALA's members suggested they could soon be back on track to meet with other groups of senior citizens and organizations.

During the presentation of the report, Pilon and Mayer were accompanied by the president of the FADOQ Laval region, Gilles Sénécal, and the general director of the Laval Association for Adapted Transport (ALTA), Annie Des Rosiers.

Among the recommendations in the report, it is suggested that speed limits be lowered in zones near senior citizens' retirement residences, as has long been the case in zones near schools.

### Other recommendations

As well, it is recommended that at major street intersections, the illuminated countdown timer at pedestrian crossings should be adjusted upwards, and that right turns be prohibited so as to allow people with reduced mobility more safety when they cross.

In addition to these suggestions, the commission also heard complaints from seniors in Laval about nuisances associated with dog parks, where incessant barking is said to annoy seniors who live nearby. As a result, the commission is recommending that the City of Laval implement anti-noise measures at dog parks, including noise-reducing barriers or walls.



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# After re-election, Koutrakis looks ahead

MATTHEW DALDALIAN | Local Journalism Initiative Reporter | matt.newsfirst@gmail.com



Fresh off her re-election as the Member of Parliament for Vimy, the longtime Liberal representative Annie Koutrakis says she feels “ecstatic” about her decisive win. “It’s such an honour and a privilege to continue to have the confidence of the citizens of Vimy,” she said.

## Priorities

For Koutrakis, who has represented the Laval riding since 2019, this third mandate is not just another term — it’s a fresh opportunity to double down on long-standing priorities and respond to new challenges facing her constituents. Chief among them: affordability, housing, crime prevention, and bolstering local organizations.

“The average household income [in Vimy] is about \$40,000,” Koutrakis noted. “The other [ridings] are about \$76,000 or more, so you could see that there’s a large discrepancy.” That economic gap, she explained, directly informs her work in Ottawa. She plans to advocate for stronger financial support to not-for-profit organizations delivering frontline services in areas such as food assistance, housing support,

and crisis intervention for victims of conjugal violence.

One of her more immediate concerns is the recent uptick in crime, particularly in Chomedey, which lies within her riding. Koutrakis said she has already begun conversations with Laval city councillors about how to improve public safety. “I want to look at and see how I can be a better partner to the municipality in combating that crime level.”

## National Level

On a national level, Koutrakis is also keeping a close eye on Canada’s evolving transportation infrastructure. A former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, she played a role in early discussions around high-frequency rail — a project now evolving into a high-speed rail initiative intended to link major cities like Toronto, Ottawa, and Quebec City. “I want to make sure Laval is included as a stop on that route,” she emphasized.

Koutrakis also previously served as Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Economic Development for Quebec. One of her

proudest achievements in that role was helping broker a memorandum of understanding on tourism between Canada and Greece, which she says has fostered closer ties through cultural exchange and education partnerships.

As for the future, Koutrakis said she’d gladly accept another parliamentary secretary position if offered by Prime Minister Mark Carney. Carney’s recently unveiled cabinet, his first since taking office, marks a shift toward a leaner, more focused governance model. His 28-member cabinet is smaller than those seen under Justin Trudeau, with responsibilities more evenly distributed among Ministers and Secretaries of State.

Reflecting on the new Liberal leadership, she said Carney’s decision to announce a middle-class tax cut as an early sign of its focus on economic relief. “You can see he’s laser-focused on what needs to be done,” said Koutrakis.

Koutrakis stressed that the federal government’s role in addressing the housing crisis lies in boosting the overall supply rather than attempting to manipulate market prices. “Prices are determined by the market,” she said, adding that Ottawa’s focus should be on supporting construction and helping cities streamline their permitting processes. She pointed to federal initiatives such as the National Housing Strategy, which are already funding projects in her riding of Vimy aimed at creating hundreds

of new affordable homes.

## Community Connections

Back in Laval, Koutrakis is also focused on staying visible and accessible. Every two months, she hosts “petit cafés” — casual drop-in conversations with residents at local cafes and small businesses throughout Vimy. “It’s a way for me to connect directly with people and also support our local entrepreneurs,” she said, recalling her upbringing as the daughter of a restaurant owner in the riding.

Her office also maintains a robust communications schedule, with monthly digital newsletters sent to 3,500 residents, targeted printed bulletins reaching a rotating 10 per cent of households, and a quarterly newspaper-style report outlining her legislative work.

Koutrakis, who was sworn in for her third term on May 21, hasn’t yet returned to Parliament Hill since the campaign, but she’ll soon be off to Ottawa — and later to Portugal, where she’ll represent Canada at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), an intergovernmental forum on security and democratic development.

“There are 41 million people in Canada,” she added. “And only 343 of us get to sit in the House of Commons. I take that responsibility very seriously, and I want to make every day count.”

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# Fayçal El-Khoury sworn in for fourth term as MP for Laval—Les Îles



Left to right: Karine Sahakian, Fayçal El-Khoury, and Administrative Assistant Francine Charrette standing in the Château Royal in Laval on May 22, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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Liberal member of parliament Fayçal El-Khoury was officially sworn in for his fourth consecutive term representing Laval—Les Îles in the House of Commons. The ceremony, held at Le Château Royal in Laval, was attended by constituents, community leaders, and political staff, all celebrating El-Khoury's continued service.

The event began with a formal swearing-in conducted virtually via Zoom. El-Khoury, smiling at the screen, remarked that after four terms in office, he was quite used to giving this speech. He then turned his attention to the crowd in the hall, where he delivered prepared remarks and took time afterward to personally greet supporters.

## Priorities

El-Khoury emphasized his commitment to addressing key issues affecting his constituents. He highlighted concerns such as affordable housing, senior care, and immigration services. "Affordable housing, affordable rental units... that's a priority," he stated. He also noted the importance of supporting senior citizens, referencing past work in advocating for the creation of a ministry dedicated to seniors.

Affordable housing also remains high on his list of priorities. El-Khoury pointed to the growing disconnect between Canada's immigration needs and its ability to house newcomers. "We receive immigrants and temporary foreign workers because we need them," he said. "But we cannot accommodate them due to the shortage in housing."

He also mentioned recent progress on reducing car theft and acknowledged public concerns about personal and property security.

El-Khoury expressed confidence in Prime Minister Mark Carney's leadership, particularly in navigating economic challenges and maintaining Canada's sovereignty. "I believe Prime Minister Carney is very well placed to defend Canada and protect our values," he said, citing Carney's experience leading the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England.

"He expects perfection and to assist all

constituents... he's here to serve, he's here to protect," said Karine Sahakian, El-Khoury's political attaché. Sahakian also spoke on the team's readiness to adapt to the evolving political landscape under Prime Minister Carney's administration. This is politics, we always have to be on our feet, always adapting 24/7."

## Community members

Community members in attendance spoke on El-Khoury's accessibility and advocacy. "He's always present and ready to listen to everybody and try to find solutions," said Hovik Tufenkjian, a local businessman and member of the Armenian National Committee of Canada. He said he appreciated El-Khoury's previous vocal support during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. "He brought up the [conflict] quite a bit in Parliament and showed real sympathy to the cause."

El-Khoury has been serving as MP since 2015. He has been actively involved in various parliamentary committees, including the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration and the Subcommittee on International Human Rights.

"We will continue to support and help every applicant, everyone who is in need," he stated, referencing his work in assisting individuals navigating Canada's immigration system—a file that accounts for a significant portion of his office's caseload.

## Looking ahead

Looking ahead, El-Khoury says he remains focused on economic recovery, public safety, and defending Canadian sovereignty amid global uncertainty. "Now we're facing another COVID—which is the president of the United States," he joked, in reference to geopolitical tensions under a new Trump presidency. "But I'm confident that with Mr. Carney, we are in good hands."

As the evening wound down, El-Khoury took the time to speak with constituents one-on-one, shake hands, and pose for photos.

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# SPL hosts “coffee with a police officer” to break down barriers and brew trust

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN** | Local Journalism Initiative Reporter | [matt.newsfirst@gmail.com](mailto:matt.newsfirst@gmail.com)

The scent of coffee mixed with the low hum of conversation at a McDonald's on Saint-Martin



**Service de police de Laval (SPL) director Pierre Brochet speaking with customers inside the McDonald's on Boul. Saint-Martin, on May 14, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

Blvd. this week — not your typical morning scene, but a deliberate one. Laval police officers took a step back from patrols and paperwork to meet citizens face-to-face as part of “grand café avec un policier,” (grand coffee with a police officer) a province-wide initiative aiming to foster dialogue between police and the communities they serve.

