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Agape
serving
English-
speaking
community
in Laval



Kevin McLeod, Director of Agape. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian)

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Agape serving Laval's English-speaking minority across Laval

Director of Agape, Kevin McLeod, sits at his desk at the Senior Wellness Centre on August 28, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Laval News)

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

In a sunny suite in Chomedey, the English-Speaking Senior Wellness Centre hums most days with activities and coffee chats. “We took it to a whole other level,” said Kevin McLeod, director of the Youth and Parents AGAPE Association. “We have a center that’s open five days a week with about four activities per day and then some.”

AGAPE has served Laval’s English-speaking minority since 1976, growing from food relief and literacy help into a wide network that now includes seniors’ programming, anti-dropout initiatives and youth mental-health outreach.

The centre grew out of Agape’s work with the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN) and other partners and has become a lifeline. “We’re providing a home for these people,” McLeod said. “They call us a family now.”

AGAPE’s leadership says the group has spent years mapping out the realities of Laval’s English-speaking community and shaping its programs accordingly. Its head office was deliberately planted in Chomedey, home to a large cluster of anglophones, but the mission was never meant to stop at one neighbourhood. From the start, the organization has framed its work as something broader: a commitment to community itself.

Help from officials

AGAPE’s expansion has also meant building partnerships. The association credits a long

list of municipal supporters who pitch in on events and point staff toward opportunities—councillors Aglaia Revelakis, Aline Dib, Vasilios Karadogiannis, Ray Khalil, Sandra El-Helou, David De Cotis and Seta Topouzian among them, as well as Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

According to AGAPE, these officials have helped anchor fundraisers like a comedy night gala and senior-centre picnics; Revelakis, for instance, has regularly backed the seniors’ wellness club activities and helped steer the group toward City of Laval programs that supported events such as last year’s gala.

The municipal connection now runs through the classroom too. AGAPE says it is working with city staff on an application for a 16-month project at Laval Junior and Laval Senior Academy—part of a broader push to meet youth where they are. McLeod said the aim is to keep students engaged during a period of change in schools. “All signs point to go,” he said.

That youth focus has sharpened in recent years. In local elementary and high schools, AGAPE staff share mental-health resources and run anti-dropout efforts. “If you don’t want to talk to mom, dad or your caregiver or if you don’t want to talk to school, there are hotlines and numbers to help,” McLeod said. The team also trains adults to recognize and respond to students in distress.

Provincially, AGAPE cites steady help from Fabre MNA Alice Abou-Khalil, Chomedey MNA Sonia Lakhoyan-Olivier, as well as Laval des Rapides MNA Céline Haytayan, and Milles

Iles MNA Virginie Dufour. Federally, the group points to the continued support of MP Annie Koutrakis, with Angelo Iacono and Fayçal El-Khoury also having taken part in community events.

Beyond elected officials, the association’s day-to-day work leans on a web of institutions like Centre Intégré De Santé et De Services Sociaux de Laval (CISSS) or Health Canada—along with private donors, fundraising and self-financing.

The challenges are real. In Quebec, debates over language can leave many older anglophones

feeling sidelined, and McLeod acknowledged that sense of vulnerability. “Seniors are feeling uneasy, to say the least,” he said. Even so, he pointed to signs of progress: institutions are listening, new partnerships are forming, and AGAPE is pressing ahead. The organization’s aim, he emphasized, is to bridge divides.

For McLeod, success is measured less in budgets and more in moments—the quiet relief of a senior who chooses to return the next day, or the energy in a room when activities are underway. To him, that is proof the centre is working. “We’re trying to help everybody,” he said.

Laval English-speaking Senior Wellness Centre

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Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Lareine Zakhour
Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising:

George S. Guzman

Editorial Staff:

Martin C. Barry
Matthew Daldalian
Dylan Adams Lemaçon
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OPINION & Editorial



Poilievre is the one thing standing in Poilievre's way

It wasn't the Liberals who cost Poilievre the election. It was the image he projected and the movements he chose to align with

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has cleared the first hurdle in his post-election redemption tour—winning his own seat back in an Aug. 19 byelection. Granted, it was the easy one. What lies ahead makes a root canal look like a day at the spa.

If Poilievre wants to become prime minister, he'll need to stop barking and start leading. Canadians got more than their fill of the growling Opposition pit bull. Now, they'll want to see someone who can govern—not just hurl grenades from across the aisle.

As expected, Poilievre coasted to victory in Alberta's Battle River–Crowfoot riding, pulling in a whopping 80.4 per cent of the vote. It was hardly a race, though that didn't stop the media from breathlessly trying to manufacture one. Even a ballot littered with 214 mostly fake candidates, courtesy of a mischief-making electoral reform campaign, couldn't trip him up.

But that was the warm-up act. The real show starts in January, when Poilievre faces a party leadership review. And let's be honest, some Conservatives are still scratching their heads, wondering how a guy who blew a 25-point lead to the most tired, scandal-plagued Liberal government in recent memory is still calling the shots.

Sure, the party faithful can point fingers: Donald Trump took a swipe at Canada and lit a fire under national anxiety. Mark Carney popped up looking like the Liberals' knight in shining economic armour. And Poilievre's campaign—courtesy of the ever-strategic Jenni Byrne—misread the mood with the precision

of a broken weathervane. But let's not kid ourselves. Those excuses don't hold water.

The blunt truth? Voters saw the scowling, slogan-slinging Poilievre, heard what he was selling, and said, "No thanks." After a decade of Liberal drift, the country was primed for change. All Poilievre had to do was not scare people. Instead, he fumbled the moment.

Two things blew it for him.

First, in the showdown over who could stand up to Trump, Canadians bet on the guy with actual financial gravitas. Mark Carney—former governor of not one but two central banks—looked like the adult in the room. Poilievre? Too many Canadians saw him as Trump-adjacent, with all the bluster and none of the credibility. Even Trump has had warmer words for Carney than for Poilievre, which says something.

Second, Poilievre tried so hard to keep the Conservative tent "big" that he rolled out the welcome mat for the fringe. He didn't lose his Ottawa seat because he forgot the potholes—he lost it because he hitched his wagon to the Freedom Convoy, that anarchist tailgate party that brought downtown Ottawa to a screeching halt. Voters in his own riding watched their MP cheer for the chaos. They didn't forget.

In that, Poilievre is channelling his ideological twin in Alberta, Danielle Smith. Both have mistaken the noisy minority for the silent majority. In pandering to people who won't be satisfied no matter what, they've alienated the moderates they need to win. Worse, he spooked progressive and centrist voters into backing the Liberals just to keep him out.

And then there's the women's vote—or lack of it. A recent Angus Reid poll shows 64 per cent of women have a negative view of Poilievre. That's not just a crack in the base. It's a canyon.

So here's the thing: if he survives the leadership review in January, Poilievre will need a full-blown political makeover. Less "Dr. No," more "Here's how." Enough with the attack ads: It's time to offer actual solutions to issues like Canada's tariff crisis. If he wants to land punches on Carney, he'd better throw something more substantive than "He's doing a bad job."

He needs to show Canadians that behind the slogans is someone with the depth and maturity to lead. Someone who can unite, not just divide.

Even Ontario Premier Doug Ford, not exactly the gold standard for tact and diplomacy, offered advice that Poilievre might consider: "Work with the prime minister—as Team Canada." Being the Opposition leader isn't just about throwing rocks from the cheap seats. It's about proving you can rise above partisanship when the country needs it. And if Poilievre doesn't like Ford's advice, he might want to count up the majority governments. Ford: three. Poilievre: still waiting.

Bottom line? The job ahead is no cakewalk. Judging from his stiff, scripted performances, it's fair to wonder whether he has the range. But the path is clear enough. Either he swallows his pride and changes course, or he cements his place as a colourful footnote in Canadian political history—remembered not for winning power, but for throwing it away.

Doug Firby

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City decides to purchase Golf Sainte-Rose to turn into public park

Members of the City of Laval's executive-committee have signed a letter of intention addressed to a real estate holding company, stating the city's interest in purchasing a Sainte-Rose golf course for the purpose of redeveloping it into a public park.

The letter addressed to Groupe immobilier Van Houtte stated the city's willingness to undertake negotiations with the company so that the golf course can be turned into a green space in line with Laval's ongoing ambitions to preserve as much natural territory as possible.

