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From all of us here at Newsfirst Multimedia, we wish you  
**Happy Holidays!**  
Our next edition will be published on **JANUARY 7, 2026**

## Boyer asks Carney to amend criminal code



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Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer is seen here with CCIL CEO Caroline De Guire, as well as several Laval city council members and some of the greater Montreal mayors who attended the chamber of commerce gathering. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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## 2026 Laval budget

## Laval's Greek floor hockey team wins cup



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Laval English-speaking Senior Wellness Centre

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# Councillors pay their respects to former colleague Jocelyne Frédéric Gauthier

*Former police chief Brochet also thanked at December meeting of Laval city council*

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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The December meeting of Laval city council began on a somber note, with city councillors and members of the audience observing a minute of silence in memory of former city councillor Jocelyne Frédéric Gauthier who passed away in November at age 69 at Laval's Cité-de-la-Santé hospital.

## A minute of silence

The three-term councillor for the district of Auteuil had been under treatment for cancer for a year. She had been one of the initial supporters of the Mouvement lavallois which came to power in Laval city council in 2013 around five years after the party was first created.

Flags in front of Laval city hall on Souvenir Blvd. (currently closed for extensive renovations) were placed at half-mast in recognition of Frédéric Gauthier's passing.

"Up to the moment of her last breath, Jocelyne was able to take care of the needs of her citizens, while being the mother of her two grown-up sons and while being there for the whole community," said Cecilia Macedo, speaker and president of the city council. "Thank you for all your work, dear Jocelyne," she continued. "You were a pioneer."

## Police chief's departure

During a period for new business and councillors' special statements, Saint-François city councillor Isabelle Piché noted the recently-announced resignation and departure of Laval Police Dept. director Pierre Brochet after 12 years service.

Brochet, whose functions with the LPD end officially on January 9, is going to work for Mouvement Desjardins where he has been hired as vice-president of corporate security.

"Normally the career of a police officer lasts 30 years," said Piché, a member of the Action Laval opposition party. "Mr. Brochet is now in his 40<sup>th</sup> year of service, including 12 with the Laval Police. It's been a long and marvelous career for a policeman."

While noting that Brochet began work in Laval in 2012 when the city had been placed under trusteeship, she said he learned to navigate within that environment and led the police in Laval "with great skill and great wisdom."

## Left his mark on department

"I think we're going to be losing a great leader for our police," added Piché. "Mr. Brochet, the Laval Police service will carry your mark for a long time, I am certain. I wish you the greatest happiness and success in the new challenge that awaits you."

Also paying homage to police chief Brochet was Mouvement lavallois city councillor for Sainte-Rose Flavia Alexandra Novac.

"We can affirm proudly that he showed great leadership within the organization," she said, noting that it was Brochet who created the Bureau d'intégrité et d'éthique de Laval (BIEL), which was one of the measures instituted by the Mouvement lavallois as part of an anti-corruption undertaking.

"On behalf of the municipal council, we thank you Mr. Brochet for your remarkable work," she added.

## Dead-end on Cyrille-Delage

During the public question period, Daniel Guilbault from the district of Auteuil led a group of a dozen property owners from rue Cyrille-Delage to table a petition asking the city to open up a portion of their dead-end street where there has been no development for several decades.

In a statement Guilbault read out to the mayor and council, he noted that Laval city council enacted loan by-laws for the street in 2004, while passing on the expense to nearby property owners to pay for the installation of stormwater and wastewater sewer pipes.

"The owners have paid between \$2.5 - \$3 million in taxes over the past 21 years and you continue to tax us," said Guilbault. "The owners have a right to receive services for the taxes they

Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer answers a resident's questions during the December 9 meeting of city council. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



contributed. In my work as an accountant, I have to tell you right up, this type of situation is considered legalized theft."

## Not in the PTI budget

He went on to ask Mayor Stéphane Boyer why the development of rue Cyrille-Delage is still not included in the city's three-year public works spending budget (PTI). Responding, the mayor explained that the PTI doesn't always provide detailed street-by-street information for public works projects.

He suggested that Councillor Ray Khalil, who is vice-president of the executive-committee and responsible for development dossiers, meet with Guilbault and the other residents in order to become better acquainted with their situation.

# Opposition parties 2026 budget reaction

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While at least one of Laval city council's two opposition parties gave an unqualified thumbs-down to the latest annual budget tabled by the Boyer administration, the "official" opposition Parti Laval was more reserved earlier this week when asked by the Laval News for a reaction to the city's 2026 budget.

"Paying more taxes for fewer services," is how Parti Laval leader Claude Larochelle (formerly the councillor for Fabreville) summed up the party's reaction. "That's what awaits Laval residents in the coming years," he said.

## At the breaking point

"Laval has reached its breaking point," he continued. "We aren't investing enough money in our underground sewer and water infrastructure, there's no real program to help citizens protect themselves against climate events, we're cutting important services, but are we raising taxes?"

"I said it at the beginning of the year, this is Stéphane Boyer's legacy: the debt is exploding, the financial reserves are depleted. Families will have to pay the price," he added.

« Since 2021, we have maintained the illusion of the city's financial capacity by depleting reserves, increasing debt and ignoring problems," said

Parti Laval city councillor for Marc-Aurèle-Fortin Louise Lortie.

"The Boyer administration misled the public with numerous promises. The mayor prioritized his mega-projects. Now, citizens are faced with tax increases and dwindling services. Unfortunately, this was predictable and could have been avoided."

## Costly projects criticized

Action Laval, which won two seats in the November municipal elections but holds the status of a second and unofficial opposition, responded to the well over one-billion-dollar budget with accusations of overspending and poor planning by the Mouvement lavallois administration led by Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

The party is more specific than the Parti Laval in its criticism of the 2026 budget, targeting such areas as the construction of the new municipal library system's downtown headquarters, the ongoing renovation of City Hall on Souvenir Blvd., and the construction of a new municipal court building next to City Hall.

Before that, however, Action Laval noted that the 4.3 per cent overall property tax hike on single-family residences in the 2026 budget (compared to 1.9 per cent last year) is not in keeping with a claim Mayor Boyer had made to keep the increase in line with the prevailing rate of inflation.

## Tax hike exceeds inflation

"His budget is 4.3 per cent and the inflation rate is 2.1 per cent," said longtime Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis. "So, it's double the inflation rate. This is directly related to his mismanagement of the city's funds."

Regarding the library (La grande Bibliothèque) project, De Cotis said the \$180 million cost to taxpayers was never fully justified as the Boyer administration failed to reveal to opposition party members the detailed costs of the project.

"There were no business studies," he maintained. "All they said was 'trust us, we know what the people want.'" De Cotis also maintained that in a poll conducted outside the Montmorency Metro last year, the vast majority of the respondents had no idea the central library building was going to be built.

## Library project under fire

Furthermore, he claimed that most Laval residents would have preferred to have more library branches in districts rather than a comprehensive central location. "Either you build new ones or you renovate existing ones," De Cotis suggested.

"The fact that you're spending \$180 million just for construction, plus another \$5 - \$7 million just for maintenance, this has a direct impact on the budget. If you compare budgets 2025 and 2026, the budget has increased by almost \$100 million."

Noting that the city is moving to cut back garbage and recycling collections to once every two weeks, De Cotis said "we're removing services, increasing taxes," while building infrastructures "that nobody is asking for. Nobody asked them to build a library at a cost of \$180 million. That's why we're seeing this bad mismanagement of public funds."

## Inflated City Hall renovation costs

Regarding the City Hall renovation project, De Cotis pointed out that it was originally estimated at a little more than \$20 million, but has now reached more than \$70 million. "That is insane – that is mismanagement of public funds," he said.

"That is laughing at the citizens of Laval, saying, 'we're just going to raise taxes, but we don't care how much we spend.' At \$70 million, they're turning this into a luxury hotel – that's what it is – for the mayor of Laval and the city councillors. When it's public funds, you're supposed to be modest in the way that you spend. He's doing the opposite."

In the meantime, the City of Laval is in the midst of building a new municipal courthouse right next to City Hall at a cost of \$45.5 million. While cost overruns are a common occurrence in public construction projects, De Cotis insists that "no one is managing the costs of construction" and "there is no accountability."



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# OPINION & Editorial



## Flash: It's Christmas because of Christ

*All other claims – secular, commercial, social, or cultural pale in comparison to joy of The Birth and freedom bestowed by The Cross*

In this Christmas dream, Christ fills every moment, His radiant presence guiding thoughts, words, and deeds toward love, mercy, and truth. In this imagined-world God's love overflows into every relationship, dissolving fear, resentment, division, war so that families and neighbours can greet one another patiently, in genuine generosity. In it, falsehoods lose their grip as honesty, humility, integrity become everyday companions, even if for just a very special time, creating cultures of trust and mutual respect that strengthen families, communities, and strangers alike.

Within this vision, disease, poverty, and violence are overcome by profound influence of grace and application of justice. Giving becomes natural, each person valued as bearer of dignity and worth. Hearts are healed, friendships repaired, reconciliation shaped, by example of Jesus, who taught and lived in mercy and self-giving. Absence of violence, killing and cruelty arises not from denial of pain but from a renewed capacity to love neighbours as ourselves, guided by the Light richly-described by John the Apostle as true, everlasting, life-giving.

Hope shines through, promise of eternal life grows from faith in Christ. This is not distant theory but living reality that touches the present, inspiring daily routines with purpose, meaning, and hopeful expectancy for what's coming. The season becomes a joyful announcement that sacrificial death of the Risen One, gives way to kindness and prayers as trust placed in God's sovereignty contributes to a future breaking into the present with compassion, mercy, joy, and peace on earth to all good men, women and children.

In this times of a broken world of 2025 A.D., the dream begs for inviting Christ into daily lives. What is there to lose? Begin each day with quiet moments of gratitude, asking for His presence in our intentions and actions. Let small

acts of kindness ripple outward, welcoming outsiders, serving the needy, speaking truth with gentleness, and embracing honesty, even and especially at personal cost.

Sing together in worship, light candles-of-hope, reenact stories of God's faithfulness, letting Christmas become a living reminder that God is with here, loving us completely, promising eternal life to all who trust in Him.