Held during Quebec's official Police Week, the event created a relaxed setting for conversation, reflection, and the kind of small interactions aimed to humanize a uniform.

“It's all about creating a relaxed environment where officers can connect with citizens,” said Pierre Brochet, Director of the Laval Police Service (SPL), while pointing out an officer chatting with customers nearby. “Too often, policing is only seen through a negative lens — use of force, difficult incidents that make the news. But at the end of the day, we're people helping other people.”

Brochet, who also serves as president of the Association des directeurs de police du Québec (ADPQ), said he launched a province-wide campaign three years ago aimed at reshaping public perceptions of police work. He acknowledged that incidents like the George Floyd case in the U.S. sparked broader criticism of policing, including in Quebec.



**Secondary school teacher Marthe-Élise Thomas (left) standing with officers Frédéric St-Jacques (center) and Laurent Arsenault (right) inside the McDonald's on Boul. Saint-Martin, on May 14, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

“At one point, I said: we need to start talking positively about this profession,” Brochet explained.

For some Laval residents, the event was a happy accident. Marthe-Élise Thomas, a science teacher at Secondary School Pierre-Laporte, hadn't planned to stop in for coffee. “I had no idea,” she said. “I never go into McDonald's.” Though she usually sticks to the drive-thru, a later start to her workday gave her the rare chance to sit down — and unexpectedly engage with local police.

Thomas, who was grading student work at a nearby table, accepted a coffee from one of the officers and came to understand the gesture was about more than just caffeine. She sensed the goal was to build a connection with the community.

As someone with family ties to the profession — “my brother was a police officer,” she noted — Thomas said the event reaffirmed what she already knew about the people behind the badge. “Police often have a bad reputation — people think they're only around to hand out tickets,” she said.

That kind of impact, according to SPL spokesperson Officer Nicolas Mongeau, is exactly the goal. “The event helps break down barriers between officers and citizens while strengthening trust in the police service,” he said. “Meeting people in a context where we're not responding to a call, but doing prevention work, gives them the chance to ask questions about what we do and better understand our role.”

Mongeau explained that the initiative is part of the broader Intersection network — a coalition of police services across Quebec that coordinate public outreach and prevention strategies. In Laval, that has included everything from in-restaurant events to soccer matches and even “lemonade with a cop” gatherings in local parks to reach younger audiences.

And while the tone of the morning may have been casual, the concerns raised by residents were anything but. “The most common questions are usually about road safety,” Mongeau noted. “People often bring up speeding on their street or reckless driving in the area — they're concerned.”

It's an issue that hasn't gone unnoticed by SPL leadership. According to Brochet, a survey conducted a few years ago revealed that 70% of Laval residents identified road safety as their primary concern — pointing to everyday issues like speeding, ignored stop signs, and dangerous driving near schools.

Brochet noted that events like this offer a chance to show parts of police work the public doesn't always see. He referenced calls involving domestic violence as an example of the quieter, support-based aspects of the job that often go unnoticed.

Back at the Saint-Martin McDonald's, the line for coffee may have been short, but the conversations were long, honest, and overdue. As Thomas quietly returned to her stack of student assignments, Brochet glanced across the room and summed up the scene simply: “We're proud of the work we do.”

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**From left to right: SPL director Pierre Brochet, Sylvie Lauzon representing McDonald's and officer Marlène Langevin and SPL spokesperson Laurent Arsenault stand in front of the SPL's “Coffee with a Police Officer” banner inside the McDonald's on Boul. Saint-Martin, on May 14, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**



# Lanvac expands offerings with 'Libris 2' emergency communicator for seniors

**Growth continues at Canada's leading third-party alarm monitoring wholesaler**

**MARTIN C. BARRY** | Local Journalism Initiative Reporter | [marty@newsfirst.ca](mailto:marty@newsfirst.ca)

In the ever-evolving world of security and surveillance, Lanvac was promoting something new and quite advanced at the Security Canada East trade show at the Laval Sheraton on April 30.

Alarm dealers can now use the Lanvac.Mobi web app to run on and off system tests, check for signal history, request reports and even create new customer accounts or modify existing accounts, according to Stephanos Georgoudes, one of several members of a family who have been deeply committed to Lanvac for decades.

## Exclusive to NBG

The company, Canada's leading third-party wholesaler of alarm monitoring, monitors alarm systems for intrusion, fire and medical emergencies, and has a sister company, NBG Telecom, which sells alarm products to Lanvac dealers or to any other alarm services retailer for that matter.

Since last year, NBG has begun distributing the Libris 2 Personal Emergency Response Communicator from Numera exclusively in Canada. For vulnerable seniors and other at-risk persons, it is regarded as a comprehensive mobile safety and wellness solution that features fall detection, GPS location, 4G/LTE support and a 48-hour battery.

"We're the only ones in Canada who have it,"

Georgoudes said in an interview with *Newsfirst Multimedia*, noting that it's a mobile medical pendant with two-way voice.

## Automated two-way voice

Worn around the neck or on a belt, a button activates a medical event alarm which goes to the Lanvac central monitoring station, and a two-way voice call is automatically placed to a human operator at Lanvac. Along with the alarm signal, the user's GPS coordinates are also automatically sent to central.

"If the person needs help, the operators know exactly where to dispatch the ambulance," said Georgoudes, adding that the Libris 2 also has fall detection. If the device senses a sudden drop with a corresponding velocity of speed, a fall detection alert is sent out, and the alarm central immediately contacts the significant other responsible for the well-being of the user.

## Monitoring with GPS

With the Libris 2, family also get access to an online portal that allows them to check in periodically on the loved-one who's wearing a Libris pendant. Through GPS technology, they can set up a virtual geo-fence that will trigger notifications to family members if the user accidentally or unintentionally passes outside pre-set boundaries.



**Lanvac Surveillance's Stephanos Georgoudes is seen here with a Libris 2 Personal Emergency Response Communicator from Numera, which Lanvac is distributing exclusively in Canada. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

With Security Canada conventions also taking place in western and central Canada this year, the gatherings are always a time for security experts from across the country to focus on building and renewing relationships with hundreds of professionals deeply involved in Canada's security services sector.

## Deep roots in Montreal

Lanvac was founded by brothers John and Bill Georgoudes. Raised in Montreal's Park Extension district – which was at one time home for most of the city's Greeks – they turned their initially small burglar alarm business into

a big-time contender.

Lanvac's first monitoring station was in Montreal's Parc Extension neighborhood, in the basement of a building at the corner of Durocher and Jean Talon. Bill got his elementary education at Barclay School on Wiseman Ave., while John attended Strathcona Academy in Outremont.

Bill received his secondary education at the former William Hingston High School, which has since become the area's most important community centre. John attended another legendary secondary school, Baron Byng High, which was made famous internationally by Canadian novelist Mordecai Richler.

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**Lanvac Surveillance's Stephanos with another of NBG Telecom's distributed products: the Bosch ULC Fire Monitoring Kit. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)**



# Air Cadets 710 Squadron showcases skills during annual graduation exercises

**Laval's ass't fire chief Beaupré and Ste-Rose councillor Novac were special guests**

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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Several dozen young members of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets' 710 Squadron in Sainte-Rose marked the official completion of their training on Saturday May 17 with a parade and graduation ceremony at École secondaire Curé-Antoine-Labelle before an audience of proud parents, siblings and friends.

In addition to the guests, the squadron also welcomed special invitees Daniel Beaupré, assistant director of the Laval Fire Department, and Flavia Alexandra Novac, the Laval city councillor for the City of Laval's Sainte-Rose district.

Both took part in the ceremonies as official reviewing officers during an inspection of the uniformed cadets.



**710 Squadron's new commanding officer and Laval Fire Dept. assistant director Daniel Beaupré exchange salutes during Royal Canadian Air Cadets' graduation exercises at École secondaire Curé-Antoine-Labelle. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)**



**Laval Fire Dept. assistant director Daniel Beaupré said he learned a lot from the experience of having once been a member of a of the Royal Canadian Aviation squadron. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)**

## Life skills learning

Regarded by many as the best youth program in Canada, the Royal Canadian Air Cadets offer free membership for all activities to youths from ages 12 to 18 without exception.

The activities include survival and adventure training, marksmanship, music, as well as airplane and glider training.

The program is administered by the Canadian Armed Forces and funded through the Department of National Defence (DND). Additional support is provided by the civilian Air Cadet League of Canada (ACLC).

Together with the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets and Royal Canadian Army Cadets, it forms the largest federally funded youth program in the country. Cadets are not members of the military, nor are they obliged to join the Canadian Armed Forces.