CMM involvement

According to a release issued by the city, the undertaking is being done in conjunction with the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), which is a regional government authority with a mandate to eventually conserve 30 per cent of Montreal's overall territory for an eventual network of regional parks.

The city says that in order to pay for the purchase of Golf Sainte-Rose, it will be making a formal application for a subsidy from the CMM through the regional authority's Trame verte et bleue program.

And while the city foresees the deal closing before the end of next year, the city's statement says the goal is for the golf course to remain open until the end of the 2027 golf season.

An unspoiled area

Surrounded by the Mille Îles river and a forested area known as the Mattawa Woods, Golf Sainte-Rose is seen by the City of Laval as an essential piece of the unspoiled green space the

municipality wants to preserve permanently.

According to the city, conserving the golf course would help to restore nearby marshes and wet areas, to create a unique ecological corridor, to help deal with climate change impacts, and would also offer the population a large area suitable for games and sports in the open air.

"The Sainte-Rose golf course is a unique site in Laval, as much for its ecological value and for its recreational potential," said Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer.

"What we have in mind is clear: to protect this territory while transforming it into a vast riverside nature park that is accessible to everyone. Few river banks in Laval offer such a large and promising area for leisure activities.

Consultations planned

"We therefore hope to develop outdoor activities that respect the natural environment and make it possible to take full advantage of nature," Boyer added.

"Our wish is to build this vision in conjunction with the population and organizations in Laval. Together, we will turn this site into a model of balance between nature conservation, leisure and collective well-being."

"Natural and green spaces are essential in order to deal with the climate crisis and to preserve the quality of life of the population," said Massimo Iezzoni, executive director of the CMM. "We must act concretely and rapidly to enlarge and protect their territory. This is even more true in heavily urbanized areas like greater Montreal, where there is very little natural space left for us to



reach the targets."

Surpassing conservation goals

The city says it wants the transformation of Golf Sainte-Rose to take place with the participation of residents. Hence, citizens as well as organizations involved with the environment and leisure activities will be asked to contribute to deciding on the site's future use.

In 2023, the City of Laval announced that it had surpassed its stated conservation goals by reaching 18 per cent protected territory, which was five times more than in 2009.

Since 2021, the city has also acquired nearly 100 hectares of natural outdoor spaces thanks to \$35 million in investments for that purpose. Among those acquisitions were the purchase of Île Locas near Golf Sainte-Rose in the rivière des Mille Îles.

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Climate change is leading to the risk of more intense and more frequent rainfall, among other things. Faced with this reality, the City is taking concrete steps to adapt its infrastructure and better protect our territory.

Major investments for better adapted infrastructure

The city of Laval plans to invest heavily in the coming years to adapt its water systems to the new climate realities. These investments will include adding generators to pumping stations, improving maintenance of underground infrastructure in more vulnerable areas, and implementing innovative solutions inspired by sustainable development. One example is the integration of drainage structures, such as open retention basins and green spaces, that help water infiltrate the soil, thereby reducing the risk of backflow and accumulation.

Projects that prepare for the future

The redevelopment of boulevard Saint-Martin is in line with this desire to adapt. Adding trees and greenery

will create natural water catchment areas and reduce heat islands. These green medians will also serve as a safety barrier between motorists and cyclists. These measures are intended to enhance the appearance of public space, making it safer, cooler, more pleasant and better protected against the unforeseeable climate changes.

In the same vein, the construction of the Cartier underground basin is in keeping with efforts to strengthen the resilience of the sewer system. This new infrastructure, hidden beneath Cartier Park, will be able to store up to the equivalent of six Olympic swimming pools. It will provide better control of overflows during heavy precipitation and significantly reduce wastewater discharges into the environment.

Adapting to the effects of climate change is everyone's business. The City must therefore modernize its infrastructure and plan for the new risks, and each person can take action to limit the impact on their property, home, and community. Together, we have the ability to make our territory safer and more sustainable.

Laval launches pilot smart shopping lab

Trading cashiers for connected tech

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

The city of Laval has turned a big-box parking lot into a three-week experiment in 'smart' retail it says could help bring life back to its main streets.



Professor Fabien Durif, who leads Université du Québec à Montréal's (UQAM) Observatoire de la consommation outside the 'Achetons plus ici' lab on the RONA Pont-Viau lot on September 8, 2025.

The pop-up, branded 'Lab Achetons plus ici' ("Buy More Here"), runs until Sept. 28 and puts automation front and centre: self-scanning on smartphones, Radio Frequency Identification



(RFID) checkout that rings up a basket in one pass, and wired inventory systems. Officials describe it as a real-world trial before asking independent merchants to adopt anything more widely.

"The 'Achetons plus ici' Lab demonstrates our desire to collaborate with local businesses to boost the local economic fabric and modernize our commercial arteries," said Christine Poirier, the councillor for Duvernay-Pont-Viau.

For Laval Économique, which is steering the project, the aim is as much urban as technical. "The goal of the laboratory is to see how we can transform commercial arteries, how we can change a little the way customers see commercial streets and shopkeepers," said Lidia Divry, director of the city's economic development arm, in an interview. She called the set-up "more of an experimental approach," an invitation for residents to handle the tools themselves and for shopkeepers to judge whether any of it could

► Continued on page 8



The 'Achetons plus ici' lab outside on the RONA Pont-Viau lot on September 8, 2025.



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make them “more efficient, more competitive.” The pilot lands on a stretch of boulevard des Laurentides by design, said Professor Fabien Durif, who leads Université du Québec à Montréal’s (UQAM) Observatoire de la Consommation Responsable and helped design the project. “We’re really in a format that is a connected, autonomous, temporary micro-business,” he said. The immediate target isn’t ringing tills so much as people on the sidewalk. “The



A Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) checkout inside the ‘Achetez plus ici’ lab on the RONA Pont-Viau lot on September 8, 2025.



From left to right: Bernard Pitre, Fabien Durif, Lidia Divry, and Youri Cupidon outside the ‘Achetez plus ici’ lab on the RONA Pont-Viau lot on September 8, 2025.

objective is to see if we can increase foot traffic so there really is this idea of revitalization.” Inside the compact, seasonal micro-store, the merchandise is deliberately ordinary—batteries, rugs, tools, fertilizers, cleaners, paint and stain—so the friction (or ease) of the tech is the point. Shoppers can scan and pay on their phones, or pass tagged goods near a reader that tallies everything at once. Labels from Les Produits du Québec mark certified local products. What counts as success? Not sales, at least not at first, Durif said. “Success isn’t necessarily sales. Success is the number of people who will come in, who will want to test the technologies, who will want to take part in the studies.” His

team will track where visitors come from and how they traveled. Divry described the effort as a proof of concept: “We’re in innovation. So this first project, it’s really to test innovation, to test the proof of concept.” Part of that means understanding hesitations and limits. Some residents will arrive ready to tap-to-pay; others will need reassurance or help. One hard constraint is built in. “It’s clear that you need to have a cellphone in this case,” she said, adding, however, that many older adults became comfortable with online purchasing during the pandemic as retail itself moved toward automation. The project is being run by Laval Économique

with UQAM’s business school, where Professor Fabien Durif’s observatory and GreenUXlab are studying how people use the technology. RONA is providing the store site, and Les Produits du Québec is making sure local products are highlighted. Funding comes from a 2023–2026 regional innovation agreement supported by Quebec and the City of Laval. After Sept. 28, officials say they will weigh the findings and decide whether the automation tested in Pont-Viau belongs on Laval’s shopping streets. Residents can try the systems during the run and leave feedback. The numbers and how people feel will determine what survives beyond a RONA lot.

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Vimont
PIERRE BRABANT
p.brabant@laval.ca

Laval-les-Îles
NICHOLAS BORNE
n.borne@laval.ca

Duvernay-Pont-Viau
CHRISTINE POIRIER
c.poirier@laval.ca

Sainte-Dorothée
RAY KHALIL
r.khalil@laval.ca

Sainte-Rose
FLAVIA ALEXANDRA NOVAC
fa.novac@laval.ca

Saint-Martin
ALINE DIB
a.dib@laval.ca

Souvenir-Labelle
SANDRA EL-HELOU
s.el-helou@laval.ca

L'Orée-des-Bois
YANNICK LANGLOIS
y.langlois@laval.ca

Marigot
CECILIA MACEDO
c.macedo@laval.ca

Laval-des-Rapides
ALEXANDRE WARNET
a.warnet@laval.ca

Concorde-Bois-de-Boulogne
SANDRA DESMEULES
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The Legault gov't is making school teacher shortage worse, say Laval- area PLQ MNAs

**'It's creating a vicious circle,' says
Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Virginie Dufour**

MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
marty@newsfirst.ca

In a meeting last week between Laval region teachers' union reps and three Quebec Liberal Party MNAs, including two from Laval, the union contended there's been a noteworthy drop in the number of university students working towards become teachers because of the CAQ government's failure to address worsening workplace conditions in public

education.

