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Vol. 34-02

January 21, 2026

450-978-9999

www.lavalnews.ca

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120,000 readers

Laval's snow removal drawing complaints



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Theophania Rodaros of Antonio St. in Souvenir-Labelle is seen here with one of the city's new electronic snow removal warning display signs, which are drawing a lot of flack from residents including Rodaros. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Tamil Heritage Month

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TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH
MOIS DU PATRIMOINE TAMIL
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City under fire over icy sidewalks and streets during winter months

'It was truly chaotic,' Fabreville man complains to council after recent snow and ice storms

MARTIN C. BARRY

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The City of Laval's ability to properly maintain its sidewalks and roadways with salt and abrasives during the challenging winter months was closely questioned by several residents during the January 13 meeting of city council.

"Over the last few weeks, there were several instances of black ice which transformed various streets and sidewalks in the City of Laval, making them chaotic for the residents and also for motorists," Jean-Claude Clerger of Russell St. in Fabreville told the mayor and councillors during the question period.

Could anything be done?

Clerger said he had personally fallen on the ice, nearly breaking a leg. He asked Yannick Langlois, the city councillor for the district of l'Orée-des-Bois, "Was there not something that could have been done as a prevention to avoid this kind of catastrophic situation? Because it was truly chaotic."



Action Laval city councillor for Saint-François Isabelle Piché said the opposition party had received several complaints about bad ice and snow removal in several Laval districts over the past few weeks. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

He asked Councillor Langlois whether he was satisfied with the current situation. "Shouldn't the city be doing more when it is faced with situation like this?" He also asked Mayor Stéphane Boyer what the city plans to do to improve security.

Another resident, Mrs. Guirlande, asked what alternative measures the city uses to neutralize ice on streets and sidewalks when the temperature is too low to allow salt to be used.

Is equipment lacking?

She also asked whether the city has a sufficient amount of equipment (especially abrasive spreaders) to deal efficiently with periods when sidewalks and streets ice over. And finally, she asked how the City of Laval matches up to other large cities for dealing with ice storms.

Another resident who sent in a question by e-mail complained that over the last five years he has lived in Laval, he'd become discouraged by the City of Laval's failure to listen to complaints about snow and ice removal, as well as other issues at other times during the year.

"The snow gets picked up only once each season, and this is after several complaints, which does not help traffic flow and parking," he said. "The city does not put salt down after snow removal, which complicates the situation for pedestrians and especially children while increasing the risk of falling."

Strategy under review, says Langlois

He went on to say that recycling and garbage removal trucks are also hindered, while school bus traffic adds to the danger on streets that haven't been properly cleared of ice and snow.

Responding to the questions over problems in his district, Councillor Langlois maintained, "We have one of the most productive sectors among the municipal garages in our area. Sector four is envied by many of my colleagues and it is very much up to the task."

"However, you are right, not everything is perfect, and we have decided to review our strategy for the snow and the ice," he added, while pledging to go out and see for himself on specific streets "and take whatever actions would be necessary if that is the case."

Mayor Boyer said that given the average wintertime weather conditions, the city can't get all its streets cleared of ice and snow within 24 hours, and so has to prioritize them.

Snow removal priorities

Among the first to be cleared are those adjacent to schools and hospitals, as well as boulevards and autoroute entrance ramps, followed by collector streets and finally residential avenues.

"All of this takes several days," he said. "Snow removal is always difficult because we would rather everything could get done quickly, but logistically it's impossible. And it's noteworthy that it's no different in other cities in Quebec."

According to the mayor, several days of storm activity in a row can substantially slow down the snow and ice clearing operations, made all the worse by the fact that under those circumstances public works crews have to return to the top priority areas before they get around to the lower priority ones.

Costs are another factor, Mayor Boyer continued, with the average bill for a single snow removal operation being around \$5 million.



Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer answered questions about the city's snow and ice clearing operations during the January 13 municipal council meeting for residents complaining about dangerous sidewalks and streets this winter (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Also a money issue

For that reason, he suggested, a decision might sometimes be made (when a second storm is expected soon after a first storm, or a temperature increase is coming) to delay snow and ice removal operations in order to save money for taxpayers.

He also acknowledged that when the temperature goes down drastically, as it did a few days after New Year's, immediately following a thaw, salt spread on the sidewalks and streets works far less efficiently – "although that doesn't mean we don't use it," Boyer said.

Action Laval city councillor for Saint-François Isabelle Piché said the opposition party had received complaints about poor ice and snow removal in recent weeks from several Laval districts, including Fabreville.

She noted that the city's public works department had several pieces of its salt spreading equipment out of action at the time, while blaming it on "poor planning" by the Boyer administration.

Consultation sought on mini-farm closing

Also during the council meeting, Councillor Piché tabled a resolution calling on the city to hold a public consultation on the future of the mini-farm at the Centre de la nature, which the Boyer administration plans to close as a cost-saving measure.

The resolution proposes "that the executive-committee mandate the City of Laval's general management to hold a public consultation regarding the future of the Centre de la nature's small farm, including options for maintenance, renovation, relocation or partnership, before any final decision is made regarding its closure or transformation, and that the results of this consultation be made public and presented to city council."



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Deadline for commercial advertising by Friday at 3 p.m.

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ISSN number : 1923-0605

Annual subscription : \$89.95 • Per copy : \$1

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Layout: Media Trek

Distribution: TC. Transcontinental/
DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

Project funded in part by

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OPINION & Editorial



Legault's resignation was inevitable

François Legault's exit from the premiership of Quebec is not just a personal decision—it's the culmination of a deep political crisis that had been brewing for months. The image of him announcing his resignation without taking questions, without dialogue, without a shred of self-criticism speaks volumes: a leader who grew accustomed to speaking at society, not with it.

Legault didn't fall victim to circumstances; he collapsed under the weight of his own decisions. His farewell message, dressed up in phrases about "the good of the party and Quebec," cannot hide the truth: when politics is built on prestige and polling numbers—and those collapse—the emergency exit becomes the only strategy.

A Slow-Burning Decline

This erosion didn't happen overnight. It was the result of a long trajectory filled with warning signs: electoral defeats in local races, internal leaks, high-profile resignations, and legislative initiatives that promised order but delivered chaos. When health ministers and other heavyweights abandon ship, it's not the sea's fault—it's the captain who steered it into the rocks.

The Mirage of an "Aggressive" Economic Strategy

Legault's economic plan was marketed as "aggressive," with flashy investments and high-profile projects. Let's not forget the Northvolt fiasco. But politics isn't an investment portfolio—it's a balance between spectacle and substance. When citizens see no improvement in their daily lives—cost of living, hospital wait times—the narrative collapses.

And that wasn't all. His government burned through billions on electronic systems like

SAAQLIQ that still don't work. Legault, like a naïve child, believed the fairy tales his ministers fed him: one promising massive energy investments, another pledging health system reform while sabotaging doctors and nurses behind the scenes.

The Numbers Tell the Story

Legault wanted to leave as the man who delivered two big majorities and put Quebec's economy "on track." But politics isn't cumulative accounting—it's trust. And that trust evaporated long before he hit the brakes. His goodbye doesn't just close a chapter; it forces society to look in the mirror: less charm, more accountability. Fewer grand plans, more tangible results. And if "numbers are stubborn," so are citizens when they've had enough—they turn the page.

All of this dragged his party to the bottom of the polls.

Fourth—and Sweating

In the latest poll conducted on January 10, 2026, by Pallas Data, the CAQ landed in fourth place:

- Parti Québécois (PQ): 34%
- Liberal Party (PLQ): 24%
- Conservative Party of Quebec (PCQ): 16%
- Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ): 11%
- Québec solidaire (QS): 11%
- Others: 4%

For a party that promised "less talk, more results," this is a resounding condemnation. The numbers that once crowned Legault now bury him. And when trust is gone, no PR stunt can bring it back.

