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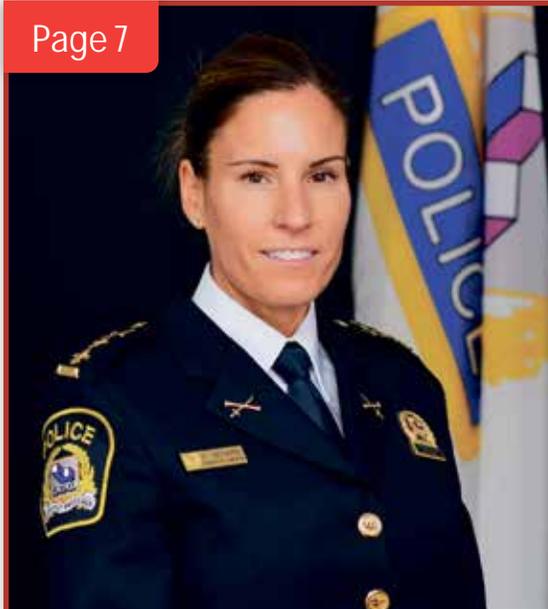
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# Laval signed a non-disclosure agreement for Alto hi-speed train, Boyer acknowledges

*City is saving \$100,000 annually by using winter tires all year, mayor tells March council*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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Answering questions during the March city council about Alto's high-speed train which could include a station in Laval, Mayor Stéphane Boyer defended the city's decision to sign a non-disclosure agreement with the consortium leading the project, in order to prevent land speculation from driving up costs.

Alto, also known as the Toronto-Quebec City High-Speed Rail Network, was announced more than a year ago by then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. While a design phase has been projected to last for up to five years, opening of the system is scheduled between 2035 and 2044.

## Hi-speed train coming to Laval

Trains on the dedicated 1,000-kilometre rail route would reach top speeds of up to 300 km/h, which is nearly double what Via Rail can currently offer. Besides Toronto, Quebec City and Laval, there will also be stations in Peterborough, Ottawa, Montreal and Trois-Rivières.

With a population that will soon be reaching 440,000 – 1.2 million when you include the North Shore – Laval is seen as the logical location for an Alto station because of its strategic proximity to the northern suburbs where the population also continues to expand.

Based on illustrations and maps of the Laval region that Alto displayed during a one-day public consultation on the project at the Sheraton Laval in January, the company is apparently leaning towards a location somewhere inside the multimode transit hub in Laval's downtown core.

## Most people don't yet know

"In speaking with my fellow citizens, I realized that the majority of people from Laval were not aware that the high-speed train will be passing through Laval and there will be a station, which I found surprising," Pascale Durocher told the mayor during the March 10 council meeting's public question period.

She maintained that in early February, Denis

Fafard, director of the City of Laval's mobility office, told her that the city was near the point of signing a confidentiality agreement with Alto. "He told me that the city will have access to information from Alto that it will not be able to share with the population," she said.

She asked the mayor what type of information that might be, and whether the city will know before residents the possible locations of the station, as well as the possible Alto rail routes.

Responding, Mayor Boyer said that at this early stages of the project "there remain many question marks on many topics, but that will become clearer in time." However, he confirmed that the City of Laval routinely signs confidentiality agreements with outside parties when deemed necessary and appropriate.

## Non-disclosure agreements

(It may also be worth noting that several municipalities all over the Montreal region along the route of the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) signed non-disclosure agreements with the project's builder, CDPQ Infra, when it was launched about a decade ago.)

"This is normal – we did so, for example, with the REM," said Mayor Boyer, "because we are sharing studies back and forth between us."

"So, obviously when important transit projects are being implemented in municipalities, it's sometimes necessary to open up streets, redo intersections, [share] data from the city on traffic studies we may have done in the past. So, there is a multitude of topics or studies which technical teams from the city and Alto may have to exchange over time.

"There's also an issue involving speculation," he added. "Obviously we don't know exactly where the project will be passing or where the station will be. But obviously Alto must follow certain measures in order to avoid, among other things, people speculating."

## Minimizing expropriations

"Because from the moment, for example, when it's known there's going to be a train station, it can obviously be tempting for certain people to buy up properties to make money."

In spite of this, Boyer said all the information



Seen here during the March 10 Laval city council meeting, Mayor Stéphane Boyer said the city sometimes signs non-disclosure agreements for major projects like the Alto high-speed train and the REM. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

about the project that the city has access to will eventually become public, although certain phases in the project will have to be completed before then.

He said he met for talks with the executive-director of Alto on two to three occasions. "Their wish is to minimize, to maximally reduce the number of expropriations. We don't know for now whether there will be any, and if so, how many there could be. But definitely in the region of Laval, what I am told is that the hope is to pass as much a possible on autoroute rights-of-way."

But if there were to be expropriations, Boyer noted, the legal procedure would see land owners compensated up to their property's prevailing market value, although additional sums might also be possible in situations where owners feel they should receive more. But as the high-speed train is a federal government project, Mayor Boyer said the City of Laval has no involvement whatsoever in the expropriation process.

## Mini-farm fate and cost-cutting

In a follow-up to the city's recent cost-cutting

decision to close the mini-farm at the Centre de la nature and replace it with a mobile children's petting zoo, the mayor revealed at least two of the other measures the city is undertaking beginning this year to trim its expenses.

According to Boyer, the city managed to cut \$100,000 from its nearly \$1.3 billion 2026 budget by deciding not to store data from the video feeds of 600 surveillance cameras for months on end. Instead, it's now kept for just 30 days, said the mayor.

As well, he revealed that the city has decided not to use summer tires on its vehicles anymore, keeping winter tires on year-around, for a savings of at least \$100,000 in materials and labor costs.