Senior officials with the Syndicat de l'enseignement de la région de Laval met at union headquarters in Pont-Viau with Quebec Liberal MNA Madwa-Nika Cadet, the PLQ's official critic for education and employment, as well as Chomedey PLQ MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier and Mille-Îles PLQ MNA Virginie Dufour.

► Continued on page 11



From the left, Quebec Liberal MNA for Bourassa-Sauvé Madwa-Nika Cadet (the PLQ's official critic for education and employment), Mille-Îles PLQ MNA Virginie Dufour, and Chomedey Liberal MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier met with officials from the Syndicat de l'enseignement de la région de Laval last week. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



From the left, Mille-Îles PLQ MNA Virginie Dufour, Chomedey Liberal MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier and Quebec Liberal MNA for Bourassa-Sauvé Madwa-Nika Cadet were briefed last week by teachers' union officials on the impact from the Legault government's cuts to education budgets. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

◀ Continued from page 10

No one wants to teach

“What they told us is that the enrollments for education in university have lowered immensely,” Lakhoyan Olivier said in an interview with The Laval News. “They (students) don’t like to see what’s happening,” added Cadet, maintaining that the impact of the Legault government’s actions on the public education sector is discouraging university students from pursuing careers in teaching.

In June, shortly after the school year ended, the Fédération autonome de l’enseignement (with which the SERL is affiliated) issued a statement demanding that Quebec Education Minister Bernard Drainville be relieved of his cabinet duties by Premier François Legault in view of \$570 million in cuts to the public education sector Drainville was making.

Untangling the priorities

“It is likely to get worse,” Cadet predicted, arguing that funding cuts have become the CAQ government’s number one priority, while the government’s second priority is the public

education sector’s lack of qualified teachers. “Since students are looking out for their future, they’re saying to themselves that they don’t want to go into education,” she continued. “They see the working conditions and they do not want to end up on that path.”

But adding to the problem, she said, the number of teachers already inside Quebec’s public education system is also declining simply because the teachers are leaving in desperation. “They are leaving at the beginning of their careers in the first five years,” she said, noting that the phenomenon has been documented. However, according to Cadet, experienced

teachers are also abandoning the system in spite of the fact they often love working with and helping to educate children. “We don’t give the possibility for the teachers to succeed,” she said.

‘A vicious circle,’ says Fournier

“It’s creating a vicious circle,” interjected Mille-Îles Liberal MNA Virginie Dufour. “Where you have less teachers, then less people interested.”

Taking into account the CAQ government’s management of the education portfolio in addition to all the other dossiers it oversees, Cadet said, “What everybody is telling us is that it’s the first time we see the situation as bad as this. The first time we see this much chaos. The first time we see so many last-minute decisions. “And that’s the problem with this government,” she added. “First, they make a decision, and then they react. It’s like they don’t consult beforehand. And sometimes when they do, they consult in silos where they consult only one group, then another group, but the groups can’t talk to each other because they’re under non-disclosure agreements that stop them from talking.”

Youth employment impacted

With regards to another dossier, this time affecting the province-wide youth employment network run by the Carrefour jeunesse emploi (including the Laval branch), CJE officials told the PLQ MNAs that the CAQ government (which funds the network) has been demanding more accountability from the CJE’s, while cutting budgets and resources.

“Money is now being spent more on bureaucracy and filling paperwork and forms than for giving service,” Dufour said. “They’re funding less, but employees are putting in more time for red tape and paperwork,” added Lakhoyan Olivier.

Virginie Dufour
Députée de Mille-Îles
✉ Virginie.Dufour.MIIL@assnat.qc.ca
☎ 450 661-3595

Sona Lakhoyan Olivier
Députée de Chomedey
✉ Sona.LakhoyanOlivier.CHOM@assnat.qc.ca
☎ 450 686-0166

Virginie Dufour
Députée de Mille-Îles
✉ Virginie.Dufour.MIIL@assnat.qc.ca
☎ 450 661-3595

Sona Lakhoyan Olivier
Députée de Chomedey
✉ Sona.LakhoyanOlivier.CHOM@assnat.qc.ca
☎ 450 686-0166



Incumbent mayor Stéphane Boyer promises to 'concentrate on the essentials'

Pledges to de-emphasize big-ticket projects, unlike some of his predecessors at Laval City Hall

In spite of claims by opposition critics, incumbent Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer maintains that his administration strikes a balance between major projects, such as development of the city's downtown, and smaller ones in neighbourhoods scattered all over Île Jésus. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
marty@newsfirst.ca

Unlike several mayoralty candidates who were seeking re-election in Quebec's third-largest city over the past few decades, incumbent Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer will not be dangling the prospect of flashy new projects – like Place Bell or the Aquatic Complex, as his predecessors did – when he's out campaigning before election day on November 2.

A focus by past City of Laval administrations on projects like those, which also tended to be located in or near downtown Laval rather than in the more residential outlying areas, provided fodder over the years to city council opposition councillors, such as those from Action Laval.

Dismisses opposition claims

Rightly or wrongly, they accused Boyer's predecessor, Mayor Marc Demers who also led the Mouvement lavallois, of ignoring the more common needs of Laval's tax-paying residents

(including upgrades to park infrastructure and new local arenas) in neighborhoods all over Île Jésus where the vast majority of Laval's bedroom community population is situated.

With a little more than a month and a half left until the people of Laval decide who will lead the city for the next four years, Mayor Boyer, 37, said late last week in a wide-ranging pre-election interview with The Laval News that he disagreed fundamentally with the opposition's claims,

He maintained that his party, the Mouvement lavallois, has succeeded in striking a proper balance between big and small projects in line with the needs of Laval's residents.

"The opposition always wants to do wedge politics, while telling people that they are forgotten in their neighbourhoods," said Boyer.

Focused on big and small, says Boyer

"The reality is that, yes, there are a few big projects, because we are Quebec's third-largest city. But there are a lot of small projects in the neighbourhoods. It's just that we don't talk as much about it."

As examples of smaller and more local projects in recent years, Boyer cited the renewal and opening of a long-neglected beach area alongside the Rivière des Mille Îles in Laval-Ouest, as well as the inauguration of a new library branch and culture centre in Saint-François.

In numbers, according to the mayor, no more than 18 per cent on average of the City of Laval's

► Continued on page 13

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budgeted annual expenses gets allotted for major projects, including the upcoming central library and cultural complex in the Montmorency sector, while the rest goes towards the city's everyday needs as well as smaller projects in neighbourhoods.

So, what is Stéphane Boyer's pledge to voters should they choose to re-elect him? "What I am proposing to the citizens for the next few years is to concentrate on the essentials," he said.

Making Laval more resilient

Noting that a good deal of Laval's essential infrastructure, including major roadways, dates from the 1960s and 1970s when the population grew by 100,000 over a relative few years, he said a re-elected Mouvement lavallois administration would concentrate on basics like road maintenance, while keeping a focus on issues directly impacting homeowners such as flooding, ice storms and wind damage linked to climate change.

"So, my main focus for the next few years would be maintenance of infrastructure, to make the city more resilient and to better protect our citizens," he said, while claiming that 94 per cent of the pledges the Mouvement lavallois made prior to the 2021 election are now accomplished or are underway.

Few details on Carré Laval project

The mayor does, in fact, have one project he announced a year ago that could be considered major, although it is longer-term. Carré Laval envisions the development in the space of 20 years of a large tract of land near Autoroute 15 in eastern Chomedey (formerly serving as a snow dump) into a mixed residential/commercial/light industrial sector.