His choice of a controlled, one-way farewell speech is itself a political statement. At the start of a journey, momentum and the aura of

"renewal" can mask cracks. At the end, those cracks become a mirror—and that mirror reflected fatigue, detachment, and scripted rhetoric.

The Day After

The next day isn't just a leadership race—it's a painful detox from the syndrome of the all-powerful leader. If the CAQ doesn't find a new reason to exist—not another growth PowerPoint, but a viable plan for healthcare, cost of living, social cohesion, and realistic language policy—it will tumble from ruling party to political relic.

Legault's departure opens space. The question is: who will fill it?

A conservative platform capitalizing on discontent?

A progressive surge turning criticism into a credible governing program?

Or a new synthesis that finally speaks the language of citizens without hiding behind statistics?

Either way, the next election won't just be about "change." It will be a referendum on maturity—or a relapse into easy promises and grandiose rhetoric.

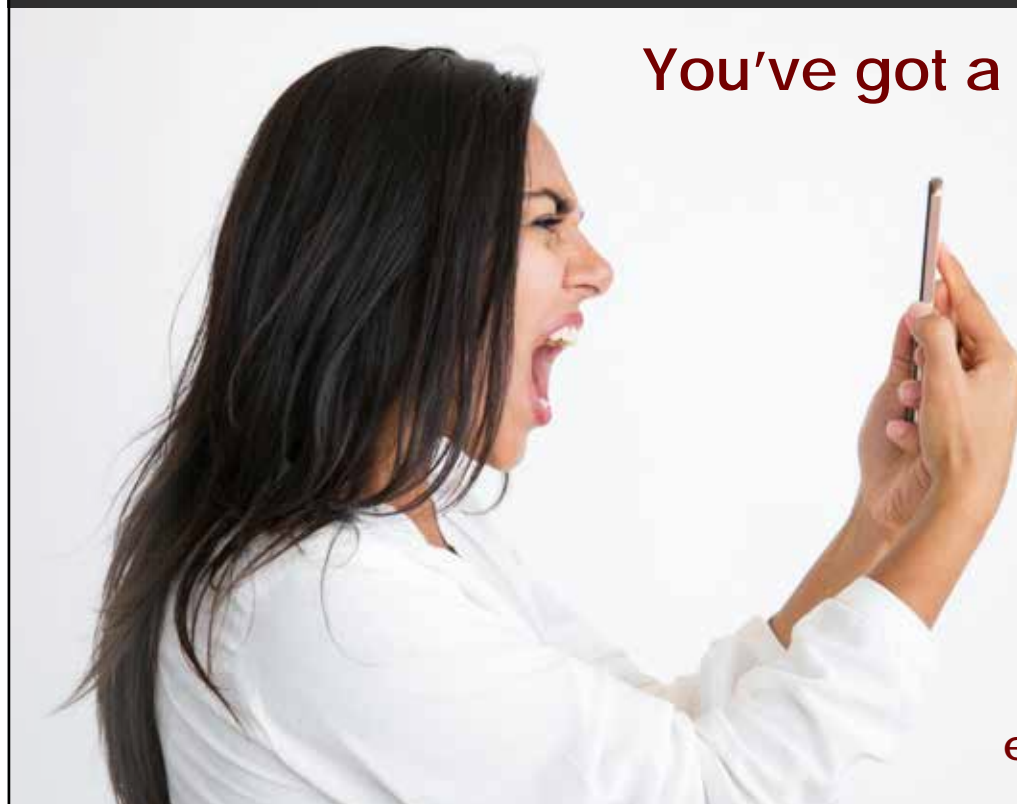
And speaking of referendums: that's what the Parti Québécois is salivating over. But Quebecers don't want referendums. The latest poll shows PQ at only 34%, while the leaderless Liberals still hold 24%. That proves Quebecers hesitate to hand a blank check to a party obsessed with separation. Voters are far more mature than PQ imagines. They know that in today's geopolitical reality, Quebec is stronger in a united Canada—a fact Alberta should also grasp.

George S. Guzman

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Laval making changes to waste collection starting in April

Starting on April 1, garbage collection (black bin) in Laval will be taking place every two weeks. At the same time, the frequency of recycling collection (blue bin) will also be adjusted to every two weeks.

Both are due to a change implemented province-wide by the Government of Quebec as part of the modernization of waste collections.

The two collections will be coordinated on alternate days to optimize the work of the collection teams and facilitate the adoption of these new habits for residents. The city says it is following the lead of other major cities in the province, while also meeting the requirements of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM).

In 2020, 62 of the 82 municipalities belonging to the CMM already offered household waste collection at a frequency of once every two weeks or less. These municipalities included Longueuil, Terrebonne, Blainville, and Mascouche.

An 'eco-responsible' change

"Laval is joining other major Quebec cities in this eco-responsible shift that has become essential," says Laval city councillor for Sainte-Dorothée Ray Khalil, who is vice-president of the Laval executive-committee.

"We know this is a significant change in people's habits and will be monitoring the situation closely to ensure the smooth transition to waste collection and that residents are well supported throughout this process," he added.

Not only will optimizing waste collections reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to the city, but it is also expected to generate significant savings for the city on transportation and operating costs, estimated at 22 per cent.

The amount of garbage sent to landfills is also expected to

decrease. The city says it is another step towards reaching a target for waste produced annually per capita, which is one of the objectives of Laval's Waste Management Strategy.

A transition well underway

The decision is part of an ongoing transition that the city has begun in collaboration with its residents. Since 2021, says the city, several concrete actions have been taken to reduce waste sent to landfill.

These include: the introduction of the black bin, the implemen-



tation of a monthly bulky waste collection, a ban on single-use plastics, and an expansion of services, including a waste disposal centre, a dry materials drop-off area and special collections.

More recently, the City of Laval adopted a bylaw making waste sorting mandatory, and a pilot project for a bulky waste collection service by reservation was launched. The city says that in 2024, the full implementation of the brown bin in residential areas marked a major step towards sustainable and responsible waste management.

A survey conducted by the City of Laval in 2024 revealed that nearly three-quarters of Laval residents (74.6 per cent) reported having already taken concrete steps to reduce the amount of waste sent to the black bin or are in the process of doing so. For the city, this confirms the effectiveness and relevance of the measures implemented to date.

Getting with the bins

Furthermore, 66.1 per cent of Laval residents reported themselves as being already actively participating in the blue and brown bin collection throughout the year. Based on this data, the city has implemented various measures to support residents in continuing the transition, especially by redoubling awareness-building and education efforts since last summer.

The city says other concrete actions are underway to facilitate these changes, particularly in denser neighbourhoods. These include validating an (if necessary) adjusting waste collection equipment in buildings with 24 units or more, providing support to property owners, and converting some buildings to container systems.

The size of the blue bin may also be adjusted, says the city, or a second bin may be provided upon request, if a smaller bin is no longer sufficient due to improved recycling habits.

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Laval's snow removal e-sign strategy draws mounting complaints

System that replaced old sandwich boards is 'unreliable,' say several residents

MARTIN C. BARRY
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If it's January, then there are probably complaints about the City of Laval's snow removal operations and wintertime street parking – even though this wasn't supposed to be happening.

In January 2024, according to Laval News files, Laval city council awarded a contract for the installation of new electronic parking signage on a range of streets in districts that included Chomedey.

In principle, this was supposed to put an end to a litany of complaints coming from residents all over Laval about the confusing way the city had previously been managing snow removal in residential neighbourhoods.

Changes over past two winters

For decades, the city's policy (similar to that of other municipalities) was to place wooden sandwich-board signs beforehand in snow banks that were scheduled to be taken away. Another part of the policy forbade wintertime parking on certain sides of the street to facilitate snow removal.

This changed over the last two winters as the city began ramping up the new system of electronic signage. The signs, which are programmable remotely, allow municipal employees to inform motorists and residents in "real time."

When functioning, the new illuminated panels light up as needed to display specific times when snow removal (or street cleaning operations during the summer) are taking place. The

city decided to opt for the system following tests with several pilot projects over the past few years on Laval's territory.