In spite of Mayor Boyer's cost-cutting announcements, the closing of the mini-farm didn't sit well with the Action Laval opposition.

Action Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis made a lengthy statement deriding the administration for ignoring a 20,000-signature petition signed by Laval residents demanding the city reverse the cost-cutting decision to close the mini-farm.



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## Carney talks like Canada is a reliable energy partner

*The world knows otherwise. Canada has the oil but years of political obstruction keep it from reaching markets*

The world is scrambling for reliable oil suppliers as one of the largest supply disruptions in the history of oil hits global energy markets.

In early March, Israel and the United States launched coordinated strikes against Iran, triggering a regional conflict that quickly spilled into global markets.

Iran retaliated by disrupting shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The narrow waterway normally carries roughly 20 per cent of the world's oil supply, making it one of the most important oil routes on the planet.

The impact was immediate. Tanker traffic slowed sharply, oil prices surged toward US\$100 a barrel and governments began releasing emergency reserves.

In moments like this, the world looks for producers that can quickly supply additional oil to global markets. Canada is not one of them.

During a meeting with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Oslo on March 14, Prime Minister Mark Carney presented Canada as a stable oil exporter and partner to the world. "From Canada's perspective, we are low-risk producers of oil. We are low-risk producers of natural gas. We're reliable," he said.

Stable we may be. Reliable we are not. When Germany and Asian partners asked Canada to supply more oil and natural gas during earlier energy shortages, they were effectively told by

then-prime minister Justin Trudeau that there was no business case for expanding exports. Germany instead secured energy supplies from Qatar and the United States.

Canada's export infrastructure tells the same story. Major projects such as the proposed Energy East pipeline, which would have carried western oil to Atlantic export terminals, were abandoned after years of regulatory uncertainty, rising costs and political opposition that made the project commercially unviable.

Canada is one of the world's largest oil producers. But most of its crude flows south to the United States because export infrastructure to global markets was never built. Canada's oil pipelines are largely oriented north-south into the U.S. refining system rather than to overseas export terminals. That was a political choice.

In the short term (one to two years), Canada cannot do much to ease the current supply shock. Oil production is already running near capacity and most Canadian crude flows to the U.S. through existing pipeline systems. Without additional export infrastructure, there is little ability to redirect large volumes to global markets during a crisis. The reality is that our oil cannot reach global markets quickly enough to matter.

In the mid-term (three to five years), Canada could modestly expand its role. Oil sands production in northern Alberta continues to grow and

the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion now allows more Canadian oil to reach the Pacific coast for export to overseas markets. But these changes add supply gradually rather than quickly. They will not solve today's crisis.

In the long term (10 years or more), the potential is far larger if the political will is there. Canada holds the world's third-largest proven oil reserves and operates one of the most politically stable energy sectors in the world. With additional pipelines, export terminals and liquefied natural gas infrastructure, Canada could become one of the most reliable energy suppliers in global markets.

For now, however, Canada's ability to respond remains limited. Canada produced on average 5.3 million bpd of crude oil in 2025, according to the Canada Energy Regulator. And as part of the International Energy Agency's plan to increase oil supply, Canadian production is set to increase by about 140,000 barrels per day starting in April, according to the Natural Resources minister's office.

That increase represents about a 2.6 per cent rise in Canadian supply. It also illustrates the broader constraint. Canada can grow production. It just cannot deliver it when the world needs it.

Canada has the resources to be a global energy leader. What it lacks is the infrastructure and the political will needed to become one.

Rashid Husain Syed

## You cannot bomb a country into freedom

*The record of foreign intervention is bleak. Political change lasts only when it is driven by the people who live there*

Last month marked the 40th anniversary of the People Power Revolution in the Philippines, the 1986 uprising that ended the two-decade dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos Sr., a bloodless, indigenous, and very effective regime change.

And in an age where countries with powerful armies view regime change in foreign lands as justification for violence, it is worth reflecting on what the world can learn from this event.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have gone to university in the Philippines a few years before the People Power Revolution. President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. was the dictator at the time. Since it was during the Cold War and Marcos was an American ally, anyone who objected to his regime was labelled a communist.

As a Canadian used to free speech, I was shocked when students were uncomfortable engaging in political debates in the classroom, and then I learned about disappearances, shootings, and curious "accidents" that happened with regularity.

When my friends knew that there were no informants around, they talked to me about what was happening in their country. They were well-educated and skilled in critical thinking. They also made very effective use of humour.

While I enjoyed talking with my Filipino friends, I was very aware that as a foreigner, I needed to listen and learn. I had absolutely no right to advise them about how their country should be run. To me, this is simply common sense.

A few years after I left, the world stood in awe when, after a contested presidential election result, throngs of Filipinos confronted the military armed only with flowers and prayer beads.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan wisely remained silent, and Marcos was powerless. He left the country and Corazon Aquino, his opponent in the election, became the new president of the Philippines, bringing back democratic government after years of authoritarian rule.

The lesson from the People Power Revolution is clear. History offers few examples where foreign intervention—through sanctions, embargoes, blockades or violence—improved life for the citizens of a country. In fact, these actions often inflict tremendous suffering on the people living there. History repeatedly shows that attempts by outside powers to force political change often make conditions worse for the people living there.

This lesson is relevant far beyond the Philippines. In the case of outside efforts to bring about regime change in Iran, it seems very odd that foreigners who express concern about the freedom of the people of Iran are so willing to risk Iranian lives. On the first day of the latest military assault on Iran, reports said an elementary school was blown up, tragically killing more than 100 schoolgirls. Iranian authorities blamed the United States and Israel for the strike, though responsibility remains disputed.