Ironically, the opposition at city hall has criti-



Mayor Stéphane Boyer and city hall receptionist Léna Assag. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

cized Boyer for not saying enough about this dossier. Boyer has justified his administration's reluctance to say more, insisting it would be inappropriate to discuss in detail a project that's only now getting off the ground.

Earlier this year, Mayor Boyer garnered a fair bit of media attention after he revealed that he suffered from a type of arthritis affecting the spinal cord, limiting some of his activities, although he said that he still intended to run for re-election.

Back problem not limiting him

As he explained in last week's interview, the discomfort he experiences makes it more difficult for him to stand for lengths of time at the

frequent receptions politicians are expected to attend. "After half an hour I need to sit down," he said.

Boyer, who first entered Laval city politics in 2013 during the post-Gilles Vaillancourt surge that brought the Mouvement lavallois into office, served at first as the city councillor for Laval's Duvernay-Pont-Viau district and as a senior member of the executive-committee. At the time of his election as mayor four years ago when he was 33, he was the youngest mayor in the City of Laval's history.

While acknowledging that he owns and lives in a house in Laval-des-Rapides, Boyer was reluctant to reveal more about his personal circumstances. "I don't talk about my personal life," he

said, while adding, "I want my family to be able to have their own private life." What is better known about Boyer is his love of outdoor activities, including hiking, kayaking, rock climbing and sailing.

He has less time for leisure

While he is also known to have travelled in his younger years to some distant parts of the world like South Africa and New Zealand, his role as mayor over the past four years has constrained his ability to continue travelling as extensively, he admitted.

"I don't do it as much as I would like to now that I am mayor because I work six or seven days a week now and don't have that much free time," said Boyer.

Famously, one of the pledges Mayor Boyer made when running for the mayoralty in 2021 was that he would roll his salary (which was the second-highest among Quebec towns and cities at the time) back by \$30,000 if elected.

Today, minus that amount, he earns around \$200,000 a year. Although he has no intention of renewing the pledge, the mayor pointed out that his current salary is less than the salaries paid to the city manager and the assistant city manager.

On track to low property taxes

One of the inescapable truths about municipal election years is that the annual budgets that precede voting day almost always go easy on property taxpayers. As such, the budget by the Boyer administration in December last year held the tax increase to 1.9 per cent. The increase the year before was 4.8 per cent.

Noting that Laval's economic development projections for the current year as well as for 2026 indicate continuing growth in the number of housing units built here, Boyer said the city is on track to break all previous records before the end of this year, allowing the city to maintain a correspondingly low tax rate because of the additional revenue.



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Moms, dads and kids said goodbye to summer at Laval's Fête de la famille

This year's party at *Centre de la nature* ran two days for city's 60th anniversary

MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
marty@newsfirst.ca

Although many kids who visited the Centre de la nature for the city's Fête de la famille on Labour Day weekend were probably still primed

for action by the end of the day, a lot of parents were more likely to have been exhausted and ready to hit the sack by the time it was all over.

It is a measure of the sheer vastness of the city's largest outdoor park in Laval's Duvernay district that it's difficult to visit the place from end to end over the space of a few hours without coming away in a state of at least partial exhaustion.



Photos: Martin C. Barry, Laval News



Animated "plant people" walking the grounds at Laval's Centre de la nature in east-end Duvernay during the Fête de la famille on Labor Day weekend attracted hundreds of children like bees drawn to colorful flowers.



The Zip Line at this year's Fête de la famille at the Centre de la nature attracted children as well as adults.

Unless, of course, you have the inexhaustible energy of a growing child.

► Continued on page 15

Happy Rosh Hashanah 5786!

On this Rosh Hashana, I would like to send my best wishes for peace, health, and serenity to the Jewish community of Chomedey and Laval.

May love, prosperity, and happiness guide this new year filled with success and dreams coming true!

Shanah Tovah!

Aglaia Revelakis
Municipal councillor - Chomedey
514-242-5761 | a.revelakis@laval.ca

Je souhaite un joyeux
Rosh Hashanah
à tous les membres de la
communauté juive de Laval

I would like to wish a happy
Rosh Hashana
to all the members of the
Jewish community of Laval

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Saturday a washout

Among the many moms, dads and kids taking in the ambience on Sunday afternoon were Jason and his two pre-school kids from Laval's Sainte-Dorothée district. While it was not their

first time visiting the nature park, it was their first foray onto the vast grounds during a Fête de la famille celebration.

While Saturday may have been a rainy washout for some who'd planned to attend the first day of the outdoor celebration, the good news was that all-day sunshine prevailed on Sunday.

The city decided to stage a two-day celebration this year, instead of a single day as usual, given fact that 2025 is the 60th anniversary of the City of Laval's founding in 1965. With an emphasis on sports and games, there was a multitude of activities, shows and hosted activities for children as well as adults.

Fun for everybody

Among the many fun things to do were an



Among the many moms, dads and kids taking in the ambience on Sunday afternoon were Jason and his two pre-school kids from Laval's Sainte-Dorothée district.



One of the many wandering acrobatic performers at Laval's two-day celebration of families at the Centre de la nature.



Pasty-faced stiltwalkers were among the entertainers who kept parents and kids alike entertained during this year's Fête de la famille at the City of Laval's sprawling east-end nature conservation park.

overhead Zip Line, a climbing wall, a dance workshop, sports challenges, an exposition of public works heavy equipment, members of the Laval Rocket hockey team, officers from the Laval Police with their mascot Flair, BMX stunt bike riding and an initiation to pumptrack cycling.

There were also science workshops, nature talks and exhibits, a mobile library, giant games, digital challenges with the Laval public library's Espace numérique, an exposition of archeological artifacts, and a section about animal protection.

*Nos meilleurs vœux à la communauté juive de Laval
à l'occasion de Roch Hachana*

*Our best wishes to the Jewish community of Laval
on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah*



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



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

Canadians see cost of living, housing, and healthcare as bigger threat than Trump's policies

BY EDDIE SHEPPARD & DAVID COLETTA

As the Liberal cabinet meets this week and Parliament prepares to resume, new polling shows a growing divide between what Canadians want their leaders to prioritize and what they believe Ottawa is actually focused on. Between August 28 and September 2, 2025, Abacus Data conducted a national poll with 1,500 Canadians (aged 18+) to explore whether Canadians feel the federal government is directing its attention to the issues that matter most, both at home and abroad.

While Canadians recognize that managing Donald Trump's policies is critically important – especially for trade, security, and the economy – many fear it may be taking too much attention away from urgent challenges at home, like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs.

A perception gap at the heart of politics

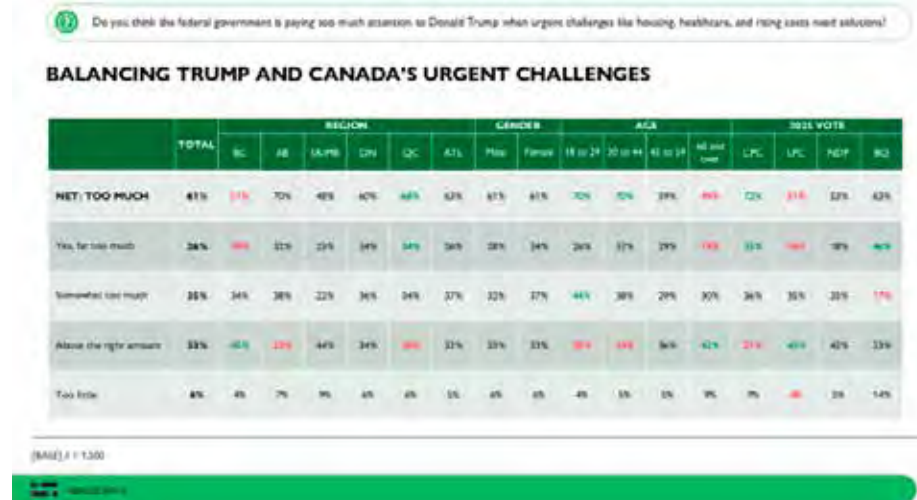
Six in ten Canadians (61%) believe the federal

government is paying too much attention on Donald Trump when urgent domestic challenges – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – need solutions, while just one in three (33%) think Ottawa is focusing the right amount of attention to Trump.

It's worth noting that while dealing with the Trump administration and securing a trade deal is critical to many of those same domestic issues, there is a gap in people's views.