Complaints about new system

Despite the City of Laval's hopes that the new electronic signage would lead to a reduction in the vast number of complaints about poor snow removal the city received every winter, The Laval News touched base with several residents last week, complaining about what they maintain is the new system's failure. As well, complaints about snow removal were voiced by other residents at the most recent city council meeting.

Among the people we spoke to were Theophania Rodaros of Antonio St. in the Souvenir-Labelle district. A resident of the street for the past ten years, she complained that the new signage has proven itself to be unreliable, switching on sporadically, forcing cars to be moved, then shutting off long before any snow removal has actually taken place.

While The Laval News was interviewing her late Tuesday afternoon last week, one of the illuminated signs on Antonio St. was switched on, forbidding any parking from 7 am to 5 pm. It then switched off at the appointed hour, without any snow removal having taken place during that time period.

Cars moved, but still no snow removal

"Many times they will put the signs for the snow cleanup, residents had moved their cars, but the snow it was never removed, sometimes to a week later," Rodaros wrote in a written statement she hoped to deliver to the mayor and council at the January 13 city council meeting.

(As it turned out, she missed the deadline a day earlier to register for the public question period.) "Sometimes the red light is on, sometimes not, neither side of the road," she continued. "To me this is nonsense. I prefer the old system better."

"I don't understand how it works," she said regarding the new warning system. "It is very confusing. Sometimes it goes on late at night, but our cars need to be removed by 7 am. For someone who is retired and is home all day, how are we supposed to know that the sign is on and he has to remove his car because of the snow removal?"

No warning, followed by car towing

Although the city created a snow removal app with a feature that sends users warnings when snow removal operations are scheduled to begin, Rodaros said it failed to inform her one day in early January. Instead, a neighbour told her that a tow truck was about to remove her car from a reserved handicapped parking space in front of Rodaros's apartment building.

Things only got worse after that. On January 12, she came out onto the street only to see that an \$88 parking violation ticket had been left on her car's windshield after she allegedly failed to liberate the space for a scheduled snow removal operation.

By 5:20 pm when she arrived home that day, some of the electronic snow removal signs on Antonio St. were switched on – "but there was no snow to be cleaned," Rodaros added.

'Confusing,' says a Chomedey resident

Theophania Rodaros is not the only Laval resident who finds the city's new snow removal warning system has limitations and shortcomings.

During a break at last week's council meeting, The Laval News spoke with Imane El Idrissi of de Chambly Ave. in Chomedey. (It's worth noting that like Rodaros, El Idrissi was also unable



"Very confusing and conducive to error," is how Imane El Idrissi of de Chambly Ave. in Chomedey described the city's electronic signs for snow removal operations. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

to address the council on the snow removal issue, because she failed to register for question period before the deadline.)

"Very confusing and conducive to error," she said, referring to the new e-signage system. "We no longer know when we can stay parked or when to move our cars and they're switched on all the time."

"Since their installation last spring, in April 2025, every time it's lit up, there's no cleanup," she continued. "For example today, it was flashing on one side of the street. And what happens? They clean up the other side where there are no lights flashing."

'All over Laval,' says city councillor

Like Rodaros, El Idrissi was also served with parking violation tickets (\$88 and \$120) after allegedly not moving her car from in front of her home during scheduled snow removal operations.

"The system doesn't work and the citizens are really fed up," said Aglaia Revelakis, city councillor for Chomedey. Citing just one of many recent incidents, Revelakis noted that she received complaints on a recent Sunday morning from residents of Sinclair St. about being forced to move their cars, after which the snow removal crew didn't turn up anyway.

"It's all over Laval, not only in Chomedey," she said. "The lights go on, but the snow [removers] don't pass. It's confusing the residents. And then, of course, after a while the citizens won't pay any attention anymore to the lights."



Theophania Rodaros, right, took her problem with the city's new e-signage for snow removal to Souvenir-Labelle city councillor Sandra El Helou prior to the January 13 city council meeting. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

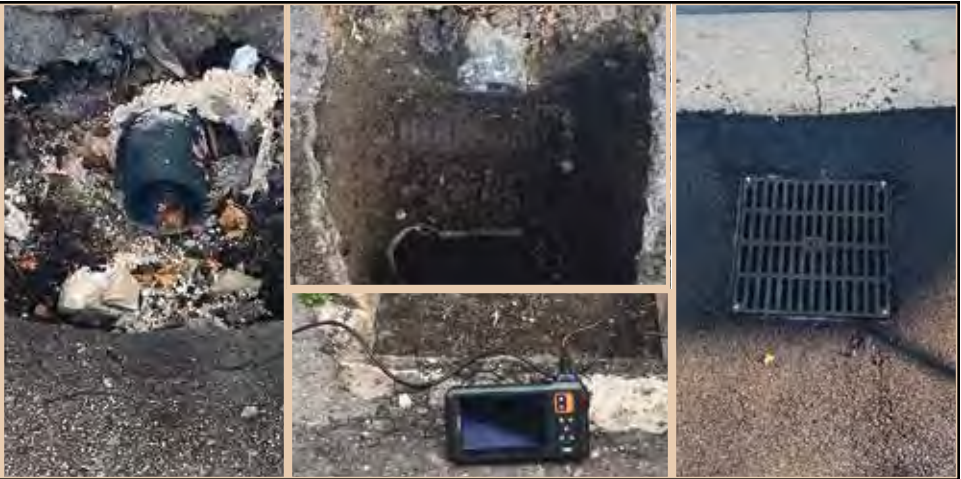
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The Quebec primary care conundrum

Good intentions, persistent problems

continued from previous edition

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Between 2009 and 2014, the number of physicians participating in GMFs increased by 41.5 percent, yet registered patients rose by only 5.9 percent (VGQ 2015). While extended hours were often the only feature distinguishing GMFs from other clinics, many GMFs failed to meet their after-hours access obligations (Dunkley-Hickin 2013; Forget 2014; VGQ 2015; Aubin and Quesnel-Vallée 2016). Yet, the ministry and regional agencies continued funding GMFs without evaluating whether their regulations or agreements were improving access, leaving GMFs and network clinics with wide latitude but limited accountability (VGQ 2015, 2020).

The initially proposed capitation model was replaced by a mixed system, still dominated by fee-for-service but supplemented with bonuses for specific services and patient registration. Later, however, the patient registration bonus was extended to physicians outside GMFs, thereby weakening the distinct financial incentives associated with GMFs (Pomey, Martin, and Forest 2013). By broadening the remuneration structure, non-GMF clinics could operate much like GMFs – enjoying higher pay but without the GMF label or its associated accountability framework. As a result, the GMF reform had only marginal effects.

In 2003, Quebec passed Bill 25, restructuring its healthcare system by replacing eighteen regional health boards with a three-tiered structure: the Ministry of Health and Social Services at the top, fifteen new intermediary administrative agencies in the middle, and ninety-five health and social services centers (CSSSs) at the local level (Bourque and Quesnel-Vallée 2014). The agencies served as administrative intermediaries between frontline care and the

ministry, monitoring population health, allocating funds, and reporting on performance, while CSSSs provided an administrative umbrella for local health and social institutions that delivered direct patient care.

In effect, assigning the agencies significant managerial authority shifted greater decision-making power to the provincial level (Pomey, Martin, and Forest 2013). The new public management principles driving the reform, particularly accountability and performance reporting requirements, created excessive centralization incompatible with patient-centred care (Bourque and Quesnel-Vallée 2014). Problems with accessibility persisted and many Quebecers still lacked access to a family doctor. Although the reform was intended to advance regionalization, its structure and implementation may have inadvertently enabled the centralization efforts that led to the system's overhaul through the 2015 reform (Pomey, Martin, and Forest 2013; Arpin, Gautier, and Quesnel-Vallée 2025).