The people of Iran, like the people of the

Philippines, are well educated. They live under a political system dominated by religious authorities and powerful security institutions and are fully capable of deciding how they want to be governed. Political change is far more likely to last when it is driven by a country's own citizens rather than imposed from outside.

The confirmed death of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had served as Iran's supreme leader since 1989, does not appear to have had the impact outside observers were hoping for. For many Shiite Muslims, he will be viewed as a martyr, and his death will likely strengthen resistance to what many will see as foreign aggression.

Whatever the outcome of the conflict, lasting political change in Iran, if it occurs, will ultimately depend on the choices made by the Iranian people themselves.

Sustaining a war also requires public support. In the U.S., public opinion polls show more Americans oppose the war in Iran than support it, with younger voters especially skeptical.

Forty years after the People Power Revolution, life is not perfect in the Philippines. I was shocked when the population elected Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son of the former dictator, as their president in 2022. Regardless of what I think of this choice, it is not my business as a foreigner to tell Filipinos how they should be governed.

Nor is it our business who governs Iran.

Gerry Chidiac



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## First installment of Laval property tax bills due today

When and how can you pay your tax bill? How does the city use the taxes it collects? And what should you do if you move?

These are some of the questions that property owners in the City of Laval are probably asking lately, taking into account that the deadline for paying the first installment of the annual tax bill is today (Wednesday March 18).

The City of Laval says it is working to limit tax increases in an effort to protect residents' purchasing power, while maintaining essential services such as snow removal, park maintenance and waste management.

Although property values are currently on the rise, the city says adjustments have been being made to ease the impact on tax bills.

While the first payment has now come due, the second installment must be made by June 16. In the event of a late payment, according to the city, fees and penalties will be applied, calculated at a daily interest rate of 8.5 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.

There are several ways to make the payment, including payment through your banking institution (for those with access to online banking services), as well as through an Automated

Teller Machine or in-person at the counter at bank branches.

The city cautions that bank payments should be made at least three business days before the payment deadline in order to avoid having to pay penalties for lateness due to delayed processing times.

The city is also accepting payments through personal or certified cheques, as well as bank or postal money orders.

For those paying by cheque and to save time, the city recommends including a post-dated cheque and the corresponding payment stub

for the second installment in the mailing for the first installment.

Additionally, for those making last minute payments, cheques can be brought in and deposited directly in the mail slot at the City of Laval's Service des finances at 1333 Chomedey Blvd.

In person, payments can be made at the city's tax counter, also at 1333 Chomedey (office 101), which is open Monday to Friday from 8.15 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Payments here can be made by debit card (Interac) as well as in cash or by some or all of the aforementioned methods.

## Work underway on new pavilion and stage in Vieux Sainte-Rose

Work on the construction of a welcome pavilion and an outdoor stage is expected to begin this month on the site beside the Rivière des Mille Îles de la Berge des Baigneurs in Vieux Sainte-Rose.

The firm Bernard Malo inc., based in Joliette north of Laval, won a call for tenders ahead of six other compliant bidders. The contract

was officially awarded at the Laval municipal council meeting on March 10.

The project has been budgeted for \$7,439,607 including taxes. Over the next 12 months, the new installation will be rising a short distance from the Centre d'interprétation de l'eau (C.I.EAU), while filling a space that has been vacant for years.

The City of Laval conducted an extensive local public consultation over a good number of years before deciding to move ahead with the project. The pavilion and outdoor stage are expected to play an important role in helping to promote the picturesque Vieux Sainte-Rose neighborhood as a destination that attracts tourists.



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**Stéphane Boyer**  
Mayor of Laval

conseil  
municipal



# Laval names Karine Ménard as its new chief of police services

*She ‘embodies a new generation of police leadership,’ Mayor Stéphane Boyer says*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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The City of Laval has named one of its own veteran police officers as the municipality’s new chief of law enforcement.

“Congratulations to Karine Ménard, named as director of the Service de police de Laval,” the Laval Police (Service de police de Laval) announced on their X social media feed last week.

“With nearly 23 years of service within the SPL, she is taking on this new mandate with commitment and determination,” they added. “We wish her a lot of success in her new functions.”

Karine Ménard’s virtually entire law enforcement career has been spent with the Laval Police. She replaces Laval’s last police chief, Pierre Brochet, who left at the end of 2025.

## Will oversee BIEL

“From now on, Mme Ménard will simultaneously assume the responsibilities related to this function and those of director of the Bureau de l’intégrité et de l’éthique de Laval,” the city said in a statement posted on the municipality’s website.

(The latter refers to a responsibility conferred by the City of Laval on its police chief for overseeing anti-corruption efforts within the administration, after the city was placed in trusteeship in 2013 in the midst of a corruption scandal.)

The nomination, approved by the municipal council on March 10, was followed by the administration of an oath of office in accordance with article 83 of the provincial Police Act.

In a statement, Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer said Ménard “embodies a new generation of police leadership: a human, collaborative and field-oriented approach. She understands that public safety is built as much on prevention as on police action.

## ‘A major asset,’ Mayor Boyer says

“Her ability to innovate and think outside the

box to better fight crime is a major asset for Laval,” he added. “I am convinced that she will be able to mobilize her teams and our partners to continue making our city a safe living environment for all.”

Ménard is the third woman to lead a major Quebec police force. In 2022, Johanne Beausoleil was named to lead the Sûreté du Québec, and Sophie Roy was named interim-police chief of the Montreal Police in May 2022. Roy was replaced in 2023 by the Montreal Police’s current police chief Fady Dagher.