This concern cuts across demographics. Younger Canadians are especially critical, with 70% of those aged 18–44 saying the government is too focused on Donald Trump. Even among Liberal voters, more than half (51%) believe their government is distracted by Trump when pressing domestic problems remain unresolved (compared to 45% who believe it is the right amount of attention).

As Parliament gets set to resume, this perception gap will shape how Canadians judge the government's performance, and whether they believe Ottawa can balance international chal-



lenges with urgent priorities at home. It's also an important signal for government to really think about how it frames the work its doing and whether or not its reaching all audiences with its communications.

Next 2 years: domestic issues seen as the greater threat

When looking ahead to the next two years, most Canadians see domestic challenges as the bigger threat:

- 60% say issues like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs pose the greatest risk to the country.
- 40% believe Trump's policies and unpredictability are the larger danger.

Younger Canadians are especially concerned about domestic challenges, while older Canadians are more evenly split. Politically,

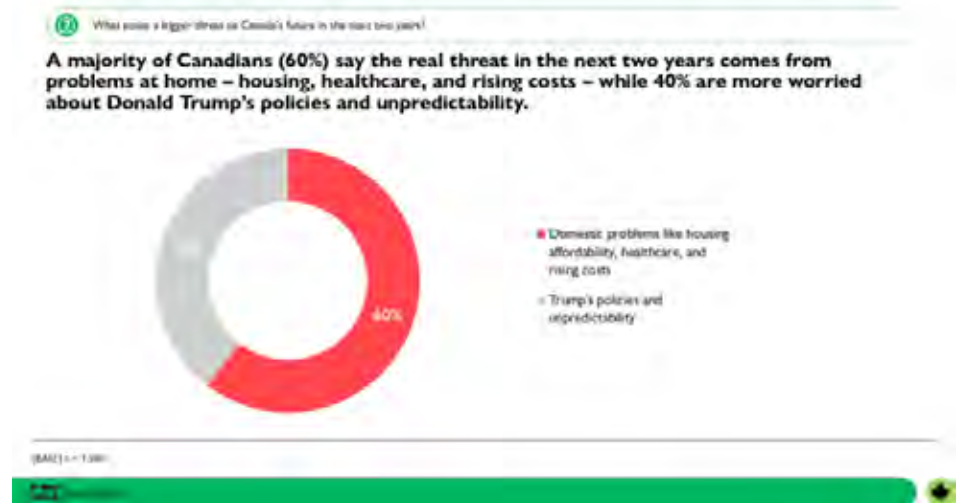
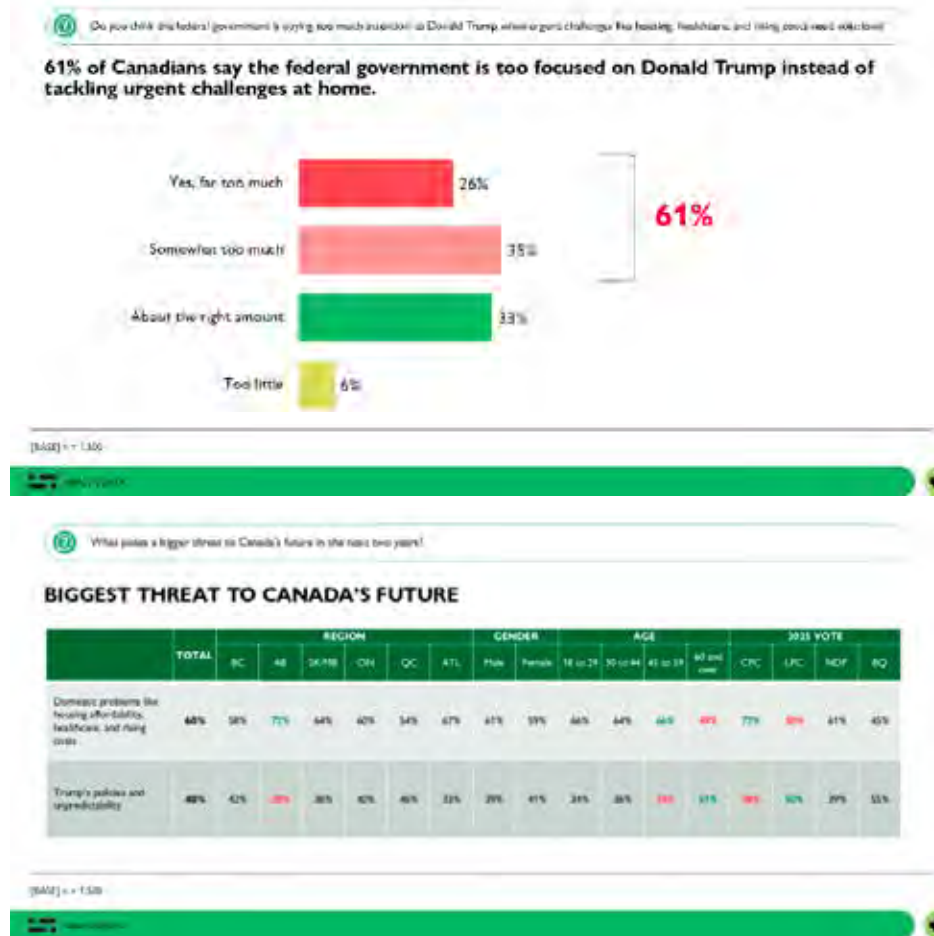
Conservative voters are far more likely to see domestic crises as the bigger danger, while Liberal voters are evenly divided.

This indicates that while Canadians understand the significance of Trump's influence, their priority remains solving urgent problems at home. To build their trust, the federal government must clearly demonstrate how tackling global challenges will lead to meaningful, tangible improvements in Canadians' everyday lives, showing how actions on the world stage directly translate into progress on housing, healthcare, and affordability.

Families are feeling the strain

This sentiment becomes even sharper at the personal level. Nearly eight in ten Canadians

► Continued on page 17

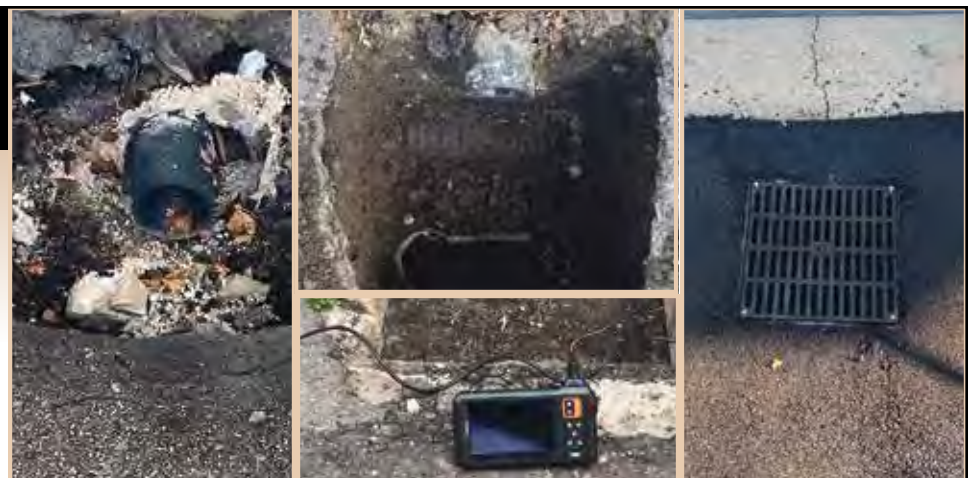


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Q3 At this point, should Canada's leaders spend more time:

Currently, three in four Canadians (76%) say the country's leaders should prioritize fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home, while just 24% want them focused on managing the impact of Trump's policies.

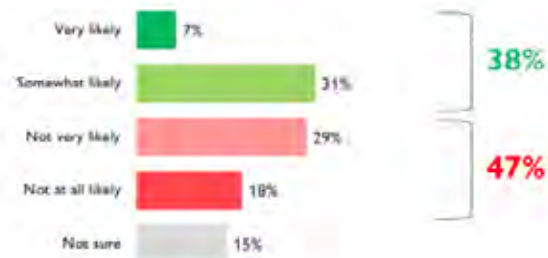


■ Fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home
■ Managing the impact of Trump's policies

(BASE) n = 1,500

Q3 How likely do you think it is that Mark Carney will secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump?