Rejoice in the blessed shared narrative that places Jesus at centre, not as an idea but as presence and light, guiding our earthly journey. To live well is to think with care, speak honestly, and act with empathy toward all. The call is simple: find Christ again, let that encounter shape what's to be done, how to treat others, guiding our days. When love becomes standard and truth service, life gains meaning that outlasts storms throughout all seasons.

The invitation extends beyond personal renewal to shared life of community. Let kindnesses define us, not as performance, but as natural expressions of choosing to walk in God's light. Let integrity be daily-practice, so that what's preached about compassion is visible in patient-listening, fair-dealing, steadfast-support for the vulnerable. Aligning belief with action, inspirational ways of life emerge full-force, tangible, contagious, eternally-precious, perpetually-sacred.

In this Christmas vision, people grow in goodness together. Small acts like listening, helping, encouragement accumulate into larger patterns that honour God, uplifting neighbours. The aim is not perfection but faithful commitment to living by what is professed, inviting others to travel toward life that is meaningful, hopeful, oriented toward goodness.

In our commerce-saturated-age, Christmas becomes surplus rather than a season of meaning, and dare it be said, giving. Yet Christmas essence is timeless: God's gift in Christ, revelation that calls for reordering of desires.

If material abundance crowds out spiritual abundance, then the truest celebration is not found in how much is spent, but in how faithfully lives are loved. The ask is to resist consumerism and return to Christmas-as-daily practice, greeting each morning with gratitude, generosity, renewed commitment to truth and mercy.

To celebrate Christ day-to-day is to cultivate rhythm of small, significant acts, opportunities to meet others' needs, responding with kindness, relieving the overwhelmed, encouraging the discouraged. In hope and doing, Christmas ceases to be the once-a-year pageant, and becomes the guiding principle for living. The miracle, not confined to December 25, unfolds in ordinary moments offered in love, revealing Divine Presence in everyday life.

True joy is built on trust, integrity, and mutual accountability, qualities that contrast hollow displays and empty promises. By prioritizing human dignity and justice, communities embody the light of Christmas long after ornaments are put away. Daily celebrating of silent-night holy-night, sanctifies the gift-of-life, honouring the Christ who gives life-with-purpose, inviting others to shed materialism and embrace love, truth, and kindness.

As the Christmas season fills our homes and hearts with joy, The Laval News extends warmest wishes to readers and community, a time to cherish moments bringing us together, to reaffirm family and friends, looking ahead with hope.

May the spirit of Christmas bring comfort, compassion, and renewed strength to each of you. As we step into a new year, may it be a time of healing, opportunity, and brighter days for our families, neighbors, and the community we share.

Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, and peaceful New Year to all.

Renata Isopo

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# Boyer asks Carney to amend criminal code, amidst extortion and intimidation resurgence

Following a renewed crime wave in Laval involving the extortion and intimidation of local businesses, Mayor Stéphane Boyer told a meeting of Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry stakeholders earlier this month that he's hoping Prime Minister Mark Carney will amend the criminal code so that Laval and other cities can better defend their businesses and residents.

As the CCIL's members entered the final stretch of a year marked by both major challenges and significant progress for businesses, industries and merchants, the CCIL hosted seven mayors at the Laval Sheraton for the CCIL's last political forum of the season.

## Vision and priorities

On December 4, they welcomed Mayor Boyer as their guest of honour. He presented his vision, priorities, while previewing some of the major projects to shape Laval in the coming years.

The invited mayors included Doreen Assaad, Mayor of Brossard, Marc Lamarre, Mayor of Saint-Eustache, Denis Martin, Mayor of Deux-Montagnes, Marie-Elaine Pitre, Mayor of Rosemère, Liza Poulin, Mayor of Blainville, and Guillaume Tremblay, Mayor of Mascouche.

"Their presence clearly demonstrates the regional interest in the issues facing Laval," the CCIL said in a statement. "It also serves as a

reminder that our development has a direct impact on the entire surrounding region, where the challenges related to mobility, the workforce, planning and growth are all closely interconnected."

## Says Laval is short-changed

In an address to the CCIL members, Mayor Boyer maintained that the City of Laval receives far less in subsidies from the provincial government than Quebec's other major cities. The Laval region is the region where there is the least investment in Quebec on a per-resident basis, he asserted.

While most regions of the province received subsidies ranging from a few thousand dollars up to \$15,000 per resident, with Montreal and Quebec City getting up to \$20-\$25 thousand per inhabitant, Laval receives just \$9,000, according to Boyer.

"This is something which is happening year after year and it's something that has to change," he said. "Laval is now the third-largest city in Quebec, but we receive very little from the government."

## Projet Vigilance initiative

The gathering was taking place just a day or two after the Laval Police launched Projet Vigilance,

a law enforcement initiative dealing with an upsurge of extortions against restaurant and business owners primarily in Laval's Chomedey district.

"This is something that is resurging at this moment in Laval, Montreal and on the South Shore," said Mayor Boyer, alluding to the fact Laval saw a surge in similar crimes a few years back which was successfully dealt with for a time by the police before the latest escalation.

"We are seeing something happening in organized crime where certain groups are struggling to make a place for themselves," he continued. "We are working very hard at the police service but also at other levels to get a handle on this phenomenon. We have more police officers, we are ready to reinforce resources for investigations, more police presence on the streets, more prevention among youths."

## Underage law breakers

With that, Mayor Boyer also noted a tactic increasingly being used by organized criminals: they recruit adolescents to carry out intimidation and threats, without the legal consequences they would normally be subject to as adults.

Longueuil police said last week that they had made two arrests in connection with a scheme that targeted several restaurants in Saint-

Lambert. The threats involved bullets left in envelopes, arson attempts and threats demanding thousands of dollars.

The investigation began after a 16-year-old was sent last summer into three Saint-Lambert businesses to deliver envelopes containing bullets and handwritten threats demanding between \$5,000 and \$7,500.

Within weeks, the threats escalated. An attempted arson was reported the following month. A window at a nearby restaurant was also smashed, and a fire was set, causing damage in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

## No severe penalties, says Boyer

Mayor Boyer said he had recently spoken with Prime Minister Mark Carney to request amendments to the federal criminal code in order to address the situation.

"The criminal code must be revised, because at this moment ts are being used by these people without severe penalties," said Boyer.

"As with prostitution where women are being exploited, there should also be sentences which are exemplary to be as effective as possible. I think the law must be changed in the same way, so that someone who is exploiting teens to commit crimes against businesses should also be treated in an exemplary fashion."



Stéphane Boyer  
Mayor of Laval

## My warmest wishes to the people of Laval

I wish that this holiday season be filled with joy and happy moments shared with your loved ones. Together, let us welcome the future with confidence and enthusiasm, while continuing to care for one another and show kindness.

I also take this festive time to highlight the dedication of our volunteers, who undeniably bring life to our city across so many areas of activity. I extend my gratitude to all those who contribute to making Laval such an exceptional place to live.

On behalf of the municipal council and the City employees, I wish you, dear fellow citizens, a year 2026 filled with serenity, prosperity, and peace.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





# Laval's 2026 budget: A strategic shift toward sustainability and fiscal discipline

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA  
info@newsfirst.ca

The City of Laval has unveiled its **2026 budget**, and while Mayor **Stéphane Boyer** admits it's "boring but necessary," the plan signals a significant shift in priorities. After years of balancing growth with modernization, Laval is now focusing on **financial stability, infrastructure maintenance, and essential services**—all while navigating the lingering effects of inflation and rising operational costs. "This is a budget of transition, not easy to finalize... we're limiting impacts as much as possible," said mayor Boyer. The 2026 budget reflects a cautious approach. Laval is absorbing the impact of inflation from previous years while avoiding sharp tax increases. The city's strategy is clear: **finish ongoing projects, control payroll, and correct long-standing underpricing in water services**. This is not a year for flashy new developments—it's about consolidating and preparing for future challenges.

## Taxation

One of the headline measures is the **freeze on residential property tax rates**, which will come as welcome news to homeowners. However, this stability is offset by a **\$149 increase in the water tax per household**.

- **Single-family homes:** Overall increase of about 4.3%.
- **Condominiums:** Around 5.6%.
- **Businesses and industries:** Between 4% and 5%, including water tax adjustments.

The rationale behind this hike is twofold:

- **Historic underfunding:** For years, Laval residents paid less than the actual cost of water production and distribution.
- **Infrastructure investment:** The city needs to finance the **\$300+ million expansion of its wastewater treatment plant**, a critical project to meet future demand and environmental standards.

## Workforce optimization

To control spending, Laval will **eliminate 100 municipal positions**, representing about **2% of its workforce**. With approximately **4,700 employees**, this reduction aims to streamline operations without compromising essential services.

The administration emphasizes a **"smart and humane" approach**, meaning cuts will be distributed across departments and handled through attrition where possible, rather than abrupt layoffs.

## Infrastructure maintenance

A major philosophical shift is evident in Laval's approach to infrastructure. Historically, the city allocated resources evenly between **new projects** and **maintenance**. In 2026, that ratio changes dramatically:

- **75% of investments** will go toward **maintaining and rehabilitating existing infrastructure**.
- Only **25%** will fund **new projects**.

This means Laval will **pause major new developments** and concentrate on:

- Completing ongoing projects.
- Repairing roads, bridges, and culverts.

- Upgrading water and sewer systems.
- Modernizing municipal facilities like pools, parks, and community centers.

## Capital Investments of \$578M

Under the **Three-Year Capital Program (PTI)**, Laval plans to invest **\$578 million in 2026**. Here's how the funds break down:

- **34.9%** for new infrastructure (roads, water systems, public buildings).
- **65.1%** for rehabilitation and maintenance.

Key initiatives include:

- **Road and bridge repairs** to improve safety and reduce long-term costs.
- **Water and wastewater upgrades**, including treatment plant modernization.
- **Climate resilience projects**, such as storm-water management and flood prevention.
- **Community facility improvements**, ensuring public spaces remain accessible and safe.

## Why These Choices Were Inevitable

Property values surged in Laval's latest assessment roll—up **41% for single-family homes** and **35% overall**. To soften the impact, the city promised to **freeze tax rates** and spread adjustments over three years. This structural backdrop explains why Laval opted for a **rate freeze paired with a targeted water tax increase** in 2026.