A police officer by training, Karine Ménard completed studies in police technology and public security, while also pursuing a certificate in organizational leadership at HEC Montréal. The city said her diverse training in management, strategy and innovation, coupled with a unifying leadership and a strong capacity to develop partnerships, represents a major asset for the future of the city’s police department.

## Helped implement programs

According to the city, Ménard previously held several key positions within the Laval Police, including deputy director of investigations and chief inspector.

“Her path has allowed her to acquire a global and fine understanding of police issues and to distinguish herself with structuring initiatives,” the city said in its statement.

Ménard is considered to have been a key player in implementing the Laval Police’s *Projet Vigilance*, a proactive initiative against extortion, as well as the *Justice and Equity* project, and the creation of the *Strategic Analysis Bureau*, along with several innovative action plans.

Her predecessor, Pierre Brochet led the SPL for 12 years (2013–2025), succeeding Jean-Pierre Gariépy, before leaving to join Desjardins Group. Brochet had previously served as a high-ranking officer with the Montreal Police. For his part, Gariépy served for 15 years (1998–2013) as police chief, retiring at the end of 2013.

## Spring floods: Our teams at work

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Karine Ménard is the City of Laval’s new chief of police.

# City of Laval appealing CRA demand that city pay off Gilles Vaillancourt's \$1 million tax bill

*Efforts underway 'to find a solution quickly,' Mayor Stéphane Boyer tells Laval city council*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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Fourteen years after abruptly leaving office, Gilles Vaillancourt continues to cast a shadow over the city.

While the former Laval mayor served time in prison after pleading guilty to corruption charges, the City of Laval could now be on the hook for an unpaid \$1 million income tax bill owed to the Canada Revenue Agency for sums Vaillancourt admitted in court he received illicitly while in office.

During the March 10 city council meeting, Mayor Stéphane Boyer brought up the issue in his opening remarks, noting that a resolution would be passed that evening, asking federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne to intervene in the City of Laval's favor.

"I had a talk with Minister Champagne yesterday, at which time I was assured that an effort was being made to find a solution quickly," said Boyer.

Vaillancourt, who served as Laval's mayor from 1989 to 2012, pleaded guilty in 2016 to engaging in corrupt administration practices. This included an admission by him that millions of dollars of proceeds from the scheme went into a Swiss bank account.

## Holding Laval responsible

Although Vaillancourt returned more than \$7 million to the City of Laval, Radio-Canada reported that the CRA wants Laval to transfer \$1 million back to Vaillancourt so that the CRA can close his file while the former mayor pays off the tax and interest owing.

According to the Radio-Canada report, Vaillancourt's lawyers are arguing that the City of Laval should be held responsible for the unpaid taxes since the municipality ultimately received the reimbursed sum.



**Former Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt (seen here at a 2010 city council meeting).**  
(File photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

In recent media interviews, Mayor Boyer pointed out that in 2016, the Quebec government reimbursed to the city money Vaillancourt owed to Revenu Québec without demanding further payment. The mayor believes the federal government has the option to do the same thing using discretionary powers at its disposal.

In a relatively rare instance of solidarity between the mayor and opposition forces on city council, Action Laval opposition city councillor David De Cotis (Saint-Bruno) tabled a motion supporting the administration's position on the unpaid taxes.

## 'Profoundly unfair,' says De Cotis

It demanded the federal minister of national revenue exercise his discretionary power to cancel former mayor of Laval Gilles Vaillancourt's fiscal debt of one million dollars. "The City of Laval has recovered \$7 million from municipal funds embezzled by

the former mayor," Action Laval said in a statement.

"The government of Quebec has already remitted provincial taxes to the city, that is approximately \$1.8 million, while the Canada Revenue Agency claims now nearly \$1 million." According to Action Laval, Ottawa should pose a similar gesture to prevent Laval taxpayers from being penalized a second time.

"Laval is being forced to pay for crimes committed against it," said De Cotis. "This situation is profoundly unfair for citizens who have already suffered the consequences of the actions taken at the time by Gilles Vaillancourt."

At the same time, however, De Cotis took a shot at Mayor Boyer for allegedly failing to prevent what happened.

"The mayor claims to be very surprised today, but this agreement has been in place since 2016," De Cotis said, alluding to the settlement originally reached between Vaillancourt and the city. "What did he do all these years to try and change it?"

## The full text of Action Laval's resolution

CONSIDERING THAT the City of Laval has recovered 7 million dollars in municipal funds embezzled by fraudulent maneuvers by its former mayor, Gilles Vaillancourt;

CONSIDERING THAT by decree of the Executive Council, the government of Quebec has returned to the City of Laval the amount of taxes payable by Gilles Vaillancourt to the provincial government, that is for a value of \$1.8 million;

CONSIDERING that the Governor in Council, on recommendation by its Minister of Revenue, can remit taxes or impose penalties if their perception is judged to be unreasonable or unjust;

IT IS PROPOSED by David De Cotis:

That the municipal council unanimously asks the Minister of Revenue of Canada to use his discretionary power to repay the debt of the former mayor of the city of Laval, Mr. Gilles Vaillancourt, since this is unjust for the citizens of Laval.

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# Chomedey MNA hopes to break the silence on menopause

*It's time to move 'beyond symbolism,' says Sona Lakhoyan Olivier*



Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier wants the members of the Quebec National Assembly to acknowledge there is a need for a national women's health policy in Quebec. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier is hoping the powers that be at the Quebec National Assembly will take a serious second look at her proposal that they acknowledge there's a need for a national women's health policy in Quebec.

A few days before International Women's Day on March 8, Lakhoyan Olivier sat down with *The Laval News* to explain what she hopes will eventually blossom into a resolution to be adopted by the National Assembly.

"What have we done lately for women's health?" she asked.