**Daniel Beaupré, assistant director of the Laval Fire Department, leads an inspection of the members of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets' 710 Squadron at École secondaire Curé-Antoine-Labelle in Sainte-Rose on May 17: (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)**

## Review of year's training

The graduation ceremony was a showcase for the coordinated sense of pride and discipline the Air Cadets instills in its young members.

From late morning into the early afternoon, parents and friends seated on the sidelines had the opportunity to see their sons and daughters in the squadron partake in parade and marching exercises, while later undergoing an inspection and review led by Beaupré and Novac.

This was followed by the presentation of awards, ranks and medals, speeches by dignitaries, and finally an opportunity at the end for everyone to meet, greet and enjoy a great buffet lunch volunteers had prepared for the guests.

In an address to the squadron members as well as the guests, Beaupré noted that as a youngster, he had been a member of an air cadets

squadron and learned many life lessons from the experience.

## Valuable life lessons

They included being instilled with an appreciation for practice and discipline, as well as a lasting sense of the importance of remaining loyal to principles and to friends.

"I am convinced that one of the reasons I am here today before you because of those experiences and I am proud to find myself among you once again," said Beaupré.

For her part, Novac thanked the squadron's superiors for inviting her, while praising them for their good work among the City of Laval's youths. "I urge you to continue to pursue your activities and I will be there to support you in everything you do," she said.



**Laval city councillor for Sainte-Rose Flavia Alexandra Novac touched base with a few of the 710 Squadron's 2025 program graduates during the ceremonies on May 17. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)**

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# Parents appreciate cadets' program



Royal Canadian Air Cadets 710 Squadron members Liam and Xavier Pacheco are seen here with their parents, Teresa and Emmanuel, during year-end graduation ceremonies last week at École secondaire Curé-Antoine Labelle. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## MARTIN C. BARRY

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The Royal Canadian Air Cadets have often been praised as one of Canada's leading programs for the development of youths into responsible adults.

The *Laval News* had the opportunity last week to speak with some of the parents of teens enrolled in the 710 Squadron in Sainte-Rose for their impressions of the impact the program had on their lives.

## 'A brand-new person'

Teresa and Emmanuel Pacheco, who are residents of Sainte-Rose, have two sons, Liam and Xavier, who are enrolled in the program. Liam, prior to signing up, had difficulties concentrating on homework.



Jean-Sébastien Noël, whose 14-year-old son, James, is enrolled in the 710 Squadron Air Cadets program in Sainte-Rose, said it had done wonders. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

"But as soon as he stepped foot into here, it completely changed the person he is and he's a brand-new person," said Teresa Pacheco, referring to Air Cadets program.

As a teenager, her husband was also enrolled in a cadets program. He felt certain that the experience would prove to be immensely valuable to his son.

"It kind of brings you into the adult world of responsibilities," she added.

## All about structure

Another parent from Sainte-Rose, Jean-Sébastien Noël, whose 14-year-old son, James, is enrolled in the Air Cadets program, said it had done wonders for his son.

"For him, it's all about structure," he said, noting that James has mild autism, but was greatly helped by the sense of discipline he acquired while in the program.

"He feels very proud to be wearing the uniform," said Jean-Sébastien. "He's one of those who take care of the flags. He didn't have a big circle of friends before, but the cadets are now his group for socializing."

According to Jean-Sébastien, James will be taking part in a special cadets program this summer where he'll have the opportunity to learn some of the basics of aircraft maintenance. Last year, he learned about glider aircraft operation.



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Laila Carelle Kuate (center) stands with Jonathan Collin (left) of the Aléo Foundation and Étienne Beaudry (right) of Planète Mobile Rogers during the foundation's 40th anniversary spring gala on May 13, 2025.

## Planète Mobile honours Laval athlete with excellence scholarship



Jeremy Gohier (center) stands with Cassandre Prosper (left) and Patricia Demers (right).

MATTHEW DALDALIAN | Local Journalism Initiative Reporter | matt.newsfirst@gmail.com

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A Laval teen was among a select group of student-athletes celebrated at Aléo Foundation's 40th anniversary spring gala on May 13. Over \$130,000 in scholarships and services were awarded to 36 recipients across the province.

Laila Carelle Kuate, an 18-year-old student in pure and applied science at Cégep Gérald-Godin, was honoured with a \$2,000 bursary jointly awarded by Planète Mobile Rogers and Fondation Aléo. Known for her accomplishments in athletics, Kuate has claimed gold in the triple jump at the last two editions of the Jeux du Québec— a major youth sports competition in the province.

The recognition was part of a broader initiative by Aléo Fondation to reward student-athletes who have demonstrated academic excellence, athletic talent, and commitment to personal development.

The awards were presented at the Auberge Saint-Gabriel in Montreal on May 13, during the foundation's annual "cocktail printanier" (springtime cocktail), hosted this year in celebration of four decades of support for youth in sport. The event brought together 19 donor organizations and a cross-section of Quebec's young athletic talent.

Kuate, who resides in Laval, was one of the faces of the event. While she is no stranger to standing atop a podium, the scholarship symbolizes more than just athletic performance.

The bursary program aims "to empower the athlete beyond athletics," according to Executive Director of Fondation Aléo, Patricia Demers. For Kuate, who is balancing academic studies alongside elite athletic training, the support will help ease the financial pressures that come with such a demanding schedule.

Alongside Kuate was fellow Laval resident Jérémy Gohier, a rising basketball talent and one of the evening's youngest recipients. The 14-year-old student at École secondaire Georges-Vanier was awarded a \$1,500 bursary through the "donnez au suivant" (pay it forward) program, which encourages individual donors to give back by sponsoring students directly.

Gohier recently made headlines for his unexpected growth spurt — the teen has reached over 7 feet tall and continues to tower over opponents on the court. His stature has drawn widespread attention both locally and internationally for his rare height and potential on the court, with interest from basketball programs around the world.

While Kuate and Gohier are at different stages in their academic and athletic journeys, both represent what the foundation refers to as "generational impact" — a term used to describe scholarship recipients whose long-term contributions are expected to influence not just sport, but society at large.

The Aléo Foundation, formerly the Fondation de l'athlète d'excellence, has awarded more than \$25 million in scholarships to over 5,000 student-athletes across Quebec since 1985. It also offers long-term support services to recipients, including mentorship and career transition guidance.

Among the dozens of organizations and individuals who contributed to this year's awards were Lussier, Bureautech, Fiera Immobilier, and Planète Mobile Rogers, as well as donors from the Donnez au suivant movement, including Patrick Charlebois and the family of Jean Samson.

"The athletes are inspirations for all of us, far beyond their sporting achievements," said Luc-André Lussier, chairman of the board of directors at lussier. "Their perseverance, determination, ambition, and resilience are examples for our clientele and for the entire community."

Patricia Demers, executive director of the Aléo Foundation, added that the annual spring gathering "concretizes the foundation's mission," by uniting recipients with the partners who help bring that vision to life.

For Kuate, the scholarship highlights her success as a top-level athlete and student — with back-to-back gold medals in triple jump at the Jeux du Québec and studies in natural sciences at Cégep Gérald-Godin. Her recognition adds to Laval's growing presence among promising young athletes in the province.



# Support for seniors hits milestone

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**

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The Quebec government is marking the one-year anniversary of its ambitious seniors action plan, *La fierté de vieillir* (The pride of aging), with what it calls concrete and measurable improvements in the lives of older adults across the province.

First launched in May 2024, the five-year, \$23.4 billion initiative is billed as one of the most comprehensive in provincial history — targeting everything from housing affordability and home care to community inclusion and labour retention.

Minister Sonia Bélanger, who serves as Minister responsible for Seniors as well as the Laurentides region, described the progress made over the past 12 months as “moving in the right direction.”

## Impact across sectors

The plan's first year saw a range of initiatives rolled out, many of them tied to tangible outcomes in seniors' everyday lives. Nearly 400,000 individuals received at-home care services over the past year — part of a massive push that delivered more than 37.5 million hours of home support across the province.

In terms of housing, 2,555 affordable units intended for seniors have either been completed or are currently under construction. Long-term care also received a boost, with 3,168 new spots created in senior homes and alternative care facilities.

At the same time, the government focused on keeping older Quebecers active in the workforce. Changes to the Quebec Pension Plan contributed to the continued employment of over 12,000 seniors aged 65 to 69.

Financial support remained another corner-

stone of the plan. Over 1.1 million seniors benefitted from the tax credit for older adults, aimed at easing cost-of-living pressures that remain top-of-mind in communities like Laval.