In 2015, Quebec passed Bill 10 to further centralize decision-making and reduce administrative layers, mirroring similar reforms in Alberta and Nova Scotia, which had consolidated multiple regional health authorities into single provincial bodies during this period. The reform abolished the fifteen agencies established in 2003, moving from a three-tiered to a two-tiered system, while merging 182 facilities into 34 integrated health and social services centers (CISSSs/CIUSSSs) responsible for both oversight and care delivery (Quesnel-Vallée and Carter 2018). Proponents argued that the restructuring would reduce bureaucracy, increase direct accountability to the ministry, enhance transparency, and improve service integration (Arpin, Gautier, and Quesnel-Vallée 2025). However, experts noted that the reform lacked evidence on achievable economies of scale, optimal organizational size, or whether

vertically integrated structures could respond to diverse population needs (Béland et al. 2014; Quesnel-Vallée and Carter 2018). Evidence supporting administrative mergers to improve access or service quality is limited (Béland et al. 2014). The governance model – where each CISSS/CIUSSS board of directors is appointed directly by the ministry and reports to it – was also criticized as increasingly political rather than evidence-based (Quesnel-Vallée and Carter 2018). Over time, this highly centralized structure created significant challenges for public health governance and health human resource management, issues that became particularly visible and were amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic (Arpin, Gautier, and Quesnel-Vallée 2025).

In 2015, in response to persistent access issues, Quebec also passed Bill 20 to expand primary care availability. The legislation required FPs to register a minimum number of patients, with non-compliance resulting in a 30 percent fee reduction (Young 2015). This reform marked a departure from previous reforms, adopting a “stick” rather than a “carrot” approach to influence physician behaviour. Within three years, both patient registration and continuity of care improved: by December 31st, 2018, 81 percent of the Quebecers were registered with a primary care physician – up from 68 percent before the reform, though short of the 85 percent target – and continuity of care rose from 68 percent to 84.4 percent (Laberge and Gaudreault 2019). While coercive measures can provoke strong opposition, Bill 20 nonetheless produced measurable gains, even without the complete application of penalties. At the same time, the bill generated unintended consequences. Its coercive and punitive nature made family medicine less attractive to new medical graduates, thereby increasing the difficulty of attracting and retaining physicians in the field. Over the past decade, the pay gap between FPs

and specialists has also widened, further undermining the appeal of family practice (Laberge and Gaudreault 2019).

Since 2013, Quebec has expanded the prescribing and diagnostic powers of other health professionals, such as pharmacists and nurse practitioners, to improve access to care and free up physicians' time to manage more complex cases. This approach has been adopted in other provinces, such as Alberta and the Atlantic provinces, with demonstrated efficiency and relatively low-cost gains in improved access to primary care (Richards 2024).

Quebec's recent legislation, Bill 106 and Bill 2, represents a significant attempt to use “stick” again to change physician behaviour. Introduced in May 2025, Bill 106 proposed shifting family physicians from FFS to a blended model combining capitation, hourly rates, and performance-based compensation. The bill tied 10 percent of physician pay (initially 25 percent) to meeting government-set targets for patient volumes, particularly those with vulnerability codes, while automatically registering all Quebecers to clinics regardless of capacity. Physician groups are collectively responsible for meeting access goals. If targets are not met, everyone in the group faces pay reductions, regardless of individual effort or patient complexity.

When contract negotiations with medical professional organizations stalled, the government passed Bill 2 in October, aiming to end the labour dispute. The law incorporates most Bill 106 proposals but adds strict penalties for “concerted action” by physicians, prohibiting collective withdrawal from activities or teaching stoppages to challenge government policies. The move sparked widespread outrage. At the time of writing, the situation remains volatile: at least 125 doctors have completed processes to practice in Ontario, with 200 more in progress. The medical directors of regional departments of family medicine have also refused to comply with parts of Bill 2, stating they will not assign 1.5 million orphan patients to already overburdened physicians and clinics. Given past failures and ongoing physician resistance, this approach seems unlikely to succeed in improving access.

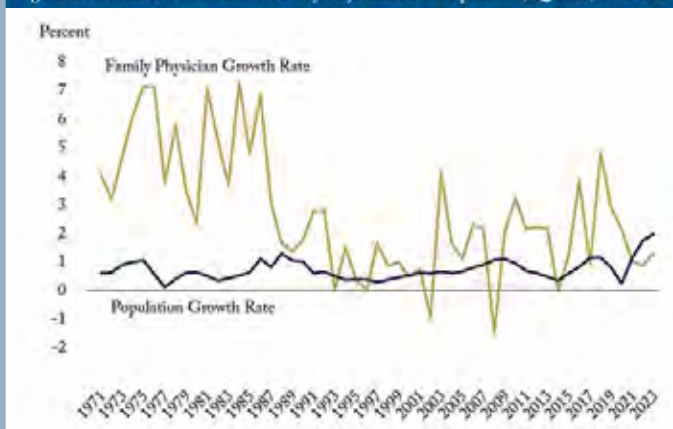
Quebec has been active in pursuing health reforms over the past two decades, along with other organizational innovations, yet these efforts have had limited impact on improving access to care. Despite many attempts to influence physician behavior, Quebec continues to report the highest proportion of residents without a regular healthcare provider among Canadian provinces. Several reforms, most notably coercive quota and penalty-based measures such as Bill 20 and Bill 2, remain unique to Quebec. To date, evidence shows that these approaches have strained physician morale and relationships, with little demonstrable improvement in access.

Figure 5: Family Physicians in Quebec by Age Group, Percentage of Total, since 1971



Notes: In 2019, the College des Médecins in Quebec changed its policy on what personal physician information it makes publicly available. Since then, the number of FPs with “unknown status” has increased. For this reason, data from 2019 onwards should be interpreted with caution.
Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2024 - Historical Data.

Figure C: Annual Growth Rate in Family Physicians and Population, Quebec, 1972-2024



Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information. Supply, Distribution and Migration of Physicians in Canada, 2024 - Historical Data.

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Small businesses must be the first priority when MPs return to Ottawa

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As Parliament prepares to reconvene, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is demanding that the federal government make 2026 the year it finally delivers for entrepreneurs. Small businesses have carried Canada through economic turbulence, and now they need real action—not recycled promises.

2025 was brutal for small businesses

Small businesses were hit with unpredictable tariffs, labour disruptions, weak consumer spending, and relentless cost increases,” said Corinne Pohlmann, CFIB’s executive vice-president of advocacy. “The November budget offered little more than lip service. MPs must return to Ottawa ready to put small business needs at the top of the national agenda.”

Small business owners say flagship federal programs like the \$51billion Building Communities Fund and the \$1billion Regional Tariff Response Initiative (RTRI) are missing the target entirely.

Nearly 80% of entrepreneurs didn’t even know the RTRI existed. Less than 1% have applied. A third say they won’t bother, and more than a quarter say it doesn’t apply to them. Meanwhile, the Building Communities Fund risks shutting out most small firms by giving unionized businesses a builtin advantage—an approach CFIB calls unfair, discriminatory, and out of touch with the realities of the small business economy.

“SMEs feel excluded from programs that were supposedly designed for them. Words mean nothing without action. It’s time for the federal government to create conditions where small businesses can actually grow,” said Jasmin Guénette, CFIB’s vice-president of national affairs.

With Canada–U.S. trade talks stalled, 60% of SMEs want Ottawa to actively work with the U.S. to reduce uncertainty. Entrepreneurs also want internal trade barriers reduced (59%) and broad-based tax relief (56%) to help offset tariff impacts.

CFIB is calling on the federal government to take immediate, concrete steps:

- Cut the small business tax rate from 9% to 6%, raise the

- deduction threshold to \$700,000, and index it to inflation.
- Return all countertariff revenues to the small businesses that paid the price.
- Lower payroll taxes by reducing EI premiums for small employers or shifting the employer/employee split to 50/50.
- Fix internal trade barriers by adding food to Canada’s mutual recognition framework.
- Slash red tape by tracking the total number of federal rules

- and applying a true “two-for-one” rule across regulations, legislation, and policies.
- Protect supply chains by preventing work stoppages in federally regulated transportation and at Canada Post.
- Align immigration programs with real small business labour needs.
- Commit to a balanced budget with legislated spending limits outside of global crises.