### Investing in women's health

"Here it is Women's Day again, there are celebrations, but there's no investment. With women living longer and working and being active, they have special needs, but we have not taken the time and put in the effort to see what we can do about women's health.

"I believe the time has come to move beyond symbolism and build a national women's policy – one that invests in research, prevention and care from menstruation to menopause and beyond," she added. "Quebec has the expertise. What's missing is the political will. And if not now – when?"

Lakhoyan Olivier pointed out that today women and men live longer than ever before. In Canada, life expectancy is around 84-85 years for women. "This means that a significant portion of women's lives is spent after menopause," she said. "Yet our health systems have not fully adapted to this demographic reality."

### Breaking the silence

First elected to the National Assembly in 2022, Lakhoyan Olivier said that since then she has raised the issue of menopause with colleagues as well as in political discussions. For generations, she said, menopause was considered a taboo subject.

"Our mothers and grandmothers rarely spoke about it. It was often treated as something shameful or as if it were a disease. As a result, many women today still suffer in silence without

proper support or medical guidance."

She believes that menopause is a potentially major health issue that deserves to be discussed publicly. She notes that hormonal changes in women's bodies during menopause have been linked to several health concerns, including cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, cognitive changes and increased risk factors for some cancers.

"These issues affect millions of women but are not systematically addressed through prevention programs," she said. She argues that the need for a conversation on the issue has become urgent.

### An important women's issue

With that said, Lakhoyan Olivier is proposing a simple step to get things underway: the introduction of a motion in the National Assembly recognizing menopause as an important women's issue. The motion (which she tabled recently, although it was turned down) would not impose policy immediately.

"But it would send a strong message that we care about women's health," she said, while adding that "such motions can often lead to real policy changes."

If the "political will" to follow through were to become a reality, she continued, several practical measures could follow, including preventive screening programs, hormone health consultations, improved education for doctors and better access by patients to specialists.

One major issue, Lakhoyan Olivier maintains, is that many women rarely see a gynecologist. "In many cases, women only see a gynecologist if a serious problem occurs," she said. "That should not be the case. Preventive care should include gynecological consultations after a certain age, especially during perimenopause and menopause."

### Menopause's economic impact

As she sees it, menopause also makes an economic impact on women's lives. Research from the Menopause Foundation of Canada indicates that unmanaged menopause symptoms cost the Canadian economy about \$3.5 billion per year in lost productivity and reduced workforce participation.

Studies also show that about one in three

women report menopause symptoms affecting their work performance. As such, some women leave the workforce because they don't receive proper support.

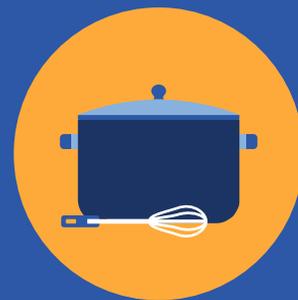
"Even today, many women hesitate to talk about menopause," she added, noting that research shows many employees don't feel

comfortable discussing menopause in the workplace because of stigma and lack of awareness.

"Starting the conversation publicly is essential to changing that culture," she said. "If we truly value women, we must also care about their health at every stage of life. Starting this conversation is the first step."

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

The Société de transport de Laval is asking passengers to check carefully whether scheduled STL bus routes are operating normally because of a breakdown in the transit agency's usual supply-chain, which has cut the STL off from repair components and spare parts. Because of the shortage, the STL is unable to keep enough buses on the road to provide full service. According to the STL, it's a situation that's expected to last four to eight weeks, but possibly longer.

#### Down by 60 bus trips

About 60 of the STL's 2,500 daily bus trips were cancelled last week, for an overall 2.6-per-cent service reduction affecting about 1,980 passengers. However, weekend schedules are not expected to be affected.

"The STL is facing unusual difficulties in its internal parts supply chain and fleet management," the STL said last weekend in a statement on their website.

As of last Monday March 16, the STL said it would be restoring approximately thirty bus trips that had previously been cancelled out of its 60 routes.

#### Limiting impact on clients

"Temporarily, we unfortunately cannot guarantee accessible vehicles on accessible routes," they said, while adding, "Our teams are working diligently to restore the situation as quickly as possible. Our priority is to limit the impacts on our customers."

Passengers are being invited to contact the STL's customer contact centre to verify, among other things, whether a bus serving for a planned trip is equipped with a ramp. The agency partly blamed a particularly harsh winter and the pressure it placed on the STL vehicle fleet for the disruptions.

# STL scales back bus service as failing supply-chain cuts off access to parts

*Transit service slowdown expected to last eight weeks, and possibly longer*

#### Some help for daily bus trips:

STL passengers are being asked to check their bus trips daily by:

- Visiting the STL website (stllaval.ca);
- Calling the customer contact centre at 450-688-6520;
- Subscribing to service alerts;
- Texting the bus stop number to 511785 a few minutes before a trip;
- And using trip planning tools such as Google or Transit.

#### Service disruptions ongoing

Effective last Monday, the number of daily cancelled trips was still expected to be reduced, including a good number during the morning peak rush-hour, and nine during the afternoon peak period. STL management was inviting passengers to consult an up-to-date list of cancelled trips on the STL website.

In addition, the transit agency cautioned that no service would be offered during the current disruptions at certain stops during work week rush hours. And no boarding or drop offs would be possible at these stops during the specified period.

On April 17 and 18, the 68<sup>th</sup> Canadian Closed International DanseSport Championships will take place at the Embassy Plaza in Laval. This competition, organized by DanseSport Québec and recognized by Canada DanceSport, will be an opportunity for the best dancers in Canada to compete for the title of Canadian Champion in their respective categories and to qualify for the World Championships.