## Local outreach

Beyond the numbers, the government emphasized its effort to reduce isolation and build stronger connections with older residents. Over 298,000 safety check-in calls were made to seniors' homes, and 45,000 older Quebecers were reached through community outreach and geriatric social work.

The province also adapted or developed 61 small-scale infrastructure projects across Quebec, aimed at promoting social inclusion and enhancing the quality of life for older adults.

These efforts were paired with a push for public awareness. Throughout the past year, nearly 900 people took part in a series of webinars designed to elevate seniors' voices and promote the plan's core goals. A virtual town hall in April drew close to 1,200 participants — a turnout Bélanger says reflects the growing interest in aging-related issues.

“More than ever, society is mobilized to allow seniors to fully experience this stage of life,” Bélanger said. “To be recognized and valued in their communities.”

## More to come in year two

The plan — which includes 102 distinct meas-

ures coordinated by 35 provincial ministries and agencies — also sets out 16 long-term targets to monitor progress.

So far, \$4.6 billion of the total budget has already been allocated. That funding has also gone toward developing new legal, digital, and financial tools tailored to seniors' needs, as well as launching public campaigns that challenge stereotypes around aging and highlight the contributions of older Quebecers.

Additional investments are expected in year two, which will see a continued focus on long-term care reform, affordable housing development, and expanded outreach.

Initiatives tied to the province's Alzheimer's and neurocognitive disorders strategy will also take on greater visibility in the coming year, according to the ministry.

With the first year of implementation behind them, Bélanger says the government is well-positioned to move into the next phase of the plan. The early momentum, she argues, isn't just about statistics — it's about setting a lasting direction.

The ultimate goal, she emphasized, is to foster pride in aging and strengthen community support across the province. “We are definitely well-positioned for the next steps in carrying out our action plan,” she said.

## Héma-Québec needs you! Give blood this summer

Summer is a critical time for Héma-Québec. With their usual schedules on hold for a few weeks, many donors take a well-deserved break — but hospital patients can't. The need for blood never stops. It only takes an hour for this act of kindness towards someone waiting for a transfusion or blood product. Just one hour of your time is life-changing. All you have to do is make an appointment! Who knows? You might even make it a habit!

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We recommend making an appointment before going to a blood drive. You can easily do it online at [www.hemaquebec.ca/en/book-appointment](http://www.hemaquebec.ca/en/book-appointment) or by calling at 1-800-343-7264.

### Roll up your sleeves!

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supply afloat! Everyone who rolls up their sleeve makes a difference. If you're afraid of needles, just know that the people on site are qualified to oversee this experience. They will be able to reassure you, and you will be so proud to have donated!

### Want to check if you can donate?

Before going to a blood drive, you can always confirm your eligibility with Donor Services at 1-800-847-2525 or visit the Héma-Québec website at [www.hemaquebec.ca/en](http://www.hemaquebec.ca/en), under the section *Donate > Blood > Who can give blood?*

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## Celebrating a century Madame Giuditta Giuzio's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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On May 21, an extraordinary milestone was celebrated — a century filled with memories, resilience, wisdom, and love.

Reaching the age of 100 was a remarkable testament to the strength of Madame Giuditta Giuzio's mind and the richness of her journey.

Madame Giuzio's life had touched many, and her legacy continued to inspire those around her.

Her special day was filled with joy, surrounded by the warmth of her family and friends, and the years to come were wished to bring her peace, health, and happiness.

“Happy 100th birthday,

Madame Giuditta Giuzio, and many blessings to you and your family” wished St-Bruno city councillor David De Cotis.



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# From precarity to a prepared and competitive Canada

EDDIE SHEPPARD

Between April 16 and 21, 2025, Abacus Data conducted a national survey of 1,920 Canadian adults (18+), on behalf of the University of Toronto, to understand what Canadians believe is needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The findings reveal a country at a turning point: confidence in long-term stability is wavering, yet support for bold, forward-looking action is strong. Canadians are calling for a new economic strategy – one that invests in innovation, equips the workforce for change, and attracts global talent to keep Canada competitive in the years to come.

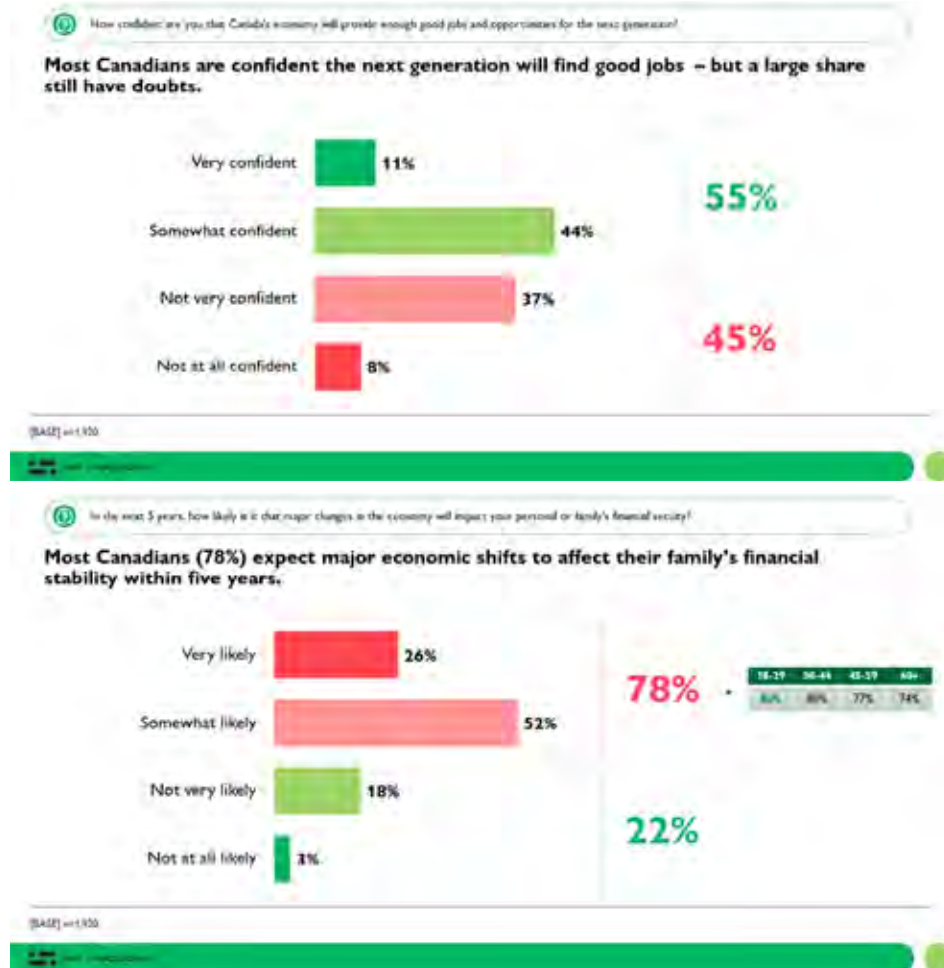
## A divided outlook reveals growing economic precarity

Canada stands at an economic crossroads. While more than half of Canadians (55%) remain confident that the economy will deliver good jobs for the next generation, a sizable 45% are not so sure. This divide reveals something deeper than a split in outlook – it highlights a continued shift toward a precarity mindset, where economic uncertainty is no longer limited to vulnerable groups but felt across generational, political, and socioeconomic lines. For many, the future feels less like a promise and more like a risk – highlighting growing unease about economic opportunity and stability.

## Most Canadians expect financial disruption ahead

Today, many Canadians are preparing themselves for long-term financial disruption. 78% believe that major changes in the economy will impact their family's financial security within the next five years. Younger adults feel this the most, with 83% of those aged 18 to 29 expecting financial disruption. Even among those who have typically felt more insulated from change – older Canadians and higher-income earners – the sense of vulnerability is rising.

This unease isn't just about inflation or interest



rates. It reflects a broader anxiety that Canada's systems – its workforce, institutions, and industries – aren't keeping pace with a rapidly changing global economy.

## Urgency to future-proof the workforce and economy

Across the board, Canadians believe the country isn't doing enough to prepare. Half

of respondents say Canada is falling short on training and upskilling workers, and over 8 in 10 (82%) agree that failing to invest in future-ready industries puts the country at risk of falling behind. Notably, this concern is shared across age groups and political affiliations, including 88% of those over 60.

This isn't simply a call for economic stimulus, it's a demand for strategic modernization.

Canadians are making it clear that traditional approaches to jobs, education, and growth no longer fit today's rapidly evolving reality. In their place, there's growing support for forward-looking policies and investments that build resilience and prepare the country for long-term uncertainty.