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Tamil HERITAGE MONTH

Laval's and Montreal's Tamils proudly celebrate their traditions at lively and entertaining event

Cabinet ministers, MPs, MNAs and city councillors pay homage at salute to Tamil Heritage Month



Federal Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree (seen on stage with fellow cabinet minister Marc Miller, Laval-Les-Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El Khoury and other government officials) addressed up to 3,000 people of Tamil origin during the Tamil Heritage Month celebration at the Château Royal last Sunday. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Up to 3,000 people of Tamil origin turned out at the Château Royal congress centre in Chomedey last Sunday afternoon to be part of one of their community's most important annual events.

The eighth annual celebration for Tamil Heritage Month was produced by the Quebec Tamil Heritage Month Federation, in conjunction with more than 50 organizations in the Quebec Tamil community.

Elected officials from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, including the cities of Laval and Montreal, came out to express their support for the Tamil people, while also paying homage to the contributions of Tamils since their arrival in Canada.

For those from the Tamil community, it was an opportunity to reinforce their identity as a people, while for others it was a chance to learn about a community that has grown numerically and in its influence in Canada over the last few decades.



Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis was among the elected officials who were presented with colourful ceremonial shawls during the Tamil Heritage Month celebration at the Château Royal. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

► Continued on page 11

My best wishes to the Tamil community on the occasion of

Tamil Heritage Month

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DU QUÉBEC

Happy Tamil Heritage Month



Tamil HERITAGE MONTH



◀ Continued from page 10

Today and the next generation

"This is an event that is very important for the Tamil community today and for the next generation," Karikalan Jeewaratnam, a prominent member of the Tamil business community in Laval, said in an interview with The Laval News.

"We are very thankful for all the support we

have received from all the elected officials from the federal, provincial and the city councils," he added.

Since 2010, Tamil Heritage Month has celebrated the history of Canada's Tamil community and its contributions to the social, cultural, political and economic strength of Canada.

The federal government declared January Tamil Heritage Month, recognizing the importance of the Tamil community on a national basis.



More than a half-dozen members of Laval city council climbed the Château Royal stage to express their warm feelings towards Laval's growing Tamil community. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Laval-Les-Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El Khoury is seen here with Quebec Tamil community officials during the Tamil Heritage Month celebration at the Château Royal. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

While recognizing the Tamil community's accomplishments and tracing its roots, Tamil Heritage Month also provides opportunities to celebrate the Tamils' history in Canada.

A Tamil calendar celebration

The month of January was chosen as Tamil Heritage Month for a number of reasons. The Pongal festival, the most important and widely-celebrated festival among Tamils around the world, falls in the middle of the month.

Pongal is both a time of thanksgiving for the

blessings of the past year and a time to look forward to the start of a new year. The first month of the Tamil calendar, Thai, begins in the middle of January.

Throughout the morning and early afternoon, members of Tamil cultural and community groups performed musical numbers and folk-dance routines. Short documentary film presentations were also projected, providing background on the history of the Tamil people, as well as more recent developments in Sri Lanka.

*Nous souhaitons à la communauté tamoule canadienne
un très joyeux mois du patrimoine tamoul*

*Wishing the Tamil Canadian community a very happy
Tamil heritage month*



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2025 Year in Review

The Laval News continues its look back at last year's news

Federal and city elections, U.S. tariffs and crime made 2025 an exciting year

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It was the year when the Canada/U.S. tariffs issue hit the fan, when elections were being held in Laval as well as across Canada, and most people agreed there was a steep increase

in urban violence and gun-related crime.

Although far from the whole story, these three themes dominated much of the news

that broke in 2025. In our second issue of 2026, The Laval News explores these and other important newsmakers during the last six months of last year.

Retailers were preparing for longer hours in July

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Laval businesses and shoppers were preparing for late nights, but not everyone was sold on the idea. As part of a year-long provincial pilot project, Laval was one of three Quebec cities where retail stores could remain open until 8 p.m. on weekends.

The move marked a shift away from Quebec's longstanding rules that typically forced stores to close by 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The pilot project began late summer, with Laval joining Gatineau and Saint-Georges de Beauce as test cities. The measure could eventually be rolled out province-wide.

With housing shortages turning critical in many regions across the country, the City of Laval was pledging concrete action.

People living in Laval who were searching for a place to live and needed help doing so were being encouraged to call Laval's municipal housing help hotline (SARL) at 450 505-6025 or by e-mail: sarl@omhlaval.ca.

"The summer holiday season, and especially all the moving taking place on July 1, represents every year a moment of precarity for some Laval residents," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

The Youth and Parents Agape Association – known to most people in Laval simply as Agape – "had another productive year," according to its directors, with a consistent number of English-speaking clients receiving a range of

social services in 2024-2025.



"Over the past 12 months, we have provided services, resources, presentations, referrals, emergency food relief and other essential support to over 5,000 individuals," the

non-profit group's board of directors stated in their latest Report of Activities.

Tabled during Agape's annual general meeting on June 26, the document offered a comprehensive overview of Agape's efforts to improve the lives of the underprivileged English-speaking and multicultural communities in Laval between April last year and this past March.

Mother Nature smiled with warm benevolence on Holy Cross Church on Souvenir Blvd. in Chomedey for the 2025 Laval Hellenic Summer Festival.

As it was just a few days until Canada Day, the festival was an occasion, as always, to celebrate the country's origins and multicultural diversity – although it was primarily a celebration of Hellenic culture and values.



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In August, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy, one of several interest groups challenging Quebec's Bill 21, received word they would be permitted to intervene in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Bill 21 case involving the English Montreal School Board and the Quebec government.

Along with many other interveners, including the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Quebec Community Groups Network and the attorneys general of six Canadian provinces,

the Task Force would be present at the Supreme Court hearing on Bill 21.

"The reason that we're doing this is we want the Notwithstanding Clause to be properly defined," Task Force president Andrew Caddell said in an interview with The Laval News.

Bill 21 (An act respecting the laicity of the State) was passed in 2019 by Premier François Legault's CAQ government. It most notably prohibited the wearing of religious symbols by public employees in positions of authority.

For those who might have missed it, the City of Laval celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2025. Among other things, officials with the city marked the occasion on August 6 with something especially meaningful and sure to be continued by future generations: the awarding of the first Order of the City of Laval Medals.

"The recipients of the Order of the City of Laval embody, each in their own way, the values

of pride, excellence and solidarity that define our city," Mayor Stéphane Boyer said during a ceremony held at Espace Montmorency in the heart of Laval's rapidly-growing downtown sector.

The city chose seven deserving City of Laval residents from a range of professional backgrounds to be the first recipients. The city held a range of activities over the course of the year to keep the celebration going, including performance events, neighbourhood parties, library events, outdoor theatre, cooking musical performances and culinary happenings.

Our August 13 issue featured coverage of the Corporation Rose-Art 29th annual Symposium de Sainte-Rose. From July 24 to 27, appreciators of quality sculpture and art from all over Quebec, as well as Ontario and other parts of eastern Canada, had gathered in Laval's historic Vieux Sainte Rose for the event, which has come

to be recognized as one of Quebec's leading and most prestigious outdoor art shows.

Air Canada passengers were left scrambling after more than 10,000 of the airline's flight attendants took to the picket line. The strike, which lasted from Aug. 16 to 19, grounded flights at the peak of the summer travel season and affected nearly half a million people worldwide.

"I can't even explain the emotional roller-coaster that we went through," said Laval resident Rosy Trimboli after the uncertainty turned her family's first trip to Europe into a drawn-out ordeal. "It's been hell to say the least," she said.