DanseSport Québec invites the population of Laval as well as elsewhere in Quebec to come and attend this national competition. For more information and /or to buy your tickets, visit the event's website at [www.canadianclosedchampionship.com/en/home/](http://www.canadianclosedchampionship.com/en/home/).

Looking forward to seeing you there,

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# Carney's first year: a new governance

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA  
info@newsfirst.ca

By March 2026, the “New Liberal” government under Prime Minister Mark Carney has officially hit its stride. Since taking office in early 2025, Carney—often called “Mike” by his inner circle—has traded the traditional political playbook for a spreadsheet-driven, results-oriented approach. One year in, Canada looks less like a standard democracy and more like a massive global corporation under new management.

## The CEO in the East Block

Carney's first year was defined by a total overhaul of how Ottawa works. He inherited a government that many felt was stalled by slow debates. His response was to centralize power among a small group of economic experts, prioritizing “deliverables” over “discussion.”

The “Carney Doctrine” is simple: Social programs are only as strong as the economy that pays for them. To jumpstart growth, he launched the **Major Projects Office**, an agency designed to bypass the “red tape” that slows down big projects. If a company wants to build a critical mineral mine or a green energy plant, the goal is now to have it approved within two years, rather than ten.

## The “One Elbow Up” Strategy and Global Trade

Carney's arrival coincided with the return of Donald Trump to the White House. Navigating this has been his biggest test, leading to a strategy called “One Elbow Up.”

- **The “Up” Elbow:** Carney has been aggressive in defending Canadian trade. When threatened with U.S. tariffs, he traveled to Washington with a list of “counter-tariffs” ready to go, proving he would not be bullied.
- **The “Down” Elbow:** Simultaneously, he has diversified Canada's friendships. In early 2026, Carney secured a massive **Strategic Partnership with China**, allowing for more Canadian canola exports while bringing in affordable Chinese Electric Vehicles (EVs) to help meet climate goals. He also signed a **\$2.6 billion uranium deal with India**, positioning Canada as a top global energy supplier.

By March 2026, polling shows that 61% of Canadians approve of his “professional” handling of these global relationships.

## A Fortress in the North: Defense Investments

Recognizing that a “serious” country must be able to defend itself, Carney used his first year to launch a generational reinvestment in the military. In March 2026, he announced a staggering **\$35 billion plan** focused almost entirely on the Arctic.

The plan includes building “Operational Support Hubs” in places like Resolute and Whitehorse, ensuring the Canadian Armed Forces can stay in the North year-round. He has also committed to reaching NATO's **2% GDP spending target** immediately, with an eye toward much higher spending by 2035. This isn't just about guns and planes; it's “dual-use” infrastructure. New roads and airports in the North will serve both military jets and local communities, helping to unlock the region's vast mineral wealth.

## The “Canada Strong” Housing Pivot

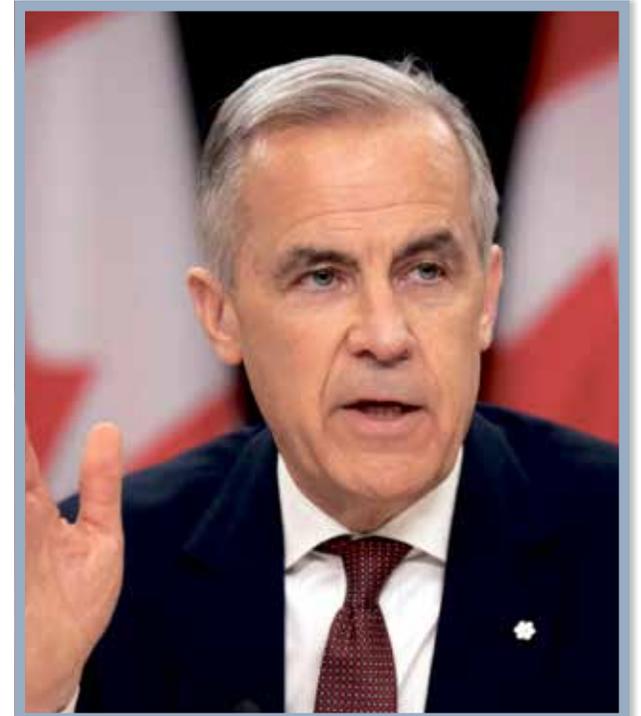
Perhaps the most aggressive part of Carney's first year was his 2025 Budget, which treated housing like a national emergency.

The centerpiece was **Build Canada Homes**, a federal agency that acts like a developer to build 500,000 homes a year. Carney's “CEO brain” saw that traditional building was too slow, so he shifted billions into **prefabricated (prefab) housing**. By building parts of homes in factories and snapping them together on-site, the government is trying to cut construction time in half. To help buyers, he also eliminated the **5% GST** on new homes under \$1 million for first-time owners, saving families up to \$50,000 instantly.

## The Reality Check: The Cost of Living

Despite these big wins, Carney faces a major “relatability” problem. While the economy looks better on a chart, the average Canadian's wallet is still feeling the pinch.

Metric (March 2026)	The Public's Verdict
Leadership Style	Strong (61% approval)
National Security	High; people feel safer with a “steady hand.”
Cost of Living	Poor (55% feel life is harder than last year).



The main criticism is that Carney is “too corporate.” To a family struggling to buy groceries today, a “Strategic Partnership with India” or a new “Support Hub” in the Arctic doesn't help with dinner. His opponents have branded him as a “globalist banker” who cares more about international deals than local prices.

## From Planning to Proving

Mark Carney's first year was about rebuilding the “engine” of Canada. He has streamlined the government, diversified trade, and launched a massive defense and housing plan. He has successfully convinced much of the country that he is a competent manager.