Canadians are split on whether Mark Carney could secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump: 38% believe such a deal is likely, while 47% consider it unlikely.



(BASE) n = 1,500

◀ Continued from page 16

(79%) say rising costs, housing, and healthcare will have a greater impact on their families over the next two years than U.S. tariffs or trade policies (21%).

Again, this suggests that people may not understand the relationship between Trump's trade policies and domestic micro-economic and social issues. The federal government may need to spend more time connecting the dots for Canadians, explaining why getting a deal and why it's focusing so much on getting that deal, is important to everything else.

This perspective cuts across all regions, age groups, and political leanings, with the strongest concern among middle-aged Canadians juggling mortgages, childcare, and aging parents (83% of 30-44 and 86% of 45-59). Even among Liberal voters, 71% admit their day-to-day struggles are shaped far more by domestic affordability challenges than by Trump's actions abroad.

What Canadians want leaders to prioritize

Three in four Canadians (76%) believe federal leaders should spend more time fixing problems at home – housing, healthcare, and affordability – while just 24% want them focused on managing Trump's policies.

This consensus spans party lines: 82% of Conservative voters and 69% of Liberal supporters agree that domestic issues must come first.

The takeaway for Ottawa is clear: Canadians expect their leaders to keep their eyes firmly on challenges at home, even while managing the complexities of the U.S. relationship.

Canadians divided on Trump and trade

While Canadians want their leaders to focus on domestic issues, they also recognize that Trump matters. But they are divided on whether Prime Minister Mark Carney can successfully navigate a trade deal – 38% believe Carney is likely to secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Trump while 47% believe it is unlikely. Younger Canadians and Liberal voters tend to be more optimistic, while older Canadians and Conservatives are far more skeptical.

This split highlights two things. One, that many Canadians don't think a secure and fair trade deal with the U.S. is likely to happen – either because they don't think Trump will ever agree to one or because they don't think the Carney government can achieve it. Second, it also suggests that only a small minority of Canadians expect one to be reached, providing evidence that the Carney government may not be blamed if a good deal is not achieved.

Exhaustion with Trump coverage

Perhaps the strongest signal in the data is emotional: 85% of Canadians say they are tired of hearing about Donald Trump.

This fatigue is shared across the political spectrum – 87% of Conservative voters and 82% of

Liberal voters feel the same way.

Canadians understand that managing Trump and his policies is important, but they don't want it dominating headlines or overshadowing the urgent problems they face at home – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – that demand immediate attention.

The upshot

Managing Trump's unpredictability is undeniably important for Canada's future and a key concern for governments at every level. Getting it right creates an opportunity to build trust and momentum, showing Canadians that skillful management of global challenges can lead to stability, growth, and meaningful improvements in their daily lives. Getting it wrong, however, could derail progress on every other priority, undermining public confidence and leaving Canadians feeling unprotected both at home and abroad.

This is where the perception gap emerges. While Ottawa may view global negotiations and U.S. relations as essential to Canada's long-term stability, most Canadians are focused on the here and now – housing they can afford, healthcare they can access, and rising costs they can manage. For many, these urgent domestic crises feel disconnected from the government's trade agenda, fueling a sense that their immediate struggles are being overshadowed by debates and decisions that seem distant from their daily lives.

To close this gap, Ottawa must help Canadians see the connections between the macro and the micro. Decisions about trade, cross-bor-

Q3 At this point, should Canada's leaders spend more time:

CANADIAN LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

	TOTAL	BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	Man	Female	18 to 29	30 to 44	45 to 59	60 and over	Cons	Lib	NDP	EQ
Fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home	76%	74%	81%	81%	77%	75%	85%	74%	77%	77%	81%	79%	80%	80%	67%	87%	72%
Managing the impact of Trump's policies	24%	26%	19%	19%	23%	25%	15%	26%	23%	23%	19%	21%	20%	20%	33%	13%	28%

(BASE) n = 1,500

der tensions, and economic stability need to be clearly linked to tangible, local benefits. Canadians need to understand how actions taken on the global stage lead to shorter ER waits, more affordable groceries, and greater housing stability. Voters are open to growth and stability narratives – but only if they feel real, relevant, and fair.

As Parliament resumes, the challenge for the Liberals isn't just navigating Trump; it's convincing Canadians that their government understands what matters most to them and can deliver on it. This means demonstrating that every move – whether a trade negotiation or a response to Trump's policies – has a direct and visible payoff for Canadians at home.

For the Conservatives, the opportunity lies in positioning themselves as the party laser-focused on the everyday struggles Canadians face. By framing the Liberals as distracted by international affairs and disconnected from real-world challenges, they can make the case that they are the party best equipped to restore balance and put domestic priorities first.

In the months ahead, the battle won't just be about Trump or trade deals. It will be about whether Canadians believe their government understands what they need and is focused on delivering it. The party that closes this perception gap will not only win the political debate but will define the direction of the country heading into the next election.

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Things to do



UPCOMING

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

<div> CINÉBOIS <i>Outdoors, cinema</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 12 6 – 9:30 PM</p> <p>Bois de l'Équerre (CANOPÉE) 4204 boulevard Industriel, H7L 0E3</p> <p>Memorable screening of the documentary Urban Forests directly on one of its filming sites, the Bois de l'Équerre wasteland.</p> <p><i>Free, ticket required</i></p> </div>	<div> OPEN-AIR CONCERT <i>Outdoors, music</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 13 7 - 8 PM</p> <p>Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles 345 boulevard Sainte-Rose, H7L 1M7</p> <p>Laval duo Émilis, featuring violinist Émilie Durocher de Grandpré and guitarist Louis Fortin; bring your camping chairs and blankets.</p> <p><i>Free, reserve online</i></p> </div>	<div> FLEURS MARINEAU FESTIVAL <i>Agrotourism</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>Until September 14 Saturdays and Sundays, 9 AM</p> <p>Ferme Marineau 4356 boulevard Dagenais O, H7R 1L5</p> <p>Sunflower trails, flower picking, corn mazes, music shows, artisanal creamery, farmer's market, mini farm, and more.</p> <p><i>Family plan: \$52.95</i></p> </div>	<div> YOGA IN HARMONY <i>Physical activity</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 18 6 - 7 PM</p> <p>Bois de l'Équerre (CANOPÉE) 4204 boulevard Industriel, H7L 0E3</p> <p>Treat yourself to a moment of well-being on a beautiful Sunday with a gentle yoga session for all levels, guided by Naturaktive.</p> <p><i>Free, reserve online</i></p> </div>
<div> PARTY COUNTRY <i>Outdoors, music, party</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 19 6 - 11 PM</p> <p>Ferme Forget 7901 avenue Marcel-Villeneuve, H7A 0H9</p> <p>Get your cowboy boots, your hat, and your gang ready; Ferme Forget is preparing a wicked party for you with the Winslow Dancers gang.</p> <p><i>\$20 + tax</i></p> </div>	<div> ENTRE-DEUX ARTISTIQUE <i>Culture</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>Until September 23 12:15 PM</p> <p>Station culturelle Momo 1950 rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 5H9</p> <p>Lunchtime dance performances designed especially for students and workers in the Montmorency area.</p> <p><i>Free</i></p> </div>	<div> ROSALIE VAILLANCOURT <i>Humour</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 26 8 PM</p> <p>Salle André-Mathieu 475 boulevard de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9</p> <p><i>"Without taboos and without realizing that what I say is often ultra embarrassing, I promise to make you laugh out loud."</i></p> <p><i>Starting at \$39.50</i></p> </div>	<div> BOUCAR DIOUF <i>Humour</i> </div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>September 28 3 PM</p> <p>Salle André-Mathieu 475 boulevard de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9</p> <p>Nomo Sapiens, "between Homo and Nono Sapiens", is a humorous journey to the heart of the strengths and weaknesses of our great intelligence.</p> <p><i>Starting at \$51.60</i></p> </div>



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\$80,000 in fire damages blamed on a broken microwave oven

The owners of a home on Chicoutimi Avenue in Laval's Duvernay district are \$80,000 in the hole after a fire that is believed to have been set off by a malfunctioning microwave oven.

Around 5:15 pm on Sunday September 7, Laval firefighters received a call via 9-1-1 and were on the scene five minutes later.