## Canadians support a forward-focused economic strategy

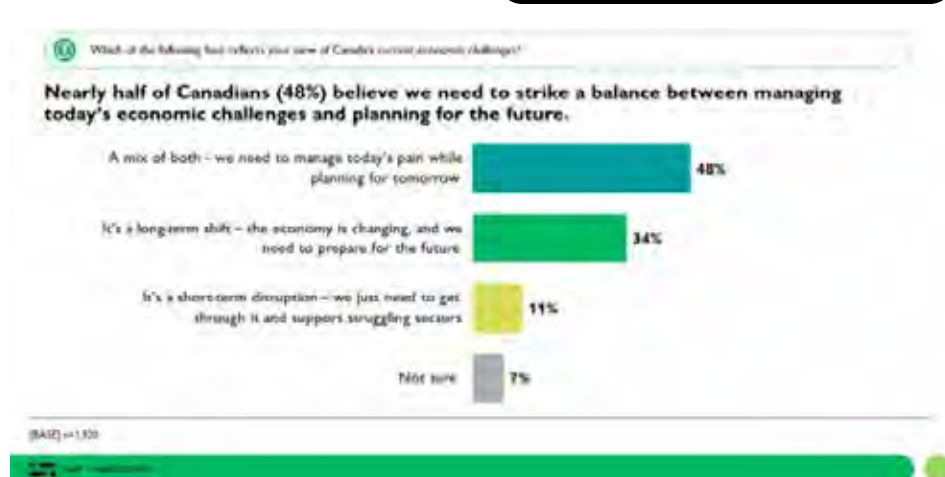
While many recognize the need to address short-term pressures, even more believe Canada must look ahead. Nearly half (48%) say we must manage today's challenges while actively planning for tomorrow, and another 34% say the current economic moment reflects a long-term shift that demands preparation for the future. Together, these findings reflect a forward-looking mindset, with most Canadians acknowledging the need for a new economic strategy that looks beyond short-term relief.

## Broad support for investing in innovation and R&D

Canadians show strong support for investing in research, innovation, and next-generation sectors. 73% support boosting research and development in new and emerging industries, more than those who want to support existing industries (66%) or attract multinationals with tax incentives (58%). This suggests Canadians prefer to build economic resilience from within, through innovation, research, and strategic talent development.

This preference for nurturing homegrown innovation is echoed in the 78% who agree the federal government should increase investment in Canadian universities and research hospitals to both strengthen innovation and attract top global researchers. This consensus reveals a shared belief among Canadians that Canada's long-term success lies in building knowledge-based industries and preparing for an evolving global economy.

► Continued on page 17



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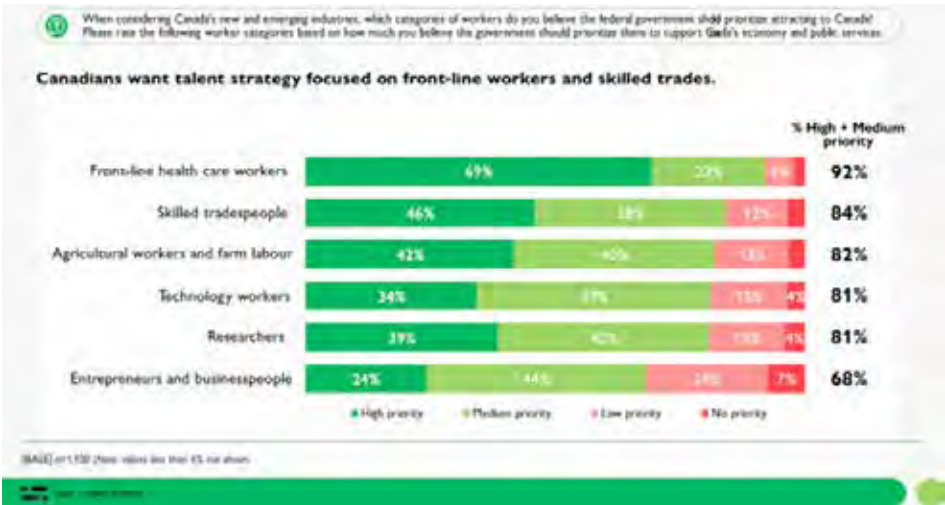
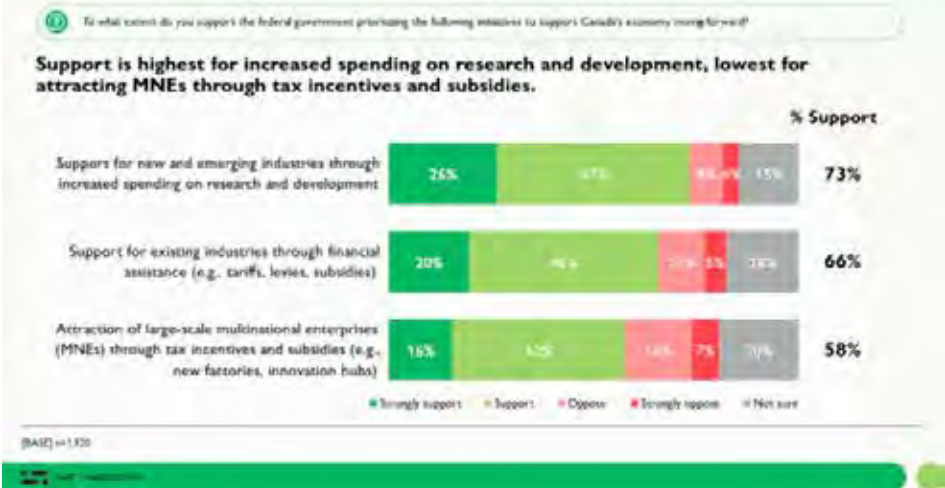
Global talent seen as essential to Canada's economic growth

Many Canadians recognize that global talent is not a threat, it's a resource, with 57% saying attracting international talent is essential to future economic growth, even if it means less immediate opportunities for domestic workers.

Support is particularly strong for bringing in workers who can fill critical gaps, such as

healthcare professionals (92%), skilled tradespeople (84%), tech workers (82%), and researchers (81%).

This reflects a recognition that sustaining economic competitiveness depends on bringing in skilled workers, not just training them at home. Canadians increasingly understand that it's not just about protecting domestic jobs, it's about ensuring the country can lead in a global economy. Support for practical, impact-driven immigration aligned with labour market needs shows a forward-looking view of what growth really demands.



Q13 When considering Canada's new and emerging industries, which categories of workers do you believe the federal government should prioritize attracting to Canada? Please rate the following worker categories based on how much you believe the government should prioritize them to support Canada's economy and public services.

**CATEGORIES OF WORKERS IN NEW AND EMERGING INDUSTRIES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE ATTRACTING TO CANADA**

% HIGH + MEDIUM SUPPORT	TOTAL	VOTE INTENTION			
		IPC	CPC	MEP	Other
Front-line health care workers	92%	95%	90%	95%	85%
Skilled tradespeople	84%	85%	84%	90%	78%
Agricultural workers and farm labour	82%	84%	81%	84%	79%
Technology workers	81%	83%	82%	83%	67%
Researchers	81%	85%	78%	85%	71%
Entrepreneurs and businesspeople	68%	89%	71%	85%	34%