However, the “planning” phase is over. To stay in power, he must now prove that his “CEO style” works for the average person. If the new houses aren't finished soon and if food prices don't stabilize, his reputation as a “financial wizard” won't be enough to win the next election.

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# Canadians are living on financial alert as tariff turbulence fuels the precarity mindset

EDDIE SHEPPARD & DAVID COLETTO  
ABACUS DATA

Over the past year, Canadians have lived through a steady drumbeat of U.S. tariff threats, economic pressure, and political tension. For some, it fades into the background. For others, it shows up every time they tap their debit card.

In our latest research, I wanted to understand not just what people think about trade policy, but how this stretch of instability is shaping the way they live, spend, and make decisions.

If you've been following our work on the precarity mindset, none of this will feel disconnected. What we're seeing now is that mindset being reinforced in very practical ways. The sense that stability is fragile. That another hit could come at any time.

Three in ten Canadians say the past year has felt like a storm that keeps coming back. Not one sharp shock. Not a single disruptive

moment. Something that passes, then circles back. Something you brace for. Another 23% describe it as a wake-up call. A signal that they need to rethink how they spend, what they buy, and who they trust.

That tension between fatigue and adaptation is shaping consumer behaviour right now.

## Living on financial alert

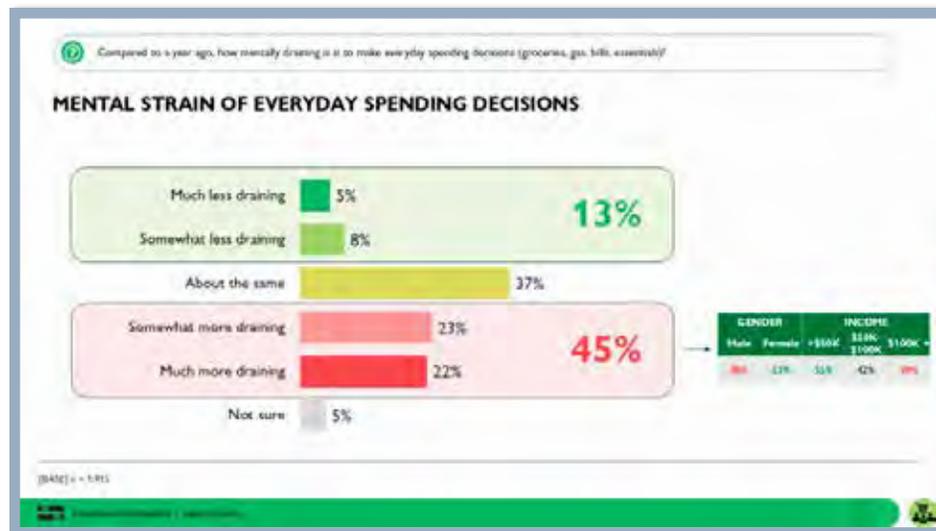
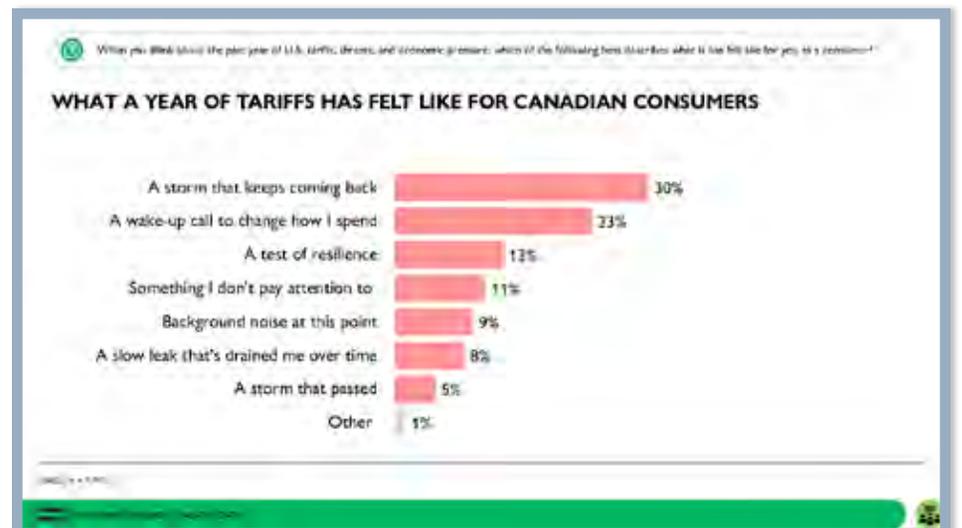
The most consistent signal in the data is this: Canadians feel on guard.

More than 8 in 10 say they feel like they have to stay on guard financially because another hit could come at any time. A similar share say they're exhausted by how often prices seem to change or jump. Even small purchases now require more thought than they used to.

This isn't just about buying a car or booking a vacation. It's groceries. Household basics. Everyday decisions that used to run on autopilot now require calculation.

That's precarity in action.

45% of Canadians say everyday spending deci-



sions are more mentally draining than they were a year ago. Among households earning under \$50,000, that rises to 55%. For many households, this isn't theoretical pressure. It's cognitive load, every single week.

Two-thirds say that right now it feels like no matter what they do, they can't really get ahead financially. And a similar share say they feel less financially secure than they did a year ago.

This is what erosion feels like from a consumer perspective. Constant pressure, like a drumbeat, not a full-on collapse.

## How people are coping

When we look at behaviour, Canadians aren't responding in one uniform way.

Some Canadians are pulling back. About a quarter say they avoid spending whenever possible because it feels safer to hold onto money. Others are delaying decisions because they feel stuck. To them, everything looks expensive, so they wait.