A paramedic crew from Urgences Santé was dispatched to the scene to deal with at least one smoke inhalation casualty, but Laval Fire Dept. firefighters had things under control in a short time.

Damages to the structure of the house were estimated at \$60,000, with an additional \$20,000 damages to interior furnishings. Fire investigators were able to pinpoint the origin of the blaze as being in the kitchen.



Former Laval-Ouest gas station turned restaurant burns up

A former roadside gas station on Arthur Sauvé Blvd. in Laval-Ouest was reduced to rubble on August 26 in a fire that the LFD has turned over to the police for an arson investigation.

The Moyasu Sushi Fusion restaurant at 949 Arthur Sauvé was torched overnight from August 25-26. It took LFD personnel just 30 minutes to get it under control, but by then the damage was done.

The LFD had been to the same address for a report of a fire the day before.

Vehicles torched at 440 Ford car dealership

Arsonists are believed to have been responsible for vehicle fires that broke out in the parking lot at the 440 Ford car dealership on Chomedey Blvd. overnight on September 8.

Around 2 am, a call was received by Laval Police from a witness that several parked cars were aflame, bringing Laval Fire Dept. personnel rapidly to the scene.

After LFD fire investigators quickly found evidence of accelerants being used to start the blaze, they transferred the dossier to the police for a criminal investigation, including forensic examination for fingerprint and DNA evidence.

According to news reports, the car dealership had also been the target of an arson attack in April 2024. No arrests were reported as of earlier this week in conjunction with either incident.

Water main break on residential street in Laval nearly swallows car

A water main break on Rue Adrien in Laval's St-François sector caused the ground under a parked car to collapse, almost submerging the vehicle.

City of Laval crews were repairing the road, closing a 150-metre stretch of the street.

"Our teams were informed of a leak accompanied by subsidence of the roadway on Adrien Street in St-François," the city said in a statement.

"They immediately intervened to secure the area by installing a safety perimeter and began assessing the necessary corrective work, including the condition of gas lines and other underground infrastructure.

"Following this assessment, a team was mobilized today to carry out the required repairs and restore traffic," added the statement.

"The water main has been repaired, and work continues to fully restore the area. Residents' water supply was not interrupted during the work."

As a precaution, the city issued a boil water advisory for residents. Crews were still investigating the cause of the leak.

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3 ways to have fun with soap bubbles

Are you looking for a way to make soap bubbles even more fun? Here are three things to try this summer.

1. INFINITY SERPENTS

Ask an adult to help you cut the bottom off a plastic water or pop bottle. Put a stocking on the bottle to cover the hole. Secure it with a rubber band and tape. Then, dip the stocking-covered bottom into soapy water. When you blow into the neck of the bottle, you'll make bubbles shaped like long snakes. Just be careful not to inhale so you don't swallow the soap.



2. EXPLODED ART

Pour soapy water into several containers and add different food colouring shades to each. Blow bubbles onto a large sheet of paper. As the bubbles burst, they'll leave unique and colourful patterns. Hang your artwork on the fridge or use the paper for gift wrap and other crafts.

3. FRIENDLY COMPETITION

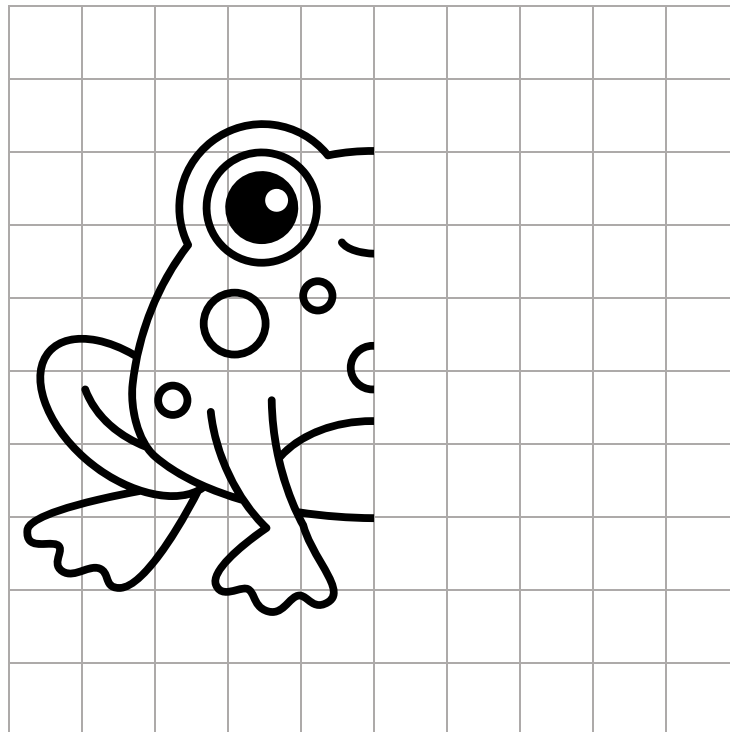
Hold a contest with your siblings or friends to see who can make the biggest bubble. You can also try creating a track on a piece of cardboard to see who can make their bubble go the farthest without bursting.

Blowing bubbles is a simple activity that can provide hours of fun!

If you want to make extra-large bubbles, pass a rope through two straws to create a square form. Blow soapy water through this form and watch what happens!

KIDZONLINE MIRROR IMAGE

DRAW THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE PICTURE YOU SEE



3 amazing — and very useful — robots!

Many famous fictional robots exist, including Wall-E, R2-D2, Optimus Prime and Astro. However, real robots can do all sorts of things, too. Here are three robots that will impress you.

1. THE SUPERHERO ROBOT DOG

Dogs are your best friend! An American company has developed an ultra-sophisticated robot that mimics dog-like movements. This agile robot can perform various tasks, such as inspecting and transporting equipment in dangerous or hard-

to-reach areas. This fearless robot performs risky tasks in buildings that could collapse, underground mines and nuclear power stations.

2. THE WOLF SCARECROW ROBOT

As you know, scarecrows scare away animals that damage gardens and fields. In some parts of Japan, hungry bears were terrorizing the local population and destroying crops. The solution? Make ugly wolf-like robots to scare them away. And it works! The bears run

away when these robots move and make different sounds, including howling, hunter voices and gunshots.

3. THE INTELLIGENT MESSAGE ROBOT

Do you want a relaxing massage, but the idea of being touched by someone you don't know makes you a little uneasy? Some establishments now offer their customers the chance to be massaged by a robot. Equipped with artificial intel-

ligence and sophisticated sensors, the robot does exactly what you ask. Interesting, isn't it?

Robots have many surprising uses!



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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

UNFAIR PRACTICES

Q I work for a small company that offers several online courses that start new every month. The start date is the third Wednesday of the month.

Three weeks in advance, I requested an hour off on the Monday of last month's start week, to take my daughter for her one-year checkup and shots. My boss denied the request because it was a start week. Then she sent an email emphatically stating that no time off will be given during start week.

This was last month. This month another new mother in my department took the actual start day completely off to take her daughter to the doctor for a checkup and shots. She was allowed to do this by our boss.

Because of her denial for my hour's early leave, I had to reschedule my daughter, making her two months late for this checkup and shots. This seems to be a double standard, and I am unsure how to approach this issue.

Millie

A Millie, a few years ago primatologists Frans de Waal and Sarah Brosnan reported an experiment they did with capuchin monkeys. Capuchins like cucumbers but they love grapes.

The capuchins were trained to exchange pebbles for food, and when one monkey got a grape for a pebble, while another got cucumber, the second monkey was miffed. That monkey might throw the cucumber away or refuse to pay a pebble for it.

de Waal noted that we are taught to believe fairness is an idea developed by wise people. Actually, the idea may be wired into our genes. That's why you feel angry, insulted, and embarrassed.

The question is, what to do about it? The standard advice says communication is the key. Don't get emotional, document what happened, and pick an opportune time to discuss this with your boss. But if you

felt you could talk to your boss, or if your company had firm procedures, you would not be writing.

Here's the problem. Shove the idea of fair play into the face of someone who does not play fair, and it could backfire. Whistleblowers don't usually get rewarded. They get sacked. And people who hold grudges remember every slight, every roll of the eyes, and every slow response to, "I'm right, aren't I?"

There are only two good answers to unfairness in the workplace: rank so high in the social network you are protected, or perform your job so well you are indispensable. You'd like to have an hour-long bitchfest with your girlfriend, drown your sorrows in chocolate cake, and then tell your boss where to go. But you know that won't do any good.