In previous budgets, Laval had already begun tightening hiring, re-profiling revenues, and emphasizing pay-as-you-go capital where possible, all to manage inflation without eroding services. The city maintained a strong credit rating and highlighted millions in savings—

signals that prudence is now the guiding principle.

## What Residents Will Feel in 2026

- 1) **Bills and Fees:** Expect a **\$149 increase to the water tax** for dwellings. Property tax rates themselves are **frozen**, but the overall bill for a **single-family home** rises ~4.3%; **condos** ~5.6%; **commercial/industrial** ~4–5% depending on metered water use.
- 2) **Services and Projects:** Fewer new municipal projects—more crews focused on **road resurfacing, bridge repairs, sewer and aqueduct rehabilitation, and plant modernization**.
- 3) **Climate Resilience:** Practical measures like backup power at pump stations, retention basins, and riverbank stabilization aim to **reduce flood risk and sewer overflows**.
- 4) **Workforce and Service Delivery:** The **100-position reduction** will be managed to protect **front-line essentials**. Residents may see **longer timelines** for non-urgent requests as capacity is rebalanced.

## Bottom Line

Laval's 2026 budget is not about ribbon-cuttings; it's a **course correction**: paying the real price of water, shoring up the **underground**, and keeping taxes broadly stable while the city finishes what it started. For residents, the **water tax** will sting, but the city administration believes it's a trade-off for a **stronger, more resilient system**—roads that last longer, plants that withstand storms, and a city less vulnerable to the next "once-in-a-decade" flood.

# Laval Unveils

## Holidays in a Spirit of Solidarity



### Christmas Celebrations and Activities

The holiday season is only a few days away. This is the perfect time to remind ourselves of the various free community activities available close to home! There are many gatherings where you can break your isolation, meet new people, combine useful activities with enjoyable ones, or simply change your thoughts.

First and foremost, if you would like to join a group to celebrate with, take a look at the online calendar of events and activities of local organizations, at [laval.ca](http://laval.ca). Every year, people with common interests share wonderful moments together.



During the holiday season, community centres will also offer a number of free activities for individuals and families. The same goes for libraries, where people like to get together to read, play, discover and share ideas.

Go online to [biblio.laval.ca](http://biblio.laval.ca) to easily find out about the various opportunities offered by the nine libraries.

### Volunteer your time

The holiday season is only a few days away. This is the perfect time to remind ourselves of the various free community activities available close to home! There are many gatherings where you can break your isolation, meet new people, combine useful activities with enjoyable ones, or simply change your thoughts.

### Everyone outdoors

The Christmas holidays are also, of course, the big start of winter activities!

At the Centre de la nature, although special activities come to an end shortly before Christmas, you can still enjoy action-packed days during the holidays. Skating, sledding, cross-country skiing, trekking along the trails, tours of the tropical greenhouse and mini train rides: there is a wide range of activities to choose from all year round.

Parks, regular and refrigerated ice rinks, waterfronts and trails are all great places to get together during the holidays and afterwards. Using the interactive map on our website, you can easily find a sport or leisure activity you like on the island.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026, we hope you have memorable vacation time during the holidays.

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December 17, 2025 • The Laval News • 7



# Shriners Hospital marks 100 years

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**  
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The Shriners Hospital for Children marked its 100th anniversary with an open-house event that brought families inside treatment areas, activity rooms and research spaces rarely seen by the public.

The pediatric orthopedic hospital, which moved to its current site near the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) in 2015, now treats patients from across Canada and abroad.



**Patient Lucas Paul Gurunlian smiles in the lobby of Shriners Hospital as the hospital celebrates its centennial. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)**



**The exterior of Shriners Hospitals for Children, which is celebrating 100 years of care in 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)**

### For visitors

Visitors arrived throughout the afternoon for guided tours, demonstrations and children's workshops. Displays highlighted a century of clinical development, including the hospital's role in treating rare bone disorders and in advancing mobility care.

Among those in attendance was nine-year-old Lucas Paul Gurunlian, who receives treatment at the hospital. He spoke about some of the activities that have helped him during long recovery periods. "When I broke my ribs here, they did like special stuff with arts and crafts," he said.

Gurunlian recalled one memory that stood

out from his visits. "They would watch a movie with popcorn, and I get to meet Santa Claus [...] but on the TV because it was during COVID," he said.

### Staff

Shriners staff positioned the centennial as both a celebration and a statement about the hospital's place in pediatric research.

Acting hospital administrator Kelly Thorstad said the milestone reflects years of development in treatment methods and patient support. She said the open house was meant to highlight "100 years of hope, innovation and healing," and to show families how patient care and research



**Acting hospital administrator Kelly Thorstad, pictured during the 100th anniversary celebrations at Shriners Hospitals for Children. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)**

work together.

Thorstad emphasized that advancements made within the hospital have shaped care across the country. She pointed to the creation of treatment protocols for osteogenesis imperfecta as a milestone that established Shriners as a leader in rare bone disease treatment.

The hospital's open house included science demonstrations, activity rooms for children, and presentations from clinical leaders.

Staff said showing families how care is delivered day-to-day helps the hospital build transparency and trust. Information tables guided visitors through physical therapy tools, surgical approaches and child-life support practices.

**► Continued on page 9**

## FOR SALE

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A Shriners Hospitals staff member demonstrates the pediatric imaging equipment used for orthopedic diagnostics at the Montreal facility. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)

## ◀ Continued from page 8

Nursing leadership also pointed to the role of technology in shaping recovery for young patients. Assistant head nurse Vanessa D'Aquila said access to resources and updated equipment has let staff adapt best-practice guidelines into local care. "There's so many generous donors that provide us with the resources to grasp that new technology and the new way of doing things," she said.



Nurse Vanessa D'Aquila stands in a patient room at the Shriners Hospital Montreal facility during its 100th anniversary year. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)

D'Aquila described spinal surgery recovery as one example where interdisciplinary coordination affects patient outcomes.

Mobilization sometimes begins within hours of waking from major procedures. She said seeing patients return after recovery remains a constant reminder of why long-term rehabilitation work matters.

"Seeing how they recover over the days that follow in the hospital, then coming back to visit us, is one of the most rewarding views that we could have," D'Aquila said.

Research teams continue to evaluate virtual-reality distraction tools to manage pain during certain treatments. Staff said the method has reduced reliance on medication in some cases, though use varies depending on procedure and age.

D'Aquila said VR is used in multiple areas of the hospital. It gives patients a way to stay focused on something other than discomfort while remaining engaged with staff when needed.

### Significance

Shriners Hospital performed more than 1,500 surgeries last year and continues to treat children from about 20 countries.

The centennial event aimed to highlight that reach while positioning the hospital as a continuing research hub in Quebec and Canada.

The hospital's leadership noted that the goal now is to maintain progress while holding to the mandate first set a century ago: specialized pediatric orthopedic care for children, regardless of background or financial status.

The anniversary marked a moment of reflection for staff, researchers and families whose lives have intersected with the institution.

For Gurunlian, the milestone is measured through small victories inside treatment rooms and activity halls.



Patient Lucas Paul Gurunlian meets Batman outside Shriners during a special superhero visit for families. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, The Laval News)



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# Laval earmarks \$25 million to upgrade its snow removal equipment fleet

*City replacing snow management gear that has reached the end of its useful life*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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With the snow season now fully upon us, the City of Laval has rolled out several new snow management and street parking control features to meet its snow removal response needs.

During a press conference earlier this month, Mayor Stéphane Boyer announced the city's implementation of nearly 5,000 smart traffic signs that are fully remotely controllable – and which are also a first for a Quebec municipality.

## Modernizing equipment

As well, to offer residents an even more efficient snow removal service, the city will be investing nearly \$25 million by 2027 to modernize its wintertime fleet. This includes the acquisition of new sidewalk equipment and next-generation snowplows.

"Efficient snow removal and safe streets are essential for Laval residents," Boyer said during the announcement at the city's public works yard just off Autoroute 440 near Industriel Blvd.

"That's why, even in a challenging budgetary context, we have chosen to invest in making our fleet more efficient and sustainable," he continued.

"These improvements, combined with the deployment of new technologies, such as



Photo: Vincent Girard, City of Laval

dynamic traffic signs, will allow us to offer even better service to residents this winter and for years to come."

To face the winter, Laval is replacing snow removal equipment that has reached the end of its useful life, in order to maintain the reliability of a fleet whose total value is now assessed at more than \$40 million.

## Renewing the fleet

Among the acquisitions are:

- 14 trucks with interchangeable bodies capable of quickly switching from paving or tanker trucks in the summer to loader trucks in the winter (\$7 million).
- 35 sidewalk snow removal vehicles, scheduled for delivery in 2026, with maintenance guaranteed for four years thanks to a recently awarded contract (\$9.5 million).
- 19 spreader trucks to be acquired by 2027 following a call for tenders launched by the city on December 16 (estimated at \$7 million).
- Four snowblowers were replaced with newer models this fall (\$800,000).

Nearly 5,000 smart, solar-powered illuminated signs have been installed in some of the most densely populated areas of Laval (including Chomedey), between Autoroutes 13, 19, 440 and the Rivière des Prairies. The city says the investment will allow it to make its street maintenance operations much less disruptive by limiting their impact on on-street parking.

## Synched to Info-Parking app

The signs light up a few hours before snow removal work begins to indicate parking restrictions, and then turn off once the street is clear. Parking restrictions are synchronized with the City of Laval's Info-Parking app, which was optimized this year in the hopes of simplifying the lives of residents, according to the city.

The app, developed in Quebec, was selected after a pilot project evaluation based on public satisfaction. A survey of participants revealed that 98.4 per cent found the new signs clear and easy to understand. Laval thus becomes the first municipality in Quebec to adopt this type of cutting-edge technology, which offers customizable schedules and a centralized platform for remotely controlling all smart display panels.

To face winter, Laval mobilizes an impressive fleet of 740 vehicles, more than 500 experts working day and night and smart technologies. The city also counts on the support of private companies, thanks to contracts totaling \$20 million, to strengthen its response capacity during major storms.

It is hoped that this combined force will ensure efficient and coordinated snow removal across the city's 3,200 kilometres of streets and 1,300 kilometres of sidewalks – the equivalent of a trip between Laval and Vancouver. Residents can monitor and adapt to ongoing snow removal operations using the app, which provides real-time alerts and interactive functions.