There's also a growing group that's pushing

back. More than 8 in 10 say that if a company raises prices unfairly, they actively avoid them now. Loyalty is conditional.

At the same time, national sentiment is shifting. Three-quarters say this past year has made them believe Canada should rely less on the U.S., even if it costs more in the short term. A similar share says they're making a real effort to buy Canadian products when they can. Among Canadians over 60, those numbers are even higher.

This isn't just economic behaviour. It's emotional positioning. People are trying to regain a sense of agency.

## What people actually want

In uncertain environments, you might assume consumers want big discounts or dramatic gestures, but this isn't what they tell us.

When asked what companies can do to earn

**▶ Continued on page 13**



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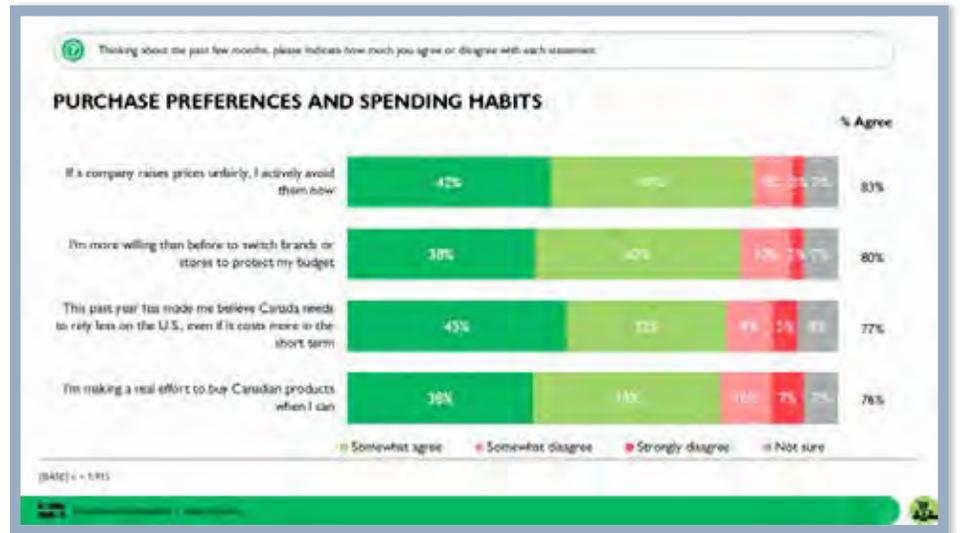
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◀ **Continued from page 12**

trust right now, the top answer is keeping prices stable and predictable. Not flashy. Not aggressive promotions. Stable.

After that, people talk about honesty about price increases and being treated fairly.

And when we ask what would restore a sense of certainty and stability in their lives as consumers, the leading response is prices becoming more predictable week to week. The second is knowing Canada has a plan to protect jobs and reduce reliance on the U.S.

The common theme that emerges from all of this is simple: Canadians want fewer surprises.

In a precarity mindset, predictability becomes a form of value.

**The upshot**

For consumers, this year hasn't fundamentally changed who they are, but it has changed how tightly they hold on. They are more alert. More skeptical. More willing to switch. More aware of where products come from. More mentally taxed by everyday decisions. Many feel like they're running harder just to stay in place.

For brands, the implications are straight-

forward but not easy. Stability now competes with price as a driver of trust. Predictability, transparency, and perceived fairness matters. If consumers believe you are taking advantage of volatility, they will walk.

Brand loyalty is no longer a given. It must be earned repeatedly, especially in moments of perceived unfairness.

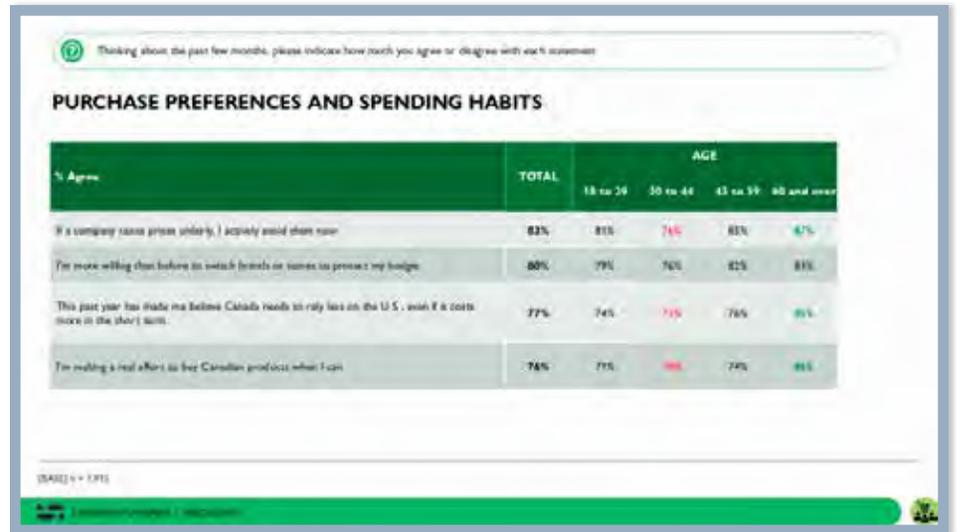
The precarity mindset won't disappear overnight. It will begin to fade as people experience consistency over time.

Right now, Canadian consumers are adapting. They're not spiraling. But they are tired. And in environments like this, the brands and institutions that reduce friction, reduce surprises, and restore a sense of steadiness are the ones most likely to earn lasting trust.

**Methodology**

The survey was conducted with 1,850 Canadian adults from February 20 to 25, 2026. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the PureSpectrum platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