What will help is asking yourself the most basic questions. Why did someone get a day off when I could not get off even for an hour? Am I held in low esteem here? Are the rules quirky and capricious? Is my boss unapproachable? Answer those questions and a strategy will emerge.

If communication is out of the question, make sure the favored people don't know of your resentment and find an outlet for your anger. We don't normally recommend this kind of gamesmanship because it comes with a high emotional cost. Unfairness makes us wear even more of a masked face than we typically wear in public.

If you are deeply upset with what happened yet powerless to change it, you have to get out of that zone. Tonight, instead of watching a movie on Netflix, spend two hours working over your resume, looking at job postings, or upgrading your skills.

We have to react productively to the foibles of those in power. If you believe the chef will spit on your food if you send it back, the only power you have is not to go there again.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO: LE SAUVAGE BRIAN.

Please be advised that an application concerning:

- Order the defendant to pay the plaintiff, the total amount of \$5,602.24 in damages, together with interest and the additional indemnity provided for in Article 1619 of the Civil Code of Québec.
- Order the defendant to pay costs.

Bearing number 906869 36 2025 829 Application number 4884647 with respect to dwelling located at: 334, 13^{ième} rue, Laval, H7N 1R9 has been filed against you with the *Tribunal administratif du logement*.

You can read the application by visiting the office of the *Tribunal administratif du logement* located at: Tribunal administratif du logement, Address: 1434 blvd. Daniel-Johnson, 2nd Floor, Laval Qc, H7V 4B5.

Montreal, Laval and Longueuil: 514 873-BAIL (2245)

Elsewhere: 1 800 683-BAIL (2245).

This notice is published pursuant to a decision rendered on 2025-09-03 by Anne-Marie Forget of the *Tribunal administratif du logement* in record number 906869 36 20250829.

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1

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HOROSCOPE

Week of September 14 to 20, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

This week, you'll be in high demand with your clients and loved ones. Your efficiency will put you in the spotlight. If you're single, love may surprise you when you least expect it.



TAURUS

Don't be surprised if you find yourself falling in love this week—with a vehicle! If you're patient, the salesperson could sweeten the deal with an even better offer. At work, your team will support you when your workload feels overwhelming.



GEMINI

Take a fresh look at your budget. You might find you can afford a little more luxury, like an unforgettable romantic getaway. Change will be highly beneficial at work, especially if you overcome your fear of the unknown.



CANCER

It's time for change, whether in your relationship, household or work life. Let your emotions settle, and resist the urge to make hasty decisions. Some decisions take time to think through; impulsiveness won't serve you well.



LEO

Your loved ones will encourage you to do more to treat yourself. You may decide to indulge in self-pampering, perhaps with a new look or by following the advice of an expert. Calm your anxiety to regain your energy.



VIRGO

Get ready to steal the spotlight this week as you attract attention in unexpected ways. You'll lead a group that will acknowledge your hard work. A well-deserved promotion awaits you. You'll be recognized for your achievements.



LIBRA

If a joyful event, like a birth, is on the horizon for your family, you may also experience a home relocation in the near future. Be sensitive to those around you who may feel vulnerable during this time; your support will mean a lot to them.



SCORPIO

Prepare for lively discussions, especially at work, where you'll be at the heart of the conversation. This is your chance to expand your professional and personal networks. You'll forge new friendships, leading to enjoyable, enriching experiences.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll manage to get out of a tricky financial situation this week. You must carefully choose your words to persuade those around you. In your love life, clear and open communication will help strengthen your relationship.



CAPRICORN

You'll have to make a decision without having all the facts. Trust your instincts and judgment to make the right choice. Avoid long-term financial commitments this week, as they could add unnecessary stress.



AQUARIUS

A tempting work proposal will come your way. Take the time to discuss it with your loved ones before deciding, even if it's your dream job. In your relationship, affection will come naturally as soon as you're in the right mindset to receive it.



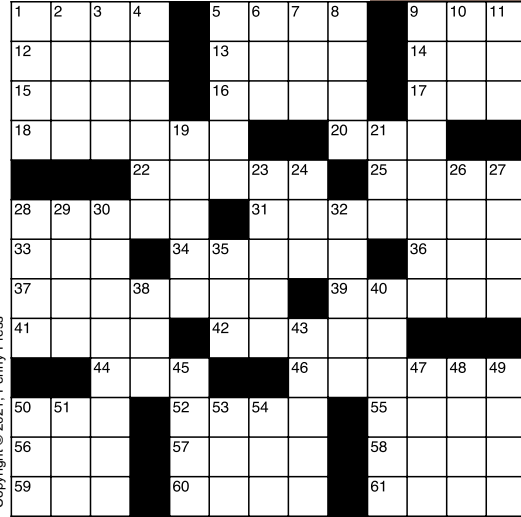
PISCES

You'll spend a lot of time on social media this week. If you want to reignite passion in your relationship, consider doing more to include your partner in your activities. At work, your expertise will be invaluable to your team.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 287



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ACROSS

1. "____ Old House"
5. Untidy condition
9. For what ____ worth
12. Sprint
13. Kind of exam
14. Touch-me-____
15. Higher than
16. City auto
17. Bashful
18. Cease
20. ____ your request
22. African shrubs
25. Dancer's jump
28. Winesap, e.g.
31. Wrap
33. Grief
34. Choice group
36. Alter a skirt
37. Springy
39. Legal papers
41. Mediocre: hyph.
42. Literary composition

DOWN

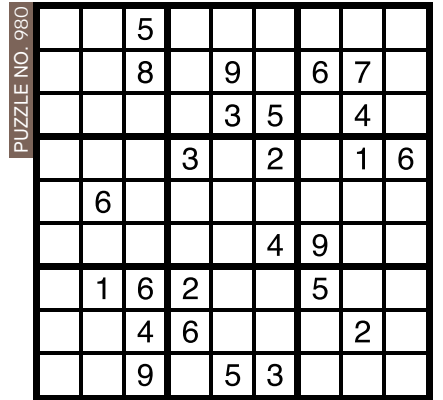
44. Promos
46. Small earthquake
50. Restrict
52. Up to the task
55. Volcanic flow
56. Appear onstage
57. Glide aloft
58. Separate article
59. Word of permission
60. Goldie ____ of films
61. Animal shelters
11. Porker's pen
19. Icy rain
21. Forest animal
23. Heroic stories
24. Posed
26. Like some wine
27. Church furniture
28. Fills with wonder
29. Game on horseback
30. Farm laborers
32. Fragrant wood
35. Falsehood
38. Grass-covered ground
40. Facial feature
43. Rigid
45. Soft belt
47. Chess term
48. Kitchen cooker
49. Flock papas
50. ____ leaf
51. Maven
53. Feathered neckwear
54. Decree

Sudoku

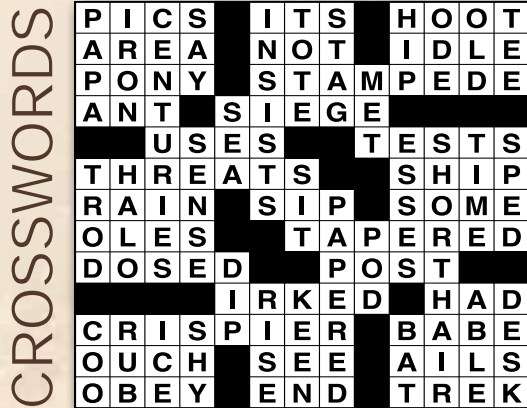
HOW TO PLAY:

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

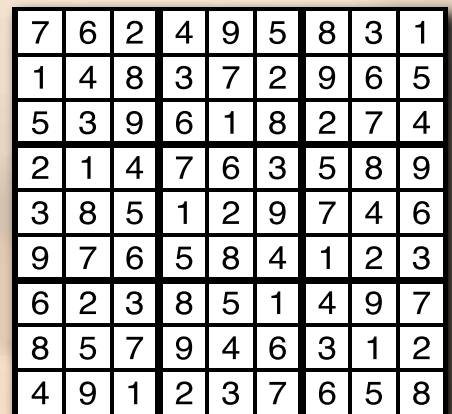
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.



Last Issue's Answers



Sudoku



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