Bill 21 challenge and celebrating Laval's 60th birthday in August



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2025 Year in Review

September brought 'smart retail' and municipal election campaigning

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As announced in our September 10 issue, members of the City of Laval's executive-committee signed a letter of intent stating the city's interest in purchasing a Sainte-Rose golf course for the purpose of redeveloping it into a public park.

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

The city turned a big-box parking lot into a three-week experiment in 'smart' retail it says could help bring life back to its main streets. The pop-up, branded 'Lab Achetons plus ici' ("Buy More Here"), was running until late September and put automation front and centre: self-scanning on smartphones, Radio

Frequency Identification (RFID) checkout to ring up a basket in one pass, and wired inventory systems.



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

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

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

In a wide-ranging pre-election interview with

The Laval News, Boyer said he had no major electoral promises to make, but was concentrating rather on smaller and more local things impacting the city's neighbourhoods. "The opposition always wants to do wedge politics, while telling people that they are forgotten in their neighbourhoods," said Boyer, accusing the opposition of spreading disinformation.



A new municipal community centre in one of Laval's more disadvantaged neighbourhoods was officially declared open by the city as well as community activists who had long urged Laval to move forward with the project. The Centre communautaire Simonne-Monet-Chartrand is located on Notre-Dame Blvd. on the boundary that separates the city's Chomedey and l'Abord-à-Plouffe neighbourhoods.

In October, Laval's voters prepared to elect a new council and mayor

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With less than a month before the City of Laval's municipal elections, The Laval News conducted a series of "person in the street" interviews to see just how many voters in Laval seemed to know who was running for city council and for mayor.

"No, I don't know anything about it," said Natan Sadi, a younger voter interviewed near the Montmorency metro station. Some voters, like Fadi Al-Dib, were more attuned to the race.

He immediately named incumbent mayor Stéphane Boyer when asked who's running. "I think he's the one who's going to win, because his team, up to now... he's done so many good projects," he said.

In the meantime, Quebec's Chief Electoral Officer Jean-François Blanchet made a special decision to allow municipalities to deliver

election-related documents by means other than direct delivery to voters during the 2025 municipal elections.

He said the decision was necessary given a labour disruption to postal services. "Postal services are a key element of the electoral process," Blanchet said in a statement issued by his office.

A series of missing cats in a Laval neighbourhood near the Armand-Frappier woods prompted concern among residents over the previous summer. Several owners reported their whiskered companions disappearing within weeks of one another, with coyotes suspected to be the



culprits.

In July, a stormy night marked the last time Agnes Por, who operates a home daycare and works as an educator, saw her cat. Her cat, Gabi, was used to going outside and always came home, but this time he didn't.

Multiple vehicles from the Laval Police and Urgences-Santé were on the scene at the



Starbucks coffee franchise on Autoroute 440 at the corner of 100th Avenue, responding to gunshots fired and one resulting death.

Public safety officials were speculating that the victim's violent death might mark the opening salvo of an extended war between factions in organized crime.

In an exclusive interview with The Laval News, federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson explained the Carney government's new 'Build Canada' initiative.

The Liberal government hoped to kickstart the country's economy by attracting \$500 billion in five years for private investment in major nationwide projects.



"We need to retool, we need to reorganize," Hodgson said. "And the Build Canada Act and the Major Projects Office are a critical part of the retooling of our economy."

Two familiar rivals for the Laval mayor's chair, incumbent Stéphane Boyer (Mouvement laval-lois) and opposition Claude Larochelle (Parti Laval), traded ideas and a few jabs at a tightly run community debate that stayed laser-focused on bread-and-butter issues.

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2025 Year in Review

Boyer re-elected Laval's mayor, new REM station opened in November

MARTIN C. BARRY

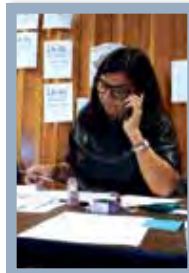
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Stéphane Boyer won a second term as mayor of Laval, as Mouvement lavallois – Équipe Stéphane Boyer tightened its grip on city hall by taking 17 of 22 council seats in the elections.

Boyer took 58.87 per cent of the vote (58,013 ballots), well ahead of Parti Laval leader Claude Larochelle at 21.75 per cent (21,432 votes) and Action Laval's Frédéric Mayer at 19.37 per cent (19,091).

"I'm very proud. I'm proud of the citizens for their renewed confidence in me. I'm proud of my team," Boyer said in an interview with The Laval News on election night.

He said his immediate priorities would be reinvesting in aging neighbourhood streets and pressing the Quebec government for more funding for health, education and homelessness services in Laval ahead of the 2026 provincial election.



After twelve years representing Chomedey, Aglaia Revelakis held onto her council seat, but by the narrowest margin of her political career. Revelakis, running as an independent, edged out Action Laval's Costa Deeb by just 38 votes, winning 34.36 per cent of the vote (1,143 ballots) to Deeb's 33.21 per cent (1,105).

It marked a sharp drop from her commanding 52.19 per cent victory in 2021, when she carried Laval's 14th district by more than 900 votes for Action Laval. Despite the lower margin, Revelakis said her team's success showed that her personal connection to her district still mattered in Laval politics.

More than 850 supporters of Pink in the City set a new attendance record when they turned up for the Magic of Hope fundraising gala held

in October and reported in our November 5 issue.

"It's a great evening – it's inspiring," Pink in the City co-founder Denise Vourtzoumis told The Laval News. "We're doing something really great here all together," she said.

After years of anticipation, the Sainte-Dorothée station of the Réseau express métropolitain



(REM) was officially inaugurated, marking a transformative moment for mobility in Laval and the Greater Montréal area.

The station is part of the new Deux-Montagnes line, a 50-kilometre extension that triples the REM's coverage and connects Laval directly to downtown Montréal.

"This station is a symbol of progress for Laval," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer. "It will make life easier for thousands of residents, reduce congestion, and help us meet our climate goals."

Canadian Forces personnel, including soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment's Fourth Bataillon, as well as Air, Sea and Army Cadets and members of the Royal Canadian Legion, joined dignitaries who paid their respects on November 9 during a Remembrance Day commemoration held at the Laval War Cenotaph on Chomedey Boulevard.



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Residents on certain streets in Laval's Fabreville and Chomedey districts could expect an upgrade in the quality of their drinking water, as well as more efficient flow of storm and wastewater in their sewers, thanks to a more than \$26 million grant announced by the Quebec Municipal Affairs Ministry.

As reported in our December 3 issue, Minister of Municipal Affairs Geneviève Guilbault and Minister responsible for the Laval region Christopher Skeete were in Laval in late November to announce that \$26,074,021 had been granted by the CAQ government to the

city for the water and sewer infrastructure work.

Under the plan, a total of 13,520 metres of drinking water, stormwater and wastewater pipes would be replaced on dozens of streets in various neighbourhoods of Laval. The investment would allow for the replacement of aging pipes in several areas where outages and emergency interventions are becoming increasingly common.

As reported in our December 3 issue, the spectre of U.S. president Donald Trump's disruptive economic policies loomed ominously during a one-day conference on the Laval region's economic prospects held in November by Laval économique, the City of Laval's development arm.

More than 300 export experts, visionary entrepreneurs and economic and political decision-makers accepted the agency's invitation to gather for a day of strategic discussions. Mayor Stéphane Boyer called the Trump administration's actions since the Republican president took office last year a "wake-up call

for Canada," while noting that for the longest time, the U.S. was the country's most important trading partner.



In December, the REM's new Sainte-Dorothée station was quickly proving essential to Laval commuters, with packed park-and-ride lots and steady afternoon ridership suggesting the service had taken hold just weeks after launch.

Luis Canon, an internet technician who lived nearby, said the REM fit naturally into his routine. "It's amazing. It's convenient," he said. Canon takes the train roughly four times a week, often at peak hours. He said the new system was a welcome return after years of

replacement buses.