## Hundreds of sidewalks and streets

Each vehicle in the Laval snow removal fleet plays a key role in a large-scale operation that unfolds in several stages – from spreading abrasives to snow removal.

In addition to the equipment, a staff of 500 employees dedicated to snow removal are on the job throughout the winter on Laval's many boulevards, roadways and streets.

They include drivers as well as equipment and machine operators running specialized gear in the field; mechanics and welders who maintain, adjust and prepare the fleet as needed; and general labourers who provide support for field operations and logistics.

As well, there are material attendants who handle the supply and maintenance of equipment; and a planning and coordination team of supervisors, division heads, planners and contract managers who organize and direct the snow removal operations.



The City of Laval is spending \$25 million to upgrade its snow removal equipment fleet. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Right, Mayor Stéphane Boyer and city councillor for Laval-les-Îles Nicolas Borne (who oversees infrastructure and equipment) are seen here at the city's Industriel Blvd. public works on December 9. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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A message from your elected officials

# Thank you for your trust!

At the start of this new term, we would like to thank the citizens of Laval for their trust. Representing you at City Hall is a great privilege. Every day, we work to make you proud of your city.



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# Not So Merry: Canadians feeling the most financial pressure anticipate little relief next year

Majority of lower-income households say it's difficult to put food on the table, with prices expected to rise

## ANGUS REID INSTITUTE

Trees all around the country are being lit and the holiday rush is upon us. But new data from the non-profit Angus Reid Institute finds the festive feeling likely a touch brighter for some than others.

Much like Santa in a snowstorm, many Canadians are facing a high level of pressure

this Christmas. One-in-five score as a “high” on ARI’s Financial Pressure Index, which measures their economic reality and outlook on eight different variables. This group is defined by higher levels of job insecurity, difficulty putting food on the table, higher debt levels, and a generally pessimistic outlook on their finances. Troublingly, three-in-five among this worst-off group say they expect worse in



2026. Another one-in-five Canadians (19%) face medium pressure, highlighted by some of the same challenges as the “high” group, but fewer of them compounding on top of the others.

On the other end of the spectrum, those with “very low” financial pressure – 23 per cent of Canadians – expect either more of the same (51%) or improvement (42%) over the next year.

The largest group (37%) are those facing a low level of pressure. They have stable working lives, relatively stable outlooks for the coming year, and manageable (though not easy) housing payments – whether renting or paying a mortgage.

In a year full of tariff turmoil and economic anxiety, the cost of living continues to dominate the minds of Canadians heading into 2026. Three-in-five (59%) choose this as their top issue, well ahead of health care (41%), housing affordability (26%) and the economy (23%). With big plans announced by provincial and federal governments, including “major projects” and investments in housing, Canadians will be keen to see results that impact their own lives sooner than later.

### More Key Findings:

- Conditions for renters in Canada appear to be improving. In June 2024, one-quarter (23%) of renters said they found the cost of rent “very difficult” to accommodate. That has declined by eight points, with 15 per cent now saying this.
- Similar improvements are evident among mortgage holders. The proportion who say their mortgage is manageable or easy to keep up with has risen from 53 to 62 per cent since June 2024.
- Two-in-five Canadians (39%) say it is difficult to keep up with their household grocery bills. This rises to a majority among those

whose household income is below \$50,000 annually.

### INDEX

#### Part One: Cost of living and “financial pressure”

- Top issues centre on cost-of-living
- Financial Pressure Index

#### Part Two: Assessments of this year and hope for the next

- One-third say they are ‘worse off’ than last year
- One-quarter expect to be financially worse off next year

#### Part Three: Core economic indicators

- Majority of low-income households say it’s ‘difficult’ to put food on the table
- Debt a source of stress for three-in-five
- Improving situations for renters and mortgage holders?

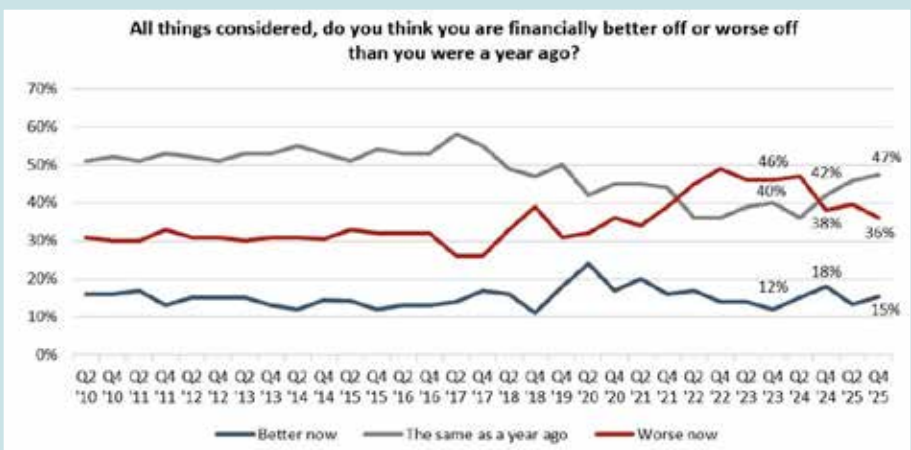
#### Part One: Cost of living and ‘financial pressure’

##### Top issues centre on cost-of-living

Canada’s inflation has slowed its pace considerably over the past two years compared to the highs of 2022 and 2023. In November, Statistics Canada’s headline inflation was 2.2 per cent year-on-year. Despite the pace of price acceleration slowing, Canadians are evidently still feeling the pinch of a high cost of living. Three-in-five (59%) select it as the top issue facing Canada, a proportion that has changed little even as inflation has slowed.

The price of food remains an area of key concern for both Canadians and policy makers.

► Continued on page 17





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# ★ Merry Christmas ★

## Holiday travel: stay alert behind the wheel

Do you have a few Christmas or New Year's parties to attend this year? Will you be driving yourself—and possibly others—late at night? To ensure your festivities don't turn into a tragedy, make it a priority to keep yourself and those around you safe by never getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol or drugs.

### MULTIPLE EFFECTS

Driving while impaired poses serious risks, including:

- Slowing your reaction time
- Reducing your field of vision
- Impairing your ability to manoeuvre
- Decreasing your concentration
- Affecting your short-term memory

These impairments can lead to a serious accident and significant legal consequences, including the loss of your driver's licence.

### SENSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Fortunately, you can easily avoid risky situations with some simple strategies. If possible, consider staying overnight. If



Celebrate responsibly:  
**DON'T DRIVE  
IMPAIRED**

that's not an option, plan your return trip with a designated driver, a taxi, a ride-share service, or public transit.

Remember, even small amounts of alcohol can impair your judgment. In other words, just because you feel fine doesn't mean you're fit to drive. Although provincial laws permit a maximum blood alcohol concentration (BAC) somewhere

in the range of 0.05 to 0.08 per cent (50 to 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood), this doesn't guarantee your safety behind the wheel.

Don't contribute to accident statistics linked to alcohol or drug use while driving. Before you hit the road this holiday season, ensure you're completely fit to drive. Stay safe and enjoy the festivities!



*Happy holidays!*



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**À L'ÉCOUTE** de nos citoyens !



# ★ Merry Christmas ★

## Inviting someone to join you for Christmas dinner is a wonderful gesture!

There are many reasons why someone might find themselves alone on December 24 and 25. If you have a colleague, neighbour or friend who has no plans for these days, open your heart and your home by inviting them to celebrate with you.

The person may hesitate, fearing they'll be a nuisance or feel out of place at a family gathering. Tell them you understand their feelings, but that you would be delighted to have them join you. Remind them that

the more, the merrier, and that you're sure they would do the same for you.

Before extending the invitation, be sure to consult your partner and other family members. Chances are they'll empathize with your guest and welcome them with open arms.

Here's a tip: get your guest involved in the party planning by asking them to bring a vegetable tray or board game. When

they arrive, introduce them to your loved ones. Are you expecting a large group? To help your guest feel more comfortable, focus on connecting them with the people they're most likely to get along with.

This year, open your doors and create a warm and welcoming Christmas celebration!



## Christmas party: how to be the perfect guest

Hosting guests for Christmas celebrations certainly requires energy and preparation. However, being invited to someone's home doesn't mean you're completely free of responsibilities. Are you attending a festive event this year? Follow these tips to be a model guest.

### ARRIVE ON TIME

Plan your route and check the traffic to ensure you arrive no more than 15 minutes late. Try not to arrive too early either, so you don't disturb your hosts' last-minute preparations and create an awkward situation. Will you be late due to unforeseen circumstances? Send your hosts a text so they don't worry.

### BRING A GIFT

Never show up empty-handed! Bring a gift to thank your hosts for their hospitality. It's a nice gesture that shows your thoughtfulness and appreciation. A classic bottle of wine, a bag of specialty coffee, a locally made candle, homemade bread or a plant are all great choices!

### OFFER TO HELP

Are the appetizers ready to be served? Is the counter piling up with dishes? Do the vegetables need to be peeled? Offer to help. Helping out your hosts will ease some stress and allow them to enjoy the event more. You can also offer to play a game to entertain the children or set the table.

Ultimately, remember to be courteous and use common sense. Put your phone away, greet everyone and dress appropriately. Stop by your local shops to find everything you need.



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# ★ Merry Christmas ★

## Shopping for gifts online? Avoid these common mistakes!



Doing your holiday shopping online definitely has its advantages. It helps you escape those crowded malls and avoid driving in snowy conditions. If the online option appeals to you, make sure to avoid these pitfalls.

### DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE

Online shopping and procrastination don't mix well during the holidays. Start your search early to ensure your gifts arrive on time. Check estimated delivery dates and, ideally, give yourself some extra time in case of delays. If you're running behind, be prepared to pay for express shipping.

### READ PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY

Pay attention to dimensions, materials, sizes, language and other important details specific to the product you're buying to avoid disappointment. Whether it's furniture, clothing or electronics, vague descriptions may be a sign that the website isn't legitimate, so be cautious.