(BASE) n=1,520

The upshot

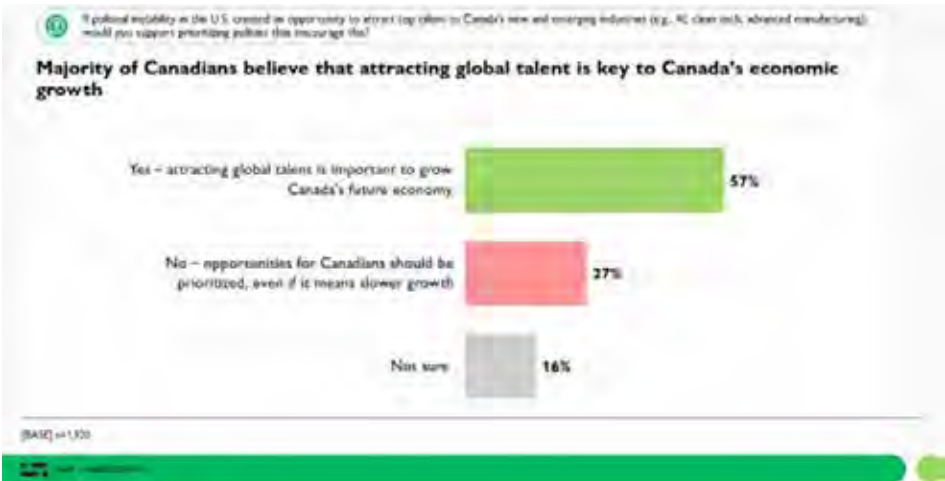
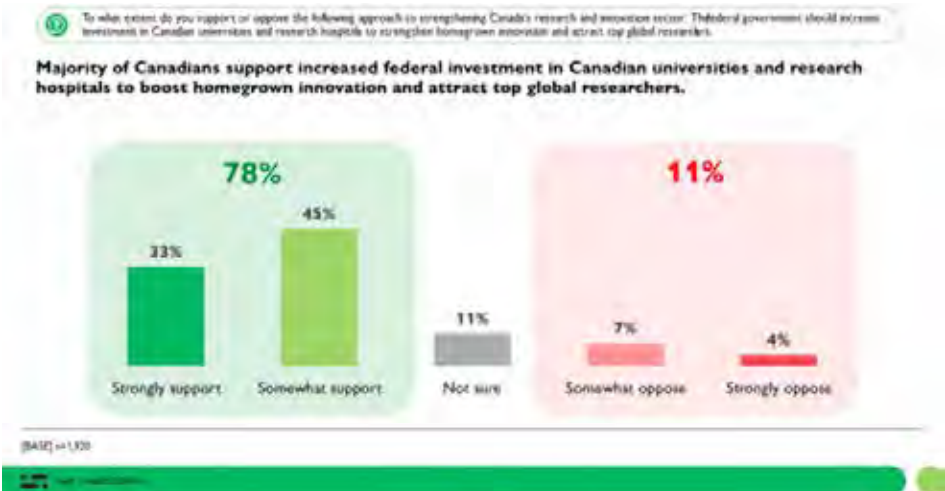
Canadians are no longer thinking only about today's challenges, they're questioning whether the systems meant to support them are built for the future. The rise of the precarity mindset is a clear signal that people feel increasingly vulnerable in the face of rapid economic change. Confidence is fractured, concern is widespread, and expectations are shifting.

But within that uncertainty lies a powerful consensus: Canadians want to see the country take bold steps to future-proof the economy – there is growing support for investments in innovation, upskilling, and homegrown research capacity. There is also a forward-looking view

that Canada's competitiveness depends not just on supporting local talent, but on attracting the world's best to help build what comes next.

This isn't about choosing between growth and protection, or between domestic opportunity and global talent. It's about designing a strategy that equips Canada to lead, by investing in the industries, skills, and people that will shape the future.

To move from precarity to preparedness, Canada must act decisively: invest in innovation, build resilient systems, and welcome the talent that will power tomorrow's economy. Canadians are ready for a strategy that's as ambitious as the moment demands.



Q15 If political instability in the U.S. created an opportunity to attract top talent to Canada's new and emerging industries (e.g. AI, clean tech, advanced manufacturing), would you support prioritizing policies that encourage this?

**Majority of Canadians believe that attracting global talent is key to Canada's economic growth**

	TOTAL	VOTE INTENTION			
		IPC	CPC	MEP	Other
Yes – attracting global talent is important to grow Canada's future economy	57%	69%	31%	54%	52%
No – opportunities for Canadians should be prioritized, even if it means slower growth	27%	17%	35%	29%	32%
Not sure	16%	14%	13%	17%	11%

(BASE) n=1,520



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# Laval-based screenwriter Kosta Kondilopoulos debuts movie Mob Cops

Premieres in Hollywood and releases on Amazon Prime Video

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The latest movie by Laval-based screenwriter Kosta Kondilopoulos, Mob Cops, premiered at the Harmony Gold Theatre in Hollywood and has released on Amazon Prime Video for viewing in Canada and the US. The star-studded event was attended by guests including David Arquette, Guy Fieri, Mario Lopez, Katie Cassidy

and Emile Hirsch. Mobs Cops, directed by Danny A. Abeckaser, who also stars in the film, is based on the true story of two corrupt New York City Police Department detectives, played by David Arquette (Scream) and Jeremy Luke (The Irishman), who committed various crimes for the mafia. "When Danny [the director] came to me with the idea for writing the story of these two dirty

cops, I was instantly captivated by the actions and motivations of these two men," said Kosta Kondilopoulos. "We tell their story by following the cops that tried to bring them to justice as they navigate, not only the mob world, but the NYPD too." The movie also stars Kevin Connolly (Entourage), Joseph Russo (The Irishman), Bo Dietl (The Wolf of Wall Street), Lynn Adrianna Freedman (Matlock), Graham Sibley (Sully),

Nathaniel Buzolic (The Vampire Diaries) and Lorenzo Antonucci (Jersey Bred). The score was composed by Lionel Cohen, another Laval native who currently resides in Hollywood. This movie is the fifth collaboration between Kondilopoulos and Abeckaser after Bardejov (2024) starring Robert Davi, The Engineer (2023) and Inside Man (2023) both starring Emile Hirsch, and I Love Us (2021) starring Katie Cassidy.



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

<p><b>SAVOUREZ LES MÉLODIES DU JARDIN</b></p> <p>Culture</p>  <p><b>May 30</b> 3-5 PM</p> <p>Jardin de CF Carrefour Laval 3035 boul. le Carrefour, H7T 1C8</p> <p>Enjoy the live melodies of the garden at CF Carrefour Laval while you relax or shop.</p> <p>Free</p>	<p><b>LA GRANDE FÊTE DES POMPIERS DE LAVAL</b></p> <p>Festivals</p>  <p><b>May 31</b> 9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>Outside of Collège Montmorency 475 boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9</p> <p>Come meet firefighters and stroll through the city while learning about fire safety with interactive activities.</p> <p>Free</p>	<p><b>LA COURSE DES POMPIERS 2025</b></p> <p>Festivals</p>  <p><b>June 1</b> 9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>Outside of Collège Montmorency 475 boul. de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9</p> <p>Children and adults alike are invited to take part and experience fire in a firefighter's world.</p> <p>Free</p>	<p><b>EM EN FÊTE</b></p> <p>Culture</p>  <p><b>June 7</b> 6 - 10 PM</p> <p>Espace Montmorency 777 boul. le Corbusier, H7N 0G6</p> <p>Hosted by Vincent Beauregard, with performances by DJ Soso Yaknow, Marco Calliari and Marc Dupré, followed by fireworks at the end of the evening.</p> <p>Free, reservation needed</p>
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## Former camp councillor sentenced for sex assaults on minors

A former day camp counselor has been sentenced in Laval to two years of home confinement for deceiving a teenager and sexually assaulting two young men while they were intoxicated.

Alexis Plourde-Dinelle had become friends with his victims in their early teens.

The 33-year-old Montrealer pleaded guilty on May 12 at the Laval courthouse to two counts

of sexual assault and one of luring.

He worked with young people for years. He was a day camp counselor in Mauricie, and worked at a Maison des jeunes in Quebec's Estrie region.

At the end of his home confinement sentence, Plourde-Dinelle will be placed on probation for three years, including two years with supervision.



## Family of three homeless after electrical fire in Duvernay

A family of three from Duvernay is temporarily homeless after a fire believed to be caused by a freak electrical accident seriously damaged their home on du Genévrier St. around noon on May 12.

Laval Fire Dept. investigators suspect that high winds around half past noon that day may have damaged aluminum cladding on the house, bringing it into contact with an electrical power line.

Current from the line may have flowed into metal rain gutters outside the house, spreading in and setting off a fire, according to the LFD.

Damage was estimated at \$100,000, with an additional \$40,000 in damages to interior furnishings.

## Driver in deadly 2019 Laval autoroute truck crash gets 10-years

The truck driver found responsible for the August 2019 fiery multi-vehicle pile-up on Autoroute 440 near the A-15 in Laval which killed four people has been sentenced to a decade in prison.

On Aug. 5, 2019, Jagmeet Grewal was driving a transport truck and a 53-foot trailer without a valid license, when he crashed into stopped traffic as he was travelling around

100 km/h, causing a major fire, while trapping some occupants in their cars.

The crash killed Robert Tanguay-Plante, Sylvain Pouliot, Michèle Bernier and Gilles Marsolais, while injuring 15 others.

Surveillance camera images used in a subsequent investigation showed him not holding the steering wheel leading up to the crash.

Grewal's license was also suspended at the time of the crash, and he was convicted three times for impaired driving in the 1990s.

"Innocent victims that were at the wrong place at the wrong time perished and others were severely injured and are still carrying their pain and sufferings," Superior Court Justice Yanick Laramée wrote in a ruling prior to imposing the sentence.