[33-24 p 5] 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 that he was hoping Prime Minister Mark Carney would amend the criminal code so that Laval and other cities could better defend their businesses and residents.

"The criminal code must be revised, because at this moment youths 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."



December brought water infra improvements, as REM station grew busy



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Laval Rocket fan death forces match to an early conclusion

A game between the Laval Rocket and the Manitoba Moose last Saturday at Laval's Place Bell ended abruptly and under unusual circumstances when a member of the audience fell ill and required immediate medical attention.

According to the Montreal daily news portal La Presse, the victim, 75-year-old

Michel Pelletier resided in Saint-Sauveur, but a few years ago he decided to move to Laval in order to be closer to his favorite team.

Last Saturday afternoon, he went to Place Bell to watch the game between the Laval Rocket and the Manitoba Moose. He had a ticket right behind Rocket goaltender Jacob

Fowler, who had just been sent down to the pro developmental AHL's Rocket after a stint with the Habs in the NHL.

According to reports, Fowler realized there was a problem in the stands and asked for the game to be stopped, a minute and 12 seconds before the end. The game was abandoned due to a medical emergency involving

the fan in the stands.

After assessing the situation, a decision was made to stop the game, confirming a 3-0 loss for Laval. Beyond the score, attention quickly shifted to the medical situation that led to the game's cancellation. Rocket management decided the priority was the health and safety of the fan involved.

Baby girl dies of injuries after multi-vehicle crash in Laval



A five-month-old baby girl, one of nine people injured in a multi-vehicle crash in Laval in early January, has died of her injuries, the Laval Police have confirmed.

The death came 10 days after the girl's six-year-old sister died of injuries sustained in the January 5 car crash involving four vehicles, raising the final tally from the incident to two dead and seven injured.

The accident occurred around 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5 when a driver travelling north on Route 335 in Laval lost control about one kilometre north of Dagenais Blvd., then struck three other cars travelling on the road's north and southbound lanes.

The crash remains under investigation. A 40-year-old man was taken in for questioning a day after the crash and then released after signing a promise to appear in court.

Laval man charged in death of Quebec City woman

A 43-year-old man from Laval is facing a criminal charge of causing bodily harm to another person in Quebec City after police recovered the body of a woman from the St. Lawrence River near a wharf at the Port of Quebec.

Sûreté du Québec divers located the body of a woman last week, tentatively identified as Susana Rocha Cruz. She was reported missing on January 12 after last being seen on January 7.

According to media reports, Rocha Cruz, of Mexican origin, worked as a housekeeper in the hotel industry in the city of Quebec.

The Service de Police de la Ville de Québec confirmed that the suspect and the missing woman knew each other. It was unclear whether

additional charges would be laid against the suspect, identified by police as Abraham Gonzales Leon.



LPD participating in Polar Bear Challenge

The Laval Police say they will be proudly participating once again in the Polar Bear Challenge, which will be held on Saturday February 21 at Riverain de Lachine Park in the Borough of Lachine in Montreal.

Organized by the Quebec Special

Olympics, all funds raised from the challenge will go to Course au flambeau des agents de la paix. Several policemen will take on the exciting challenge of jumping into the icy waters of the Saint Lawrence River for a good cause.



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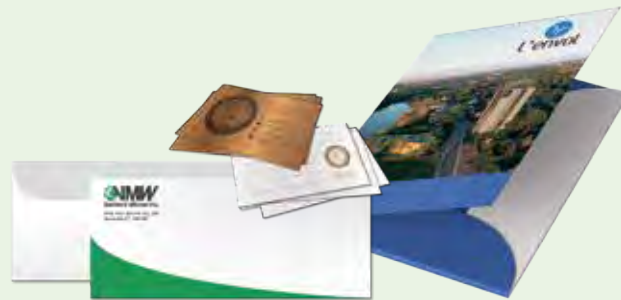
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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

REWRITING HISTORY

Q My wife and I have been married 40 years. I recently found out that 14 months after we married she began a three year affair. I was called to active duty in the Air Force at the time and sent out of state. Not knowing how long I would be gone, she moved back home.

The affair began immediately after I left. I had no idea. I knew her for four years before our marriage, and she came from a good Christian family. Although I made it back home every other weekend, the affair continued. After 18 months I was released from active duty, and we moved into an apartment.

Low and behold, soon after I returned I got a fantastic promotion that required me to be out of town Monday through Friday. The affair continued full steam ahead. At one point my wife asked me for a divorce, giving no specific reason. Unfortunately, I talked her out of it.

The shocker was when my wife also admitted to a one-night stand with her boyfriend's best friend just to make her lover jealous. She also admitted having sex with a guy she met at a dance club. Although this was more than 30 years ago, it seems like it happened yesterday.

We are seeing a counselor presently, but it's not doing me much good. I still have visions about the affairs and find it hard to forgive her.

Ian

A Ian, history is the slave of written records. If someone wrote the history of your marriage, they would have a marriage license, birth and graduation records, bills, and decades of photographs—but the real story would be untold.

In the law there is something known as an incompensible wrong. If someone mows down your rose bushes, they can be forced to compensate you for your loss, but if someone mows down your child, there is no adequate compensation. What is the price of a life?

Your wife has stolen your peace of mind, and it is not in her interest to tell you more than you already know. Because you and you alone have suffered a traumatic event, you need individual counseling with someone who will not diminish what you are going through.

Part of that involves sifting through the ashes of the past to separate fact from fiction. The meaning of your life with her, even the paternity of your children, are open to question. You must also deal with a range of negative emotions: anger at her betrayal, sadness at what you've lost, fear of going forward, and contempt for her as a person.

Then you can decide where and how to spend your remaining years. She doesn't get to decide. She had her life and she had yours, too. You don't have to lash out and hurt her, you just have to decide on your future.

Wayne & Tamara

MATCHMAKING OR MEDDLING?

Q I have two friends; we'll call them Bill and Sheila. They've known each other more than 20 years, and everyone thinks they are perfect for each other. Neither has ever married. Friends have tried setting them up, but either one of them was in a relationship or the other was just out of a bad relationship.

Currently neither is involved with anyone. Schedules and location make it difficult at this point, but Bill wants to try. He's worried if it doesn't work out their 20 year friendship will go down the drain. Are his fears of losing his

best friend justified?

Annie

A Annie, we can't work our will on others. You may want to bring them together, but this is all about them. If there were a mutual attraction, you would be hard-pressed to keep them apart.

Everyone wants Bill and Sheila together but Bill and Sheila. Has Bill really decided? Or is this what Annie and "everyone" have decided?

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION
March 22, 2026, School Election

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board by Lorraine Sperano Gauthier, returning officer, that:

- The following positions are open for nominations:
 - Commissioner – Electoral division 9
- Nomination papers for this position must be filed at the office of the returning officer on the following days and times, by appointment:
 - February 10, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 - February 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - February 12, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - February 15, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- If two or more candidates are nominated for the same position,
 - a poll will be held on March 22, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
 - an advance poll will be held on March 15, 2026, from noon to 8 p.m.
- Pierre-Michel Gancz was appointed to act as the Election Clerk.
- An elector who does not have a child admitted to the educational services of the English school board or the French school service centre serving their domicile may choose to exercise or revoke their right to vote within their English school board. This choice is exercised by submitting a signed, written notice to the returning officer of the English school board between February 21 and March 3, at 10 p.m.
- You can reach me or my assistants at the following coordinates:

Returning officer

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3420
lsperano@swlauriersb.qc.ca

Election Clerk

Pierre-Michel Gancz
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3421
elections@swlauriersb.qc.ca

Assistant authorized to receive nomination papers

Suhad Alie
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3421
elections@swlauriersb.qc.ca

Given at Rosemère on January 21, 2026.