### DON'T BLINDLY TRUST AN UNKNOWN WEBSITE

Use secure and reliable websites that provide thorough information, including full contact details and clear exchange and refund policies. Do the prices seem too good to be true? Are there exorbitant extra fees? Is the site cluttered with broken links and buttons? If so, it's best to click away. Stick to websites you're familiar with, especially those of local retailers.

### DON'T NEGLECT TO READ THE RETURN POLICY

Before making a purchase, take the time to understand the return policy. Ask yourself: can you get a refund, or is it an exchange-only situation? How long is the return period? Is the product a final sale? Do your homework to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

Happy online shopping!

## Creative hobbies: 7 gift ideas to entertain young and old alike

Creative hobbies are the perfect way to express yourself, relax and develop your fine motor skills. Spoil the artists in your life, regardless of their age, with these inspiring gift ideas.

1. **Paint-by-number or diamond painting kit.** These fun kits enable anyone to create beautiful art depicting many different subjects, including animals, landscapes and more.
2. **Candle-making kit.** A wide variety of these kits is available, containing everything you need to start making

candles in different shapes and sizes.

3. **Craft kit.** Packed with assorted craft supplies like googly eyes, feathers, pompoms and glitter, these kits are sure to delight budding artists.
4. **Art case.** This handy case contains a selection of art supplies, including pencils, markers, pastels and watercolours. It's perfect for both young and seasoned artists alike.
5. **Light-up board.** An excellent tool for tracing, a light-up

board makes it easy to copy a variety of patterns and designs. It's often included with kids' tablets.

6. **Crochet or embroidery kit.** If someone you love has recently taken up needlework, they're sure to be thrilled to add a new kit like this to their crafting collection.
7. **Origami kit.** This kit comes with beautiful paper and instructions to create various origami folds. It's a perfect choice for those who enjoy working with their hands.

Visit your local shops today and give the gift of creativity!

*Nos meilleurs vœux à tous pour un très joyeux Noël et une bonne année remplie d'espoir, de paix et de bonheur !*

*Best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with hope, peace and happiness!*



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# ★ Merry Christmas ★

## 12 activity ideas to bring the magic of Christmas to life for a child



Christmas is just around the corner! Do you have a child or grandchild you'd like to share the magic of Christmas with? These 12 activities are sure to bring out the festive spirit of this much-anticipated holiday.

1. **Read a book.** Curl up near the Christmas tree, wrap yourself in a cozy blanket and dive into a captivating Christmas story. Borrow books from your neighbourhood library or buy them at your local bookstore.
2. **Listen to music.** Play Christmas music as you do other fun activities like drawing or doing puzzles. Learn the lyrics by heart or even sing along to a karaoke version.
3. **Watch a movie.** Choose a funny or heart-warming Christmas movie to watch at home or in the theatre.

If you want to get even more in the spirit, wear a cozy toque or your favourite Christmas pajamas.

4. **Admire festive decorations.** Once the sun sets, take a walk or drive around your neighbourhood to look at the most beautifully decorated houses. You're sure to be amazed!
5. **Write to Santa Claus.** Help your child write a letter to Santa. Give them nice paper and stickers for decorating, then drop off the letter together at the post office or a mailbox.
6. **Prepare Elf on the Shelf pranks.** Invite a mischievous elf to your home to pull off all kinds of pranks that your child will discover when they wake up.
7. **Send holiday cards.** Help your child write Christmas cards to their friends, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Deliver them by hand if possible.
8. **Visit a Christmas market.** These community events have a bit of everything, from music and entertainment to colourful decorations. You're sure to get in the holiday spirit!
9. **Bake cookies.** Make delicious treats like shortbread or gingerbread men and decorate them together. Enjoy some as a family and share the rest as gifts.
10. **Decorate the house.** Set up the Christmas tree and hang stockings. If you're feeling crafty, make ornaments, wreaths and garlands to beautify your space.

Don't forget to place Christmas figurines or stuffed animals in your child's room.

11. **Buy an advent calendar.** Children love advent calendars, which help them count down the days until Christmas. Whether filled with chocolates or surprises like stickers and small toys, they're always a hit.
12. **Prepare a snack for Santa Claus.** On December 24, help your child prepare a snack for the Jolly Old Saint Nick. You can also put out some raw vegetables for the reindeer.

Your region has everything you need to bring the magic of Christmas to life for people of all ages. Make the most of these memorable moments together!



*Happy Holidays  
and best wishes  
of health and  
prosperity to all!*

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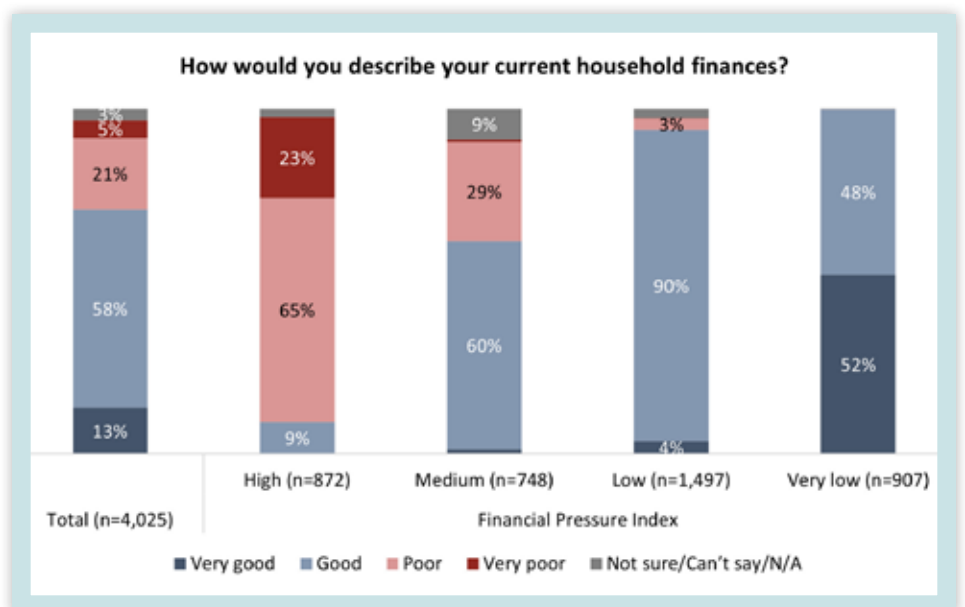
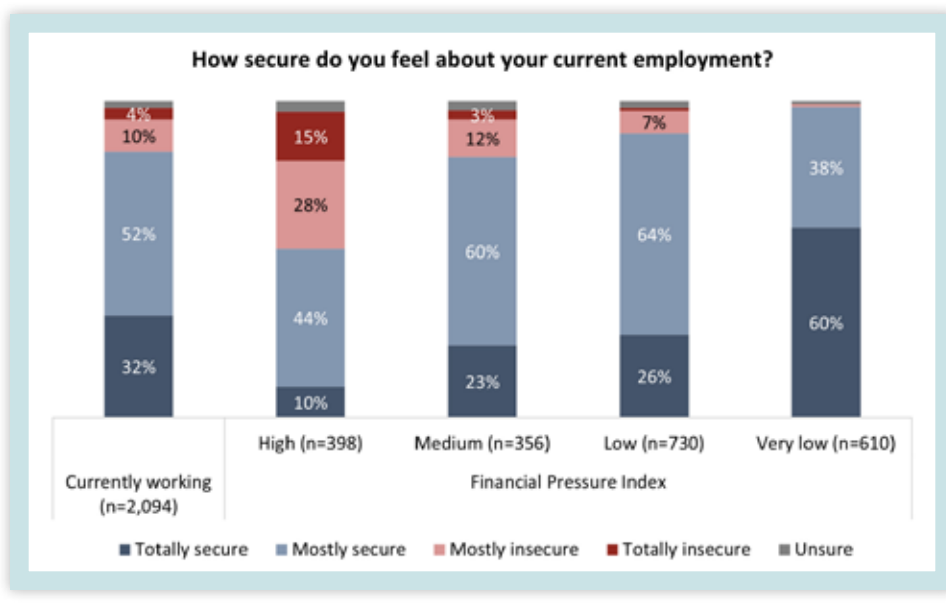
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*Merry  
Christmas*



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## ◀ Continued from page 12

Even in a slowing inflation environment, the price of groceries has increased at a pace faster than overall inflation for nine consecutive months. The expectation is that Canadians won't get relief on that front in 2026. A new report estimates food prices in the country will rise by four to six per cent, representing a near-\$1,000 increase for a typical family of four. This suggests that concerns about the high cost of living may not be fading any time soon.

Meanwhile, one-quarter of Canadians worry over housing affordability (26%) and the economy (23%) more generally. The latter has become perhaps a greater focus after 12 months of economic upheaval caused by U.S. President Donald Trump and his tariffs. For now, although the U.S. has made plenty of noise about tariffs, 85 per cent of Canada's trade with the U.S. is tariff free because of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement. That free trade pact is set to be reviewed trilaterally in the new year.

Across the country, concern over the high cost of living is shared, while there is less agreement on how pressing housing affordability is depending on the province.

### Financial Pressure Index

Economic realities vary widely in Canada depending on a number of variables, from job security to housing affordability, to one's own outlook on their financial health. To gauge these views, ARI created a Financial Pressure Index, which scores respondents on eight questions and sorts them into one of four groups based on the intensity of the financial pressure they face.

One of the key items on this index is how secure a person's job feels. Among those with high pressure, only 10 per cent feel totally secure, while more than two-in-five feel insecure. For those with very low pressure, this simply isn't a factor in their life.

The same can be said of one's own household finances. Each group has a different level of security that they self-profess, with that group of one-in-five high pressure individuals near unanimous in the belief that their finances are poor or very poor.

There is no group for which financial pressure is inescapable, but there are clear correlating factors. The starkest of which is household income level. For other demographics that play a role, including age, (viewed detailed tables).

Top issues for those facing higher levels of financial pressure tend to skew toward financial concerns like the cost of living, housing affordability, and jobs/unemployment.

## Part Two: Assessments of this year and hope for the next

### One-third say they are 'worse off' than last year

Angus Reid Institute has been tracking the economic perceptions of Canadians for more than a decade now. 2025 saw fewer Canadians saying they are worse off now than they were a year ago compared to 2024, but still a considerable portion (36%) holding this view. The largest group (47%) say they are in about the same place financially now as they were heading into last Christmas, while the smallest group (15%) are better off.

This ratio of better-same-worse holds relatively similarly across the country, though it is worth noting that the proportion of those saying they are worse off now is highest in New Brunswick at 47 per cent and lowest in Quebec at 31 per cent.

### One-quarter expect to be financially worse off next year

After a year of economic turmoil, it is perhaps a small victory for Canadians that the proportion of those who say they will be worse off next year is back to the level it was during December 2024. This, after a five-point jump over the summer. One-in-five say they will be better off and 45 per cent expect no change.

The hope for upward mobility eludes many of the worst off in Canada. Among those with high financial pressure currently, three-in-five (59%) say they expect it to be worse next year. Those with medium pressure are equally likely to say they'll be worse off (34%) or about the same (36%) but few say their situation will improve (17%).

## Part Three: Core economic indicators

### Majority of low-income households say it's 'difficult' to put food on the table

The challenges of grocery inflation are not a concern to three-in-five Canadians (58%) who say it is 'easy' to feed their household. However, that picture changes dramatically depending on the respondents' household income. For those in the lowest income bracket, one-quarter (24%) say feeding their household is very difficult and more than a third (37%) describe it as just 'difficult'.

Food Bank Canada's Hunger in Canada report noted that there were 2.2 million food bank visits in March 2025, double the number there were in March 2019. With higher grocery prices expected in 2026, putting food on the table will continue to be an expensive proposition for many Canadians.

### Debt a source of stress for three-in-five

The holiday season can be difficult for Canadians' wallets, with gifts and holiday parties on the docket. At the same time, household debt continues to be a persistent issue for Canadians, who collectively hold \$1.75 worth of it for every \$1 of income. Canadians' household debt relative to their income is the highest in the G7. It also continues to rise. In November, during Black Friday sales, the use of the "buy now pay later" option doubled from last year.

The percentage of Canadians who say they are stressed about their debt levels has been relatively stable since 2022. Three-in-five (60%) describe their debt as either a minor (38%) or major (22%) source of stress. For one-quarter (23%), they have debt but it's not a problem, while one-in-five (17%) say they don't have any debt.

Debt levels vary by province. Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador are consistently the two provinces at the highest levels when it comes to consumer debt per household. Three-in-ten (30%) in Alberta describe their debt as a major source of stress, the most in the country, followed by those in Canada's easternmost

province (25%). One-quarter (24%) in Ontario also report high levels of stress from their debt.

### Improving situations for renters and mortgage holders?

Although there remain lingering concerns over housing affordability in Canada, there has been improvements for renters in recent years. Rents fell year-over-year in December and the average rent in the country is now at the lowest level since June 2023. Some have pointed to Canada restricting the number of international student visas as one potential explanation for plummeting rent. There has also been a high number of purpose-built rentals coming into the market in Canada's biggest cities.

In June 2023, one-quarter (24%) of renters said they found the cost of rent "very difficult" to accommodate. That has declined nine points, as half of renters (53%) now say they find their rent easy or manageable.

Mortgage holders too are facing a more friendly market in recent years as the Bank of Canada instituted a series of rate cuts. Interest rates were at their highest from July 2023 to May 2024. Since then, the BoC has cut its policy rate from five per cent to 2.25 per cent. But the days of rates cuts may be behind the BoC, as recent economic data has given the Bank plenty of reason to change tact.

Interest rates have improved for mortgage holders compared to 2023 and 2024 but are still above those seen during 2021 and early 2022. That matters because Canadian mortgages renew every five years, and those who locked into five-year fixed mortgages at the interest rate lows of the pandemic lending era now face renewal. These data will be a key economic indicator to watch next year as mortgage holders renew their pandemic-era loans.

For now, three-in-five (62%) of homeowners with mortgage describe the cost as easy (10%) or manageable (52%); two-in-five (38%) report more challenges.

In June 2024, when interest rates were still near the peak, one-in-six (16%) mortgage holders described their payment as "very difficult" to handle. That figure has since halved (7%).



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December 17, 2025 • The Laval News • 17



# Happy Hanukkah!

May this Festival of Lights bring joy to your life, love to your heart and happiness to your home



## Chanukah 2025 : A Celebration of Light and Miracles

Chanukah, also known as Hanukkah, is a Jewish festival that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century BCE. This year, Chanukah will begin on the evening of Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and last until Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The festival lasts for eight days and nights, celebrating the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days in the temple's menorah, despite there being only enough oil for one day.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The story of Chanukah dates back to the time of the Maccabean Revolt against

the Seleucid Empire. In 168 BCE, King Antiochus IV Epiphanes outlawed Jewish religious practices and desecrated the Second Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus and sacrificing pigs. This led to a Jewish uprising led by Judah Maccabee and his brothers, known as the Maccabees. After a three-year struggle, the Maccabees successfully recaptured Jerusalem and rededicated the temple.

Upon entering the temple, they found only a small amount of oil left to light the menorah, which was supposed to burn continuously. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days, allowing time to prepare

and consecrate new oil. This event is celebrated as the miracle of Chanukah.

### TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

Chanukah is rich with traditions and customs that have been passed down through generations. Here are some of the key practices:

**Lighting the Menorah:** The central ritual of Chanukah is the lighting of the menorah, a nine-branched candelabrum. Each night, one additional candle is lit by the shamash (helper candle) until all eight candles are burning on the final night. The menorah is typically placed in a window

or doorway to publicize the miracle.

**Reciting Prayers and Blessings:** Special prayers and blessings are recited during the lighting of the menorah, including the Shehecheyanu, which thanks God for sustaining us and allowing us to reach this season. The Hallel, a series of Psalms of praise, is also recited during morning prayers throughout the festival.

**Playing Dreidel:** The dreidel is a four-sided spinning top with Hebrew letters on each side: Nun, Gimel, Hei, and Shin,

► Continued on page 9

My best wishes to the Jewish community of Laval on the occasion of

*Hanukkah*

Mes meilleurs vœux aux membres de la communauté juive de Laval à l'occasion de la fête de

*Hanukkah*



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*My best wishes to all members of the Jewish Community for a Happy Hanukkah!*



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# Happy Hanukkah!

May this Festival of Lights bring joy to your life, love to your heart and happiness to your home



## ◀ Continued from page 8

which stand for “Nes Gadol Haya Sham” (A great miracle happened there). In Israel, the letters are Nun, Gimel, Hei, and Pei, standing for “Nes Gadol Haya Po” (A great miracle happened here). The game is traditionally played with chocolate coins, nuts, or other small items.

**Eating Fried Foods:** To commemorate the miracle of the oil, it is customary to eat foods fried in oil. Popular Chanukah foods include latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly-filled doughnuts).

**Giving Gifts and Gelt:** While gift-giving is not a traditional part of Chanukah, it has become more common in modern times,

especially in communities where Chanukah coincides with the Christmas season. Gelt, or money, is traditionally given to children, often in the form of chocolate coins.

### CHANUKAH 2025 CELEBRATIONS

In 2025, Chanukah will be celebrated with various events and activities around the world. Here are some ways people might observe the festival:

**Community Menorah Lightings:** Many cities and towns host public menorah lightings, often accompanied by music, dancing, and refreshments. These events are a way to bring the community together and share the joy of the festival.

**Chanukah Parties:** Families and friends

gather for Chanukah parties, where they light the menorah, play dreidel, exchange gifts, and enjoy festive foods. These gatherings are an opportunity to connect with loved ones and celebrate the holiday's traditions.

**Educational Programs:** Synagogues and Jewish community centers often offer educational programs about the history and significance of Chanukah. These programs may include lectures, workshops, and activities for children.

**Charitable Giving:** Chanukah is also a time for giving back to the community. Many people participate in charitable activities, such as donating to food banks, volunteering, or supporting organizations that help those in need.

### THE MEANING OF CHANUKAH

Chanukah is a time to reflect on themes of light, faith, and resilience. The festival reminds us of the power of hope and the importance of standing up for our beliefs. The menorah's light symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and the enduring spirit of the Jewish people.

As we celebrate Chanukah 2025, we can draw inspiration from the story of the Maccabees and the miracle of the oil. It is a time to come together with family and friends, to share in the joy of the season, and to spread light and kindness in our communities.

## HAPPY Hanukkah



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# Happy Hanukkah!

May this  
Festival of  
Lights bring joy  
to your life, love  
to your heart  
and happiness  
to your home



## The meaning behind **THE FLICKERING FLAMES**

Observed by Jewish people worldwide, Hanukkah is a holy celebration also known as the Festival of Lights that takes place over eight days and eight nights each December. Commemorated with public menorah lightings, special prayers, eloquent hymns and delicious fried foods (latkes, yum!), this holiday is rooted in a particularly tumultuous phase of Jewish history.

At the heart of the festivities is the nightly lighting of the menorah, a nine-branched candelabrum that represents divine inspiration. Lit in households, synagogues

and public spaces around the globe, the menorah is arguably one of the most popular symbols of the Jewish faith in existence today. But what exactly do its flickering flames symbolize?

### A STORIED PAST

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, where the menorah once served as a sacred vessel of universal enlightenment. Only pure olive oil of the highest quality was suitable to light the beacon.

However, in the second century B.C., Jeru-

salem was under the rule of the Seleucid Empire — a people of Syrian-Greek origin — which tried to force the Jewish people to abandon their faith and worship Greek gods. The Seleucids outlawed Judaism, seized the Holy Temple and dedicated it to Zeus, king of Greek gods. But against all odds, a small band of Jews — led by the legendary Judah Maccabee — rose up against their mighty oppressors and reclaimed the Holy Temple. Upon victory, Jewish high priests were eager to relight the menorah and rededicate the temple to the glory of their own God. However, they found that the Seleucids had taint-

ed all but one flask of oil. It was enough to light the menorah for a single night, but as legend has it, the flame miraculously burned for eight consecutive days. This wondrous event inspired the Jewish sages to proclaim the yearly eight-day festival known as Hanukkah.

More than 2,000 years later, Hanukkah continues to bring family and friends together to reflect on the Jewish people's indomitable faith.

Hanukkah means "to dedicate" in Hebrew.

**Wishing all my  
Jewish friends that  
the Festival of Lights  
shines down upon you  
and your loved ones**



## HAPPY HANUKKAH



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Municipal councillor - Chomedey  
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## HAPPY HANUKKAH

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# Local floor hockey team takes home the cup for Greece

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The Hellenic Ball Hockey Association's street and ball team took a moment of hard-earned respite after pulling off an unexpected victory as champions of the international ball hockey title. The ball hockey team shared a meal at Casa Grecque on Daniel-Johnson street on Dec. 3. Their aptly named "miracle on dek" came only a few weeks ago as this group of mostly Laval residents traveled across the world to bring home the championship.

### Not a puck

Ball hockey is considered a hybrid of ice hockey and street hockey, played with a plastic ball instead of a puck, and often without the padding and contact regulations familiar to the ice game. For the local team, the sport took on a new level of intensity thousands of kilometres away, where international teams approached the game with a level of physicality and speed many of the players had never encountered. "It started as an idea which became a reality," said head coach Peter Chiotis. "We gathered up a couple of friends... and finally we decided to go there and give it our all and hopefully medal." Chiotis described the turning point of the tournament not as a win, but as a loss — when the team dropped a game, they believed they



had controlled. The setback forced a reassessment as they slipped into a lower seed early on. Chiotis said he spent the night planning quietly while players reconsidered the stakes. The next morning's discussion, he said, became a reset for the team that shifted their mindset for the rest of the tournament.

### The games

The team went on to defeat powerful opponents and regain momentum. Wins against North America and Canada secured the confidence they needed and positioned them to advance. Chiotis said the challenge wasn't simply skill, but composure and belief. "Our chances of winning were very slim," he said. "And when we beat North America 4-0 and then win against Canada 2-0, we got that spark again." The roster did not come together through formal tryouts or months of preparation. It formed through familiarity, players who had been adversaries in leagues across Montreal now stood together on the same line. That process, according to team president Emmanuel Mavroudis, was both the risk and the payoff. "It's one of the greatest achievements that I've ever done in my life," Mavroudis said. He described a tournament that was rougher and more unpredictable than expected, with opponents who treated each game as a statement. After early injuries and frustrations, adjustments were made on the fly, including shifts in player positions and approach. He said the athletes needed to adapt quickly when the reality of the tournament set in. Teams

from countries where ball hockey is professionally funded were playing with intensity from the opening minutes. Mavroudis said the team had no choice but to respond in kind, and that willingness to endure helped steer their path to the final.

### "Like a family"

The team's unity became a defining advantage as the competition progressed. Veteran defenseman Nicko Kokovidis, who has played alongside members of the team for two decades, said trust shaped how they handled pressure. "We were always together like a family," Kokovidis said. He credited the tone set on the bench: calm direction, private guidance, and a focus on contributing without blame. Kokovidis said that atmosphere translated to more confident play in a demanding setting where small errors

could end a run. The group relied on one another to stay grounded and composed, especially in the closing matches where the stakes were highest. That confidence helped the team withstand the physicality that defined the tournament. Kokovidis said respect among teammates was key to staying focused and performance-ready as they faced experienced opponents. As stories were exchanged around the table at Casa Grecque, players reflected not on scores or statistics but on moments where the team held together under strain. The challenge of the tournament, the travel, and the pressure of representing both Greek heritage and the local community framed the achievement. "Being down in both games [...] and finding ways to win shows us how much character this team has," Chiotis said.



Head Coach Peter Chiotis points to his championship medal after guiding Team Greece to a first-place finish at the international tournament.



Team Greece president Emmanuel Mavroudis holds the Men's Champion trophy after leading the national side to victory in Puerto Plata.



Player Niko Kokovidis displays the Men's Champion trophy and gold medal following the squad's historic win at the international ball hockey tournament.

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# Laval Police investigating after shots fired at Mr. Puffs

Officers with the Laval Police Department’s organized crime investigation unit were on the scene outside the Mr. Puffs outlet on Notre Dame Blvd. near the corner of Melville Ave. Friday Dec. 5 after gunshots were fired on the bakery around midnight the previous night, leaving at least one bullet hole in a shattered front door.

A police security tape cordoned off all the stores in the strip mall near the corner of du Sablon Rd. in Chomedey where the Mr. Puffs is located, as the investigators continued their analysis

of the crime scene.

Mr. Puffs’ head office issued a statement denying categorically any connection, as suggested by La Presse in an article.

“The article published suggests that an individual known to police had been associated with criminal activity and had ‘established a headquarters’ within one of our Laval restaurants,” said the company.

“Mr. Puffs categorically denies any business, financial, or operational ties to this individual or to any criminal organizations.”

# Major fire at Laval car dealership in Chomedey

A violent fire of unknown origin ravaged the Forza Autogroup car dealership on Curé-Labelle Boulevard in Chomedey during the night of Thursday December 11.

It was the second such incident within a few days. It was 2:13 a.m. when 911 alerted emergency services to the incident.

By the time the first firefighters arrived on the scene at 2:19

a.m., more than 50 per cent of the dealership was engulfed in flames.

With the support of several Laval Police Dept. patrol cars, officers directed traffic and officers evacuated a neighbouring apartment building. Firefighters also adopted a defensive strategy due to the intensity of the blaze.



David Dushimilimana

Abraham Bilongo Kisoba

On December 3, the Laval Police Dept. announced the launch of Project Vigilance, a proactive prevention initiative designed to support licensed establishments, restaurants, businesses and shops exposed to acts of intimidation, extortion or violence.

The Laval Police said they wished to inform the public of a new

# Firearm removed from circulation after arrest of two suspects

development that occurred just days after this announcement.

On the night of December 6, officers arrested two individuals who were preparing to commit an act of violence near a location of interest. A firearm was also seized during the intervention.

David Dushimilimana, 22, and Abraham Bilongo Kisoba, 19, face the following charges: carrying a prohibited firearm; possessing a prohibited firearm and a prohibited device without a valid permit; possessing a prohibited firearm and a prohibited device knowing they did not have a permit; entering a vehicle knowing a prohibited weapon was present; and possessing a

loaded prohibited firearm without both the required authorization or permit to carry it in a motor vehicle and the required registration certificate.

Both suspects were in police custody following their court appearance. One of the two suspects, Abraham Bilongo Kisoba, has a firearms history and was also subject to a firearms prohibition at the time of the incident.

Anyone with information about acts of intimidation or extortion can contact the Police Information Line at 450-662-INFO (4636) or call 911 in case of emergency.

# Wave of business burglaries, arrests and searches

On Wednesday December 10, the Laval Police Dept. General Crimes Squad conducted a series of arrests and searches aimed at combating a wave of break-ins at businesses in Laval and the Greater Montreal area since September.

The targeted businesses were primarily pharmacies, opticians and Sephora stores located in Laval and the greater Montreal area. Cases were also identified in Montreal, Longueuil, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Saint-Jérôme, Terrebonne and

Saint-Eustache.

The investigation, conducted in collaboration with several police services, indicated that the same suspects were believed to have been involved in all the incidents. The thefts represent nearly \$500,000 in losses, in addition to approximately \$75,000 in property damage.

The searches resulted in the seizure of clothing, a large quantity of stolen perfume bottles and eyeglasses, as well as burglary

tools. Two cars were also seized as proceeds of crime. Yesander Sarria Cespedes, 41, was in custody following his arrest. A second suspect, aged 60, was released with conditions.

They face several charges including breaking and entering, possession of burglary tools, possession of property obtained by crime, and mischief to property. A warrant was issued for a third suspect, age 34, who was not located at the time of the operation.

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## The North Pole chronicles

### How are children's letters sorted?

My job is to sort them by country and put them in boxes. All I have to do is look at the return address on the envelope. I really enjoy this task, and I always listen to my favourite music while I'm doing it.

One day, I had a mishap that made me break out in a sweat. Imagine my surprise when I spilled my glass of water on an envelope. I used a tissue to soak it up right away but soon realized that the writing had become unreadable. Of course, I wasn't allowed to open the letter and look for clues about where it came from. What was I to do?

I took a few deep breaths to calm myself down, holding the envelope in front of my nose. It had a wonderful scent: maple syrup! I figured the letter must be from Canada. I stuck a note on the envelope explaining the

situation to Santa Claus. Then, I put it in the "Canada" box.

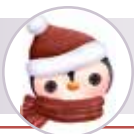
The next day, my boss came into my office. I thought he was going to scold me for my mistake, but I was wrong.

He said, "Ho, ho, ho, Merlin! You have a good nose. The wet letter did indeed come from Canada. Here's a reusable water bottle as a gift. It has an anti-leak device, ho, ho, ho!"

I thanked him, blushing. Since that day, I always carry this bottle with me. And I've never made a mess again.

**Written by:**  
Johannie Dufour  
and Sarah  
Beauregard

**Translated by:**  
Jasmine Heesaker  
and Lynette Adams



**Merlin the Penguin**  
SANTA'S SECRETARY

I've been Santa Claus's happy secretary for a long time. I'm proud of the work I do. You know, it's an important job and I take it very seriously. Plus, the days fly by because there's always something to do.

I'm the one who goes to the post office to pick up all the letters that children from around the world send to my boss. There are MILLIONS of them every year! They mostly contain present wish lists, but some also include kind messages and even little (or big!) secrets.

I'm not allowed to open or read them. That's strictly reserved for Mr. Claus.

### How to react when you receive a present you don't like

Imagine if, at Christmas, someone gives you a present you don't like at all. Should you show your disappointment or anger, or should you pretend it's the best present in the world and jump for joy?

#### BE POLITE

The best way to handle this situation is to be polite and say "Thank you" to the person who gave you the gift. It's important to show respect and avoid hurting their feelings. You can also give them a hug to show your appreciation if you feel comfortable doing so.

Why thank someone for a present you don't want? Because they deserve respect and politeness. Throwing a tantrum, crying or sulking could make others around you feel uncomfortable. You certainly don't want that, do you?

#### IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

Remember that the person who gave you the gift loves you and wanted to make you happy. They may have simply made a mistake in their choice. They didn't give you a gift you didn't like on purpose. It's the thought that counts, so it's best

to be grateful for the gesture.

It's also important to remember that sometimes adults forget that children's tastes change over the years. If your uncle, whom you hardly ever see, remembers that you used to love dinosaur figurines, he may still give you some even if you now prefer video games.

Finally, how about playing Father Christmas? That's right! A few days or weeks after the holidays,

consider giving a gift you don't use to another child who'll appreciate it. This way, you can share the joy and happiness that comes with receiving a gift. They'll be thrilled!



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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## THE MENU

**Q** My husband and I are working on 12 years of marriage. We have relocated several times for jobs, but are finally settled down (we hope!). My mother-in-law says we are keeping her grandchildren from her by taking this job and moving where we are. We live nine hours away from his parents, which is closer than we've been in years.

Last year because we were unemployed we went to their house for Christmas. This year, now that things are financially mended, we are hosting the Christmas shindigs. The family will be here Christmas Eve and Christmas night, and I planned on taking care of everything as hostess.

My mother-in-law told me she is bringing Christmas dinner. Then a couple of days later she said she is going to bring the meal for Christmas Eve as well. Now, I am in no way incapacitated, ill, unable, or unwilling to cook. I had reserved a prime rib and a ham and planned on all the fixings to go with them. Now both will go unused, so she can bring lasagna and a small pork loin roll.

*That's not enough to feed everyone. My husband says let her, but I don't feel it's right. As a hostess I feel insulted. As a daughter-in-law I feel encroached upon. I don't want to set a precedent for future holidays or visits. I also don't want to offend her. Is she being helpful or overbearing? And how do I tactfully discuss this with her so as not to make matters worse?*

Sara

**A** Sara, in your own home you never give in. Because if your home is not your haven, your castle, and your refuge, then you are homeless. You are right about setting a precedent you cannot live with. In a situation like this the hostess tells the guests—whether they be family or friends—what will be served and when. If someone wishes to bring another dish, it can be placed as a side dish to the main fare the host and hostess provide.

Your mother-in-law can rule the roost in her own home, but she doesn't get to rule the roost in yours. As in dealing with children, be firm, fair, and consistent. Simply state what the meals and mealtimes are to be. That is your absolute right as a hostess.

Wayne & Tamara

## WILLOW IN THE WIND

**Q** Two years ago I met the love of my life. He is sweet as can be. We love each other's families, share secrets, and laugh until our stomachs hurt. We have an amazing sexual, emotional, and spiritual connection. I feel as if I'm looking into my own eyes when I look into his. I care for him like I would my child.

But something has gone terribly wrong. His best friend just moved across the street, and this friend has a younger brother who lives with him. They make my fiancé a different person. He makes rude comments to me in front of them for entertainment, and ditches our plans to hang out with them. They want to start a rock band together, something my fiancé said he would never waste his time on. Now he is considering it. I dropped friends for him, but he refuses to drop these men--excuse me,

boys--for me.

Frances

**A** Frances, we get letters from women who are angry when another woman mimics their dress, hairstyle, or interests. Because your fiancé is the opposite sex you don't see a connection to that behavior. When with his friends, your fiancé mimics their behavior; with you, he mimics you. He doesn't wear your same dress, but he takes on your opinions and outlook.

If it is his nature to be malleable, this can happen with anyone. Ask yourself if your communion with him is genuine, or only present when you have sole custody of your "child."

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

or email: [GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com](mailto:GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com)

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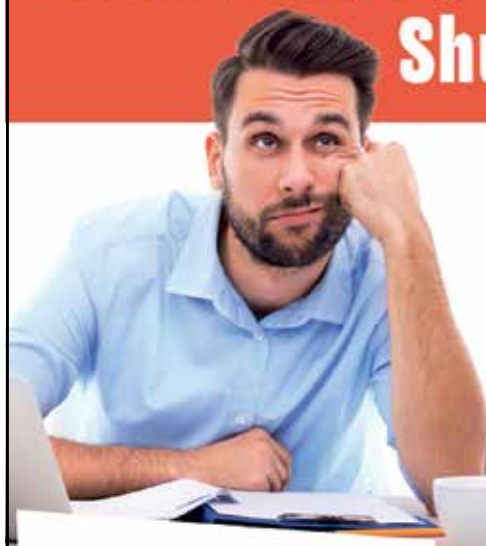
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# HOROSCOPE

Week of **December 21 to 27, 2025**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**PISCES, ARIES AND TAURUS**



## ARIES

Take care not to procrastinate with your work or holiday planning this week. Instead, take time to relax and make the most of the season, keeping in mind that you don't have to aim for perfection.



## TAURUS

Organize a gift exchange with your colleagues to bring some festive cheer. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find that everyone in your family has accepted your Christmas invitation. You'll have a fuller house than you were expecting!



## GEMINI

Prepare for a demanding week at work this week. Your boss will pile on responsibilities just before the holidays. Some colleagues who were meant to help you may be absent, so stay focused.



## CANCER

If you take the time to resolve any issues that are weighing on your mind, you'll be better able to enjoy your holidays to the fullest. By dedicating time to your romantic relationship, you'll strengthen your bond.



## LEO

Your boss will assign you new responsibilities, accompanied by a raise, which could be viewed as a promotion. Your success lies in taking risks and exploring the unknown.



## VIRGO

If you're single, you may meet someone special as the holidays approach. You may be able to settle some family arguments with the help of your charm and your ability to get along with others, which will make this time of year more peaceful.



## LIBRA

Prepare for last-minute changes to your party plans. The festivities will now be hosted at your home. This means you'll have to handle all the preparations. You'll also need to be tactful with certain family members.



## SCORPIO

You'll be in the spotlight in one way or another this week. On the job, your hard work will be rewarded with well-deserved recognition. In your love life, this is the perfect time to propose to that special someone.



## SAGITTARIUS

Despite wanting to stick to a budget, your generosity may get the better of you and you'll end up buying gifts for everyone. An unexpected expense will arise, but you'll balance it out by taking on extra work.



## CAPRICORN

You'll brighten everyone's day and put smiles on their faces this week. However, be careful if you plan to travel. You might even consider treating yourself to a new car as a Christmas gift.



## AQUARIUS

As the year comes to a close, you may start to feel fatigued. Focus on maintaining a healthy diet to regain your energy and vitality. This will help you enjoy your holidays to the fullest.



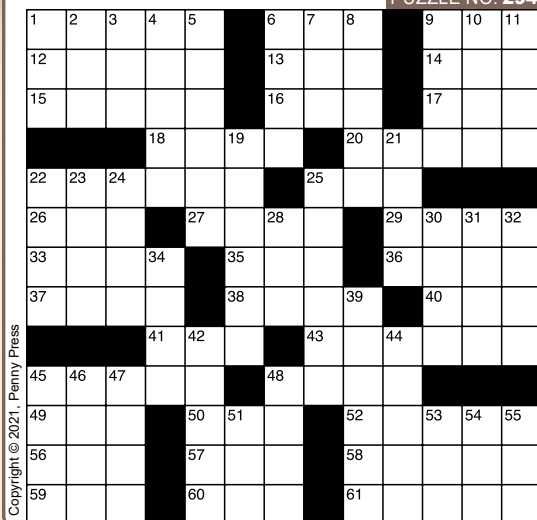
## PISCES

You may suggest a magical holiday destination for a family Christmas trip. To be sure everyone can be together for an unforgettable holiday, don't delay on booking flights and accommodations.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 294



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### ACROSS

- Hot chocolate
- Green veggie
- Catch
- Adjust
- "\_\_\_\_ That Jazz"
- Tavern order
- Flat hat
- Snow runner
- Mother's boy
- Take a break
- Was sore
- Monkey's fruit
- Fire residue
- "Look \_\_\_\_ ye leap"
- Record
- Adrift
- Big cat
- Young louse
- Fishing poles
- Narrow road
- Genuine
- Quick taste
- TV commercials

### DOWN

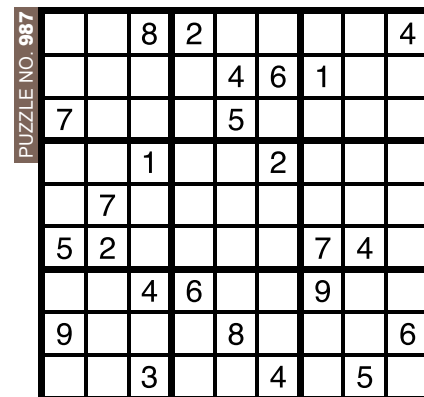
- Scarves
- Grind harshly
- Female singer
- Veto
- Verve
- Host
- Devoured
- Raw mineral
- "\_\_\_\_ and Ivory"
- Get married
- Roofing liquid
- Bullwinkle, e.g.
- Burn reliever
- Road curve
- Holy people
- Blacken with flame
- Church ringer
- Vocal solo
- Sign gas
- Authentic
- Lancelot's title
- Average: hyph.
- Cut, as film
- Poisonous serpents
- Nifty
- Regard highly
- Bus station
- Jazz group
- Chew on
- Ceremony
- Chopped
- Rich Little, e.g.
- Age
- Talk amorously
- Print measures
- Tiger's-\_\_\_\_

# Sudoku

## HOW TO PLAY:

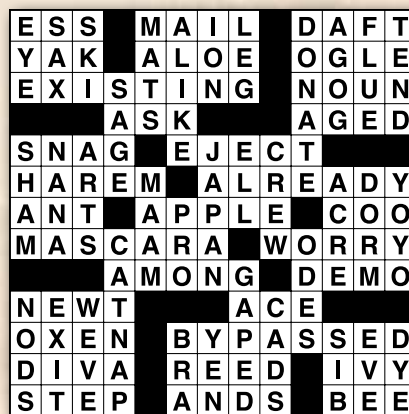
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**

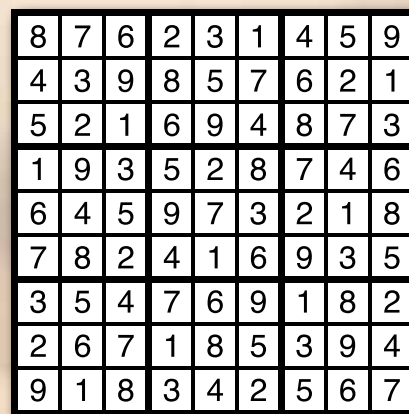


## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS



### Sudoku



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