## Man accused of father's premeditated murder in Laval

A young man has been charged with the premeditated murder of his 71-year-old father in Laval, marking the city's first homicide of the year.

Facing a charge of first-degree murder, 26-year-old Thomas Erik Eyelom appeared in court last week.

First-degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence with no eligibility for parole for 25 years upon conviction.

According to the Laval Police, the body of the 71-year-old was discovered at his residence on Dumouchel Street in Chomedey by a family member.

The LPD initially treated it as a "suspicious death." The LPD's Crimes Against Persons Unit took charge of the case to try to clarify the cause and circumstances of death.

A scene analysis, conducted in collaboration with the LPD's forensic identification squad and the forensic sciences and legal medicine laboratory, as well as information gathered by the LPD's crimes against persons squad, allowed investigators to determine that the case was murder, said a spokesperson for the LPD.

## Laval mall subject of anti-theft operation

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
matt.newsfirst@gmail.com

Carrefour Laval was at the center of a significant national anti-shoplifting operation last week, as law enforcement and retail security teams joined forces to combat rising retail theft across Canada.

The two-day initiative, conducted on May 15 and 16, was part of a broader campaign led by the Retail Council of Canada (RCC), in collaboration with the Service de police de Laval (SPL) and CF Carrefour Laval. Similar "Blitz" operations were carried out in shopping centers nationwide between May 2 and 19.

Retail theft has become a pressing issue, with Canadian businesses reporting losses exceeding \$9 billion in 2024. "Retailers can't tackle this growing issue alone. It requires both staffing and effective tools," said Michel Rochette, president of the RCC's Quebec division. "Retailers are hit twice: they suffer direct financial losses and risk losing their customers' trust—not to mention the security concerns for everyone in the store. Retail crime needs to become a true public priority."

During the operation, Laval police officers were deployed during peak hours to monitor

and intervene directly with offenders, working alongside mall security to increase visibility and deter repeat offenses.

"Store security is one of our key priorities," said SPL spokesperson Sgt. Laurent Arsenault. "Operations like this allow us to act quickly with offenders, reassure the public, and reaffirm our commitment to Laval's business community. We're proud to take part in this initiative, which serves as a model for collaboration."

The SPL's Azimut unit—a specialized squad trained to intervene in commercial areas—was involved in a similar blitz at Carrefour Laval in December 2024, during which several arrests were made.

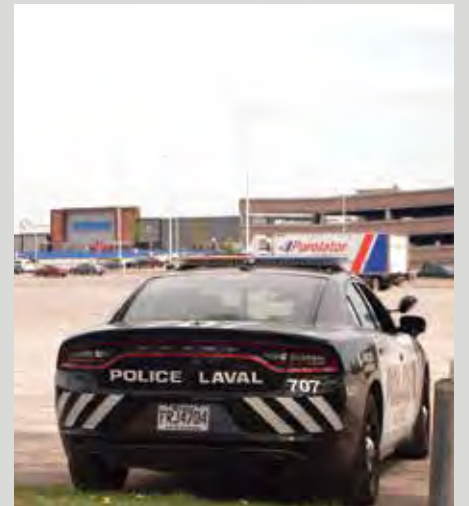
The RCC emphasized that the campaign isn't just about enforcement. The initiative also aims to raise public awareness about the real cost of shoplifting.

"Blitz" operations are designed to deliver concentrated results within a short time frame by deploying officers and security staff during strategic hours to focus on high-risk periods and known offenders.

Carrefour Laval was selected due to its status as a major commercial hub in Quebec and its history of cooperation with authorities. The RCC described the center as a "nerve center of retail activity."

The recent operation also comes weeks after an armed robbery at a jewelry store inside Carrefour Laval on March 31. While no injuries were reported and the suspect remains at large, the incident reflects the broader security challenges facing one of Quebec's busiest malls.

A vehicle from the SPL's Azimut unit, parked outside Carrefour Laval during the two-day anti-theft operation on May 16.





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## 10 fun facts about bumble bees

Bumble bees are large yellow and black flying insects that harvest nectar and pollen from flowering plants. They play an important role in keeping the world's ecosystems healthy.



Here are 10 interesting facts about this hardworking insect:

1. Bumble bees have extremely fast metabolisms and must eat almost continuously.
2. Bumble bees use buzz pollination. They place their upper body close to the inside of the flower and rapidly vibrate their flight muscles, producing a strong vibration. This shakes the pollen free.
3. Bumble bees have two stomachs: one for eating and one for storing nectar.
4. Unlike honey bees, bumble bees can sting more than once because their stinger is smooth, not barbed.
5. Bumble bees have five eyes: two large eyes on either side of their heads and three eyes on the top of their heads.
6. Except for new queens, which hibernate underground over the winter, bumble bee colonies die in late fall.
7. Bumble bees beat their wings 130 or more times per second.
8. Bumble bees get their name from the word bumble, which means to buzz, hum or move about awkwardly.
9. Bumble bees are covered in a layer of oil that makes them resistant to water.
10. The largest bumble bee species can grow to 38 millimetres in length.

Find out how to attract bumble bees into your yard to see these insects up close.



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### Sudoku 4 x 4

3		1	
			4
2			
	3		1

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

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

### JUST kidding

Q: Why did Tony go out with a prune?  
A: Because he couldn't find a date.



### JUST kidding

Q: What did the little mountain say to the big mountain?  
A: Hi, Cliff!



### JUST kidding

Q: What did Winnie the Pooh say to his agent?  
A: Show me the honey!



## 7 interesting facts about eggs

How do you like to eat your eggs? Hard-boiled? Poached? Scrambled? Fried? Here are seven interesting facts about eggs.

1. The colour of the egg yolk depends on the hen's diet. If the egg yolk is light yellow, the hen probably eats a lot of wheat. However, if the egg yolk is dark yellow, the hen likely eats a lot of corn.
2. Canada produces about 7 billion eggs each year. Annually 1.2 trillion eggs are produced worldwide.
3. Large eggs are the standard. There are six egg size designations: jumbo, extra-large, large, medium, small and peewee. However, most recipes call for large eggs.
4. Egg whites can expand up to eight times their volume. Whipping air into egg whites brings lift and lightness to desserts like

mousses, sponge cakes and meringues.

5. Eggshells have their own ventilation system. Eggshells contain between 7,000 and 17,000 microscopic pores that allow oxygen, carbon dioxide and moisture to escape.
6. Most of the fat in egg yolks is good for you. Fat is an essential part of a healthy, balanced diet. Fortunately, two-thirds of the fat in egg yolks is unsaturated and contributes to good heart health.

7. Hens don't need a rooster to lay eggs. Hens will lay eggs whether there's a rooster around or not. However, a rooster is needed to fertilize the eggs and hatch them into baby chicks.

Eggs are a versatile food that can be enjoyed alone or in a variety of recipes.



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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## NO EXPLANATION NECESSARY

**Q** Last year I abruptly ended a relationship with my next-door neighbor because she used me as a convenience and did not treat me as a friend. Six months ago she sent a card explaining that she did not understand why I no longer talked to her. I did not respond.

Now she has employed the use of mutual acquaintances to get to me. I have not addressed this to them because, quite frankly, it didn't involve them. Unfortunately, now it does. How do I address this without coming off as the "bad guy."

Connie

**A** Connie, if your ultimate concern is what other people think, you are always going to lose because you don't control the thoughts of others. Whatever baggage, home life, and previous experience in this world they have will determine what they feel about you. Since you cannot change their beliefs, ideas, or experiences, you cannot determine how they will feel about anything they come into contact with.

A person you don't hold in high regard, or wish to have contact with, has now decided to enlist others to get what she wants. You took away her ability to use you, so she is now using others to get back to using you again.

If you are concerned that these mutual acquaintances think, you are going to put yourself under the control of others again. But

if you wish to have your own life and exercise your rights as an individual on this planet, you must put how you feel about yourself, and your actions, first. Simply tell those acquaintances, despite what this neighbor may have told them, you've made it clear you do not wish to have contact with her.

Make it clear you are under no obligation to explain why. If we wish to be free to have our own likes, friendships, and pursuits, then we can't allow others to impose their likes over ours. Any explanation you give will only elicit arguments from your neighbor about why she gets to have her way.

This is not a debate. This is your life, and this is your right. Users, abusers, and controllers do not take no for an answer. If you let them tie you up in justifying yourself, then they have succeeded. Simply make it clear you choose not to be around her and you are not going to let anyone else force you to.

This woman doesn't feel you are free to run your life according to your own wishes. That she is now telling others what you did not tell them, only validates your position.

Pretending to like what you don't like only gets you more of what you don't want. Pretending to like people you don't like allows users, abusers, and manipulators to use, abuse, and manipulate you. Why? Because that is their stock-in-trade. That is their cash crop.

Wayne & Tamara

## EMOTIONALLY UNDERWEIGHT

**Q** After spending years in an emotionally abusive marriage, I finally, with the help of a therapist, was able to leave. Recently I met a man I am becoming fond of. He treats me with respect and caring. The only reservation I have is he is about 40 pounds overweight.

The night we met six months ago he told me he was in the process of losing weight, but he has not lost any so far. I'm trying to be honest with myself and ask if this is something I can overlook. If I decide to end the relationship, should I tell him

the truth or say I don't think we share the same active lifestyle?

Meagan

**A** Meagan, there is no reason to hurt his feelings or to elicit promises of change from him. When he fails to live up to his promises, you will first be angry and afterward heartbroken. Love is not piecemeal. The reason you can't be with him is that you don't love him.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

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From left to right: the members of the Foundation's Board of Directors: Mr. Guy Villeneuve, Ms. Isabelle Piché, Ms. Marie-Christine Moulin, President, Ms. Micheline Campeau and Mr. André Camirand.

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On April 24, Isabelle Piché, municipal councillor for the Saint-François district representing Action Laval, generously donated \$1,000 to the Fondation du Centre d'hébergement Saint-François. This contribution will support the Foundation's ongoing mission to enhance the quality of life for its residents through various activities and entertainment.

The Fondation du Centre d'hébergement Saint-François, which has been serving the community for over 25 years, plays a crucial role in providing services to seniors in the east end of Laval, an area that suffers from a general lack of services and infrastructure. Supporting this foundation is vital for Action Laval, as it aligns with their commitment to the well-being of seniors.

"Like the foundation, our party is dedicated to the well-being of seniors. Nearly two years ago, we established the Laval Action Commission for Seniors (CALA) to better understand their needs and issues within the city, and to take action to improve their quality of life,"

said Isabelle Piché, municipal councillor for Saint-François.

The support of organizations like the Fondation du Centre d'hébergement Saint-François is essential for Action Laval's elected officials. Marie-Christine Moulin, the Foundation's president, emphasized the importance of donations: "Every donation counts and allows us to maintain activities that significantly improve the lives of residents. With the aging population, such services will be increasingly in demand, and all stakeholders will be called upon to contribute to the well-being of our seniors. I would like to thank Isabelle Piché for her support."

Several organizations consulted by Action Laval's elected officials have highlighted a common issue: funding is often provided on a project basis rather than for the organization's overall mission. To address this, the Action Laval team plans to implement measures to ensure stable funding for these essential organizations.

### Fabreville

(Panier du fermier)

3151-B Boul. Dagenais Ouest  
H7P 1T8

### Duvernay

(Action Sport Physio)

4731 Boul Lévesque E  
Suite 201, H7C 1M9

### Chomedey / Sainte-Dorothée

(Action Sport Physio)

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### St-François / Duvernay-Est

(Marché Misti Perou)

8076 Boul Lévesque E  
H7A 3K9



# HOROSCOPE

Week of June 1 to 7, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:  
SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN



## ARIES

You'll be successful at work this week if you take the time to negotiate, ask questions and finalize agreements. The situation with the people sharing your home will improve once you set clear rules.



## TAURUS

No matter what project you're working on, focus on fine-tuning the details and preparing thoroughly. You'll be surprised by the attention you receive on social media.



## GEMINI

Your unique style will make you stand out from the crowd. You'll be admired by others. A comment you make could draw a lot of unexpected attention and turn all eyes on you.



## CANCER

If you're considering a move, this could be the perfect opportunity to redecorate. The birth of a new family member could brighten your week. Participating in a training course could help you advance your career.



## LEO

Your reliability and discretion will earn you the trust of those around you. Some people may confide in you unreservedly. Expect some surprising revelations that leave you astonished.



## VIRGO

Your travel plans may prove to be more difficult than you expected. You may have to play chauffeur for your loved ones on various occasions. You'll show ingenuity on a project, which may cause you to be committed for the long term.



## LIBRA

Before finalizing any major purchases, take a day or two to think things over. This pause could help you negotiate a better deal and potentially save you money.



## SCORPIO

Prioritize rest this week! At work, drinking a second cup of coffee could help clear your mind and boost your productivity. You'll be more creative, so trust your intuition as it guides you toward successful outcomes.



## SAGITTARIUS

Your plans may change unexpectedly. If your guests cancel on a planned activity, embrace the calm and enjoy some relaxation instead of stressing out.



## CAPRICORN

At work, you'll take the lead in organizing a housewarming or birthday party for your team. The event will be a huge success. You'll become even more popular among your colleagues.



## AQUARIUS

You'll discover vital information about a course or training program that could help you advance your career. Seize this opportunity to expand your professional horizons.



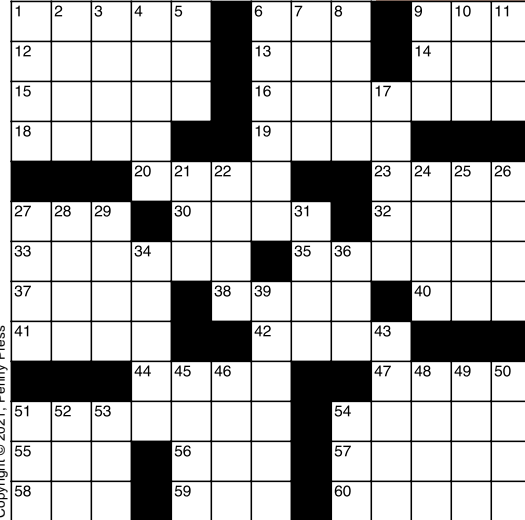
## PISCES

Summer vacation is just around the corner! This may cause you some concern about your children's summer activities. Carefully choose a suitable day camp and involve them in the decision-making process to ensure they have a fun summer.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 281



### ACROSS

1. Take a hike
6. Moreover
9. Subside
12. Scoundrel
13. Mama deer
14. Not me
15. Musical drama
16. Underground prison
18. Student's need
19. Toward the center
20. Knitting stuff
23. Try to persuade
27. Plant fluid
30. Apparel
32. Grand celebration
33. Readied for shipment
35. Fragments
37. Measure of land
38. Keep away from
40. So far
41. "\_\_\_\_\_ Came Bronson"
42. Footed vases

### DOWN

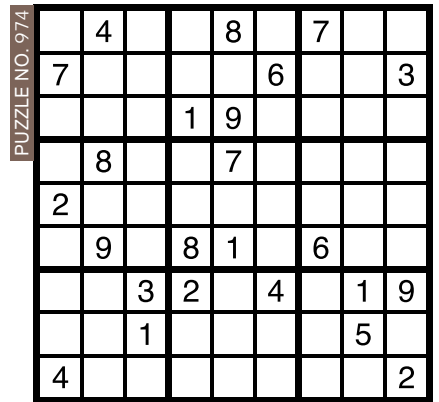
44. Sincere
47. Hail
51. Be magnetic
54. Outdoor-meal site
55. Mediterranean, e.g.
56. "\_\_\_\_\_-Devil"
57. Presses
58. Biddy
59. Patch of grass
60. Sorts
17. Dig out
21. Chowd down
22. Fishing sticks
24. Suggestive
25. Boundless joy
26. Sunrise direction
27. Shout to a cat
28. Curved structure
29. Cut back
31. Cowboy's prod
34. Opera voice
36. Tourist's stop
39. Pursued
43. Frightening
45. Mountain gap
46. Repeat
48. On the crest
49. String
50. Defeat
51. Fire remnant
52. \_\_\_\_\_ off (make angry)
53. Dark beige
54. Orchestra \_\_\_\_\_

## Sudoku

### HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

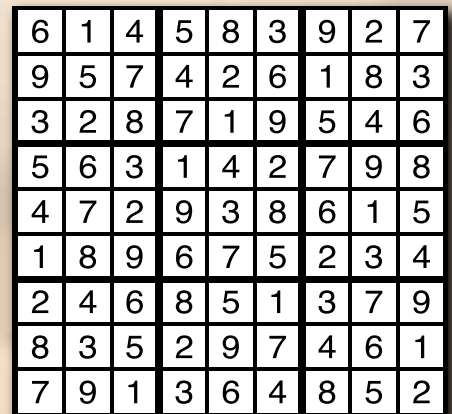


## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS



### Sudoku



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