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
Returning Officer



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

AVIS PUBLIC D'ÉLECTION
Élection scolaire du 22 mars 2026

AVIS PUBLIC est, par la présente, donné aux électrices et électeurs de la commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier par Lorraine Sperano Gauthier, présidente d'élection, que :

- Le poste suivant est ouvert aux candidatures :
 - Commissaire – Circonscription électorale 9
- Toute déclaration de candidature à ce poste devra être produite au bureau de la présidente d'élection, aux jours et aux heures qui suivent, sur rendez-vous :
 - 10 février de 13 h à 17 h
 - 11 février de 9 h à 17 h
 - 12 février de 14 h à 20 h
 - 15 février de 13 h à 17 h
- Si plus d'une candidate ou d'un candidat se présentent pour le même poste,
 - un scrutin sera tenu le 22 mars 2026 de 10 h à 20 h;
 - un vote par anticipation sera tenu le 15 mars 2026 de 12 h à 20 h.
- Pierre-Michel Gancz a été nommé pour agir à titre de secrétaire d'élection.
- Une électrice ou un électeur qui n'a pas d'enfant admis(e) aux services éducatifs de la commission scolaire anglophone ou du centre de services scolaire francophone qui dessert son domicile peut choisir d'exercer ou de révoquer son droit de vote au sein de sa commission scolaire anglophone. Ce choix s'exerce en présentant un avis écrit signé à la présidente d'élection de la commission scolaire anglophone, entre le 21 février et le 3 mars, à 22 h.
- Vous pouvez me joindre, ou joindre mes adjoint(e)s, aux coordonnées suivantes :

Présidente d'élection

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3420
lsperano@swlauriersb.qc.ca

Secrétaire d'élection

Pierre-Michel Gancz
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3421
elections@swlauriersb.qc.ca

Adjointe habilitée à recevoir toute candidature

Suhad Alie
235, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6
450 621-5600, poste 3421
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Donné à Rosemère, le 21 janvier 2026.

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
Présidente d'élection



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2316 rue Desserte Ouest,
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HOROSCOPE

Week of January 25 to 31, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:
CANCER, LEO AND VIRGO



ARIES

Before making a major purchase, review your budget and decide if the expense is truly necessary. Be patient and you'll be more satisfied and find a better price.



TAURUS

Be prepared for a busy week ahead full of unexpected events. You'll earn a promotion at work. This could provide you with either valuable security for the future or the chance to begin an exciting new phase filled with promise and motivation.



GEMINI

Taking a step back will give you the momentum you need to accomplish something remarkable. Your artistic side will shine through this week. You'll be brimming with creativity. You may also choose to get involved in a meaningful social cause.



CANCER

Your friends will invite you on an enjoyable outing or a trip. You'll come up with an ingenious idea that could help alleviate some of your financial concerns. Trust the sound advice of financial experts and professionals.



LEO

You'll be in charge of organizing an event that will bring many people together. You'll easily handle urgent situations, both at work and at home. An opportunity to celebrate a success may also present itself.



VIRGO

You'll acquire new knowledge this week, which will inspire you profoundly and spark a personal transformation. You may explore your spiritual side or establish a simple but meaningful ritual that brings happiness to your daily life.



LIBRA

Your emotions will be running high this week. This will prompt you to strengthen your relationships with your loved ones. You may have an epiphany, which could awaken in you a desire to explore and embrace new enriching experiences.



SCORPIO

You'll have to make an important decision this week that will require careful consideration. If you want to achieve your professional goals, you must make certain adjustments to move in the right direction and find true satisfaction.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll have heavy responsibilities at work and home this week. You'll keep your space neat and tidy, which will bring you happiness and increase your efficiency and productivity in your daily life.



CAPRICORN

Your growing self-confidence will spark significant professional and personal growth. This assurance will help you stand out from the crowd and earn considerable recognition from those around you.



AQUARIUS

Whether you're single or in a relationship, love at first sight could turn your world upside down and spark an irresistible fascination. You and your relatives will be thrilled by a birth announcement in the family.



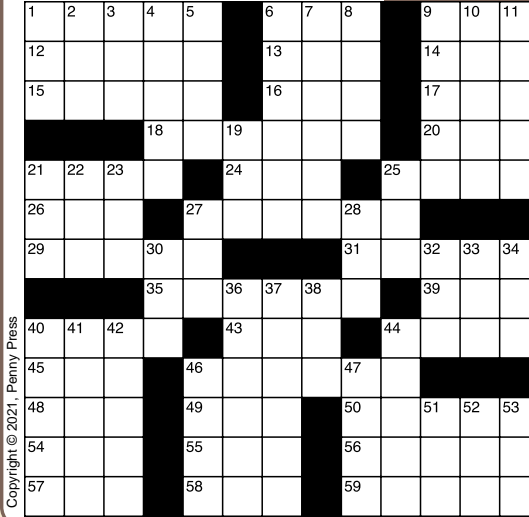
PISCES

You'll form new friendships and professional relationships this week. Your strong communication skills will help you reach fair agreements and ease tensions, creating a more peaceful and productive atmosphere.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 296



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ACROSS

- Dancing spot
- Health resort
- Circle section
- Oak source
- Peak
- Dove sound
- Bus station
- Have being
- Skedaddle
- Fellow lead performer
- Hen output
- Emit fumes
- Toolbox
- On the Pacific
- "Look ____ ye leap"
- Friendliest
- Worth
- Southern nut
- Boggy
- Pasture mother
- Cook, as a cake
- Rival
- Liquefy

- Fearful wonder
- Blazing
- Happy
- Fishing gear
- Honolulu greeting
- ____ out (barely make)
- Bad humor
- Marry again
- Headed
- Put two and two together
- Squeals

DOWN

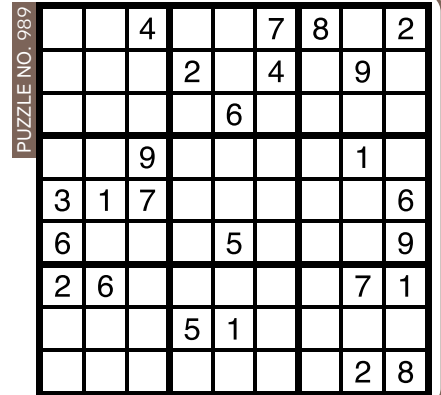
- Father, informally
- Freezer abundance
- Food for dipping
- Earthenware pot
- Atop
- TV interference
- Blackbeard, e.g.
- Copycat
- "Green ____"
- Cheek makeup
- Cuban dance
- Go down the slopes
- Gun a motor
- Generation
- Slippery as an ____
- Devoured
- Just out
- Agent
- Take advantage of
- So-so grade
- Hole punch
- Mesh fabric
- Be able to pay for
- Shaped
- Small vegetable
- Roll with a hole
- Attentive
- ____ up (tense)
- Riot
- Operatic melody
- Lamb owner
- Bird that hoots
- In the know
- Station break airings

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

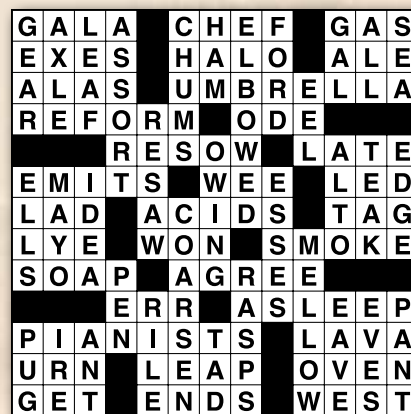
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.

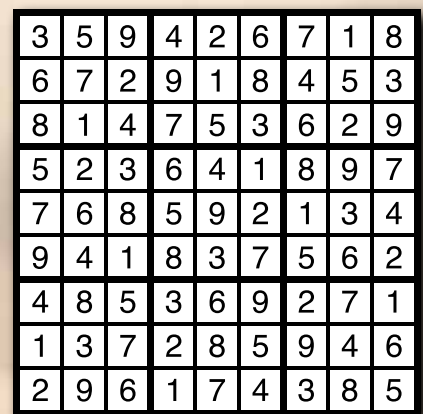


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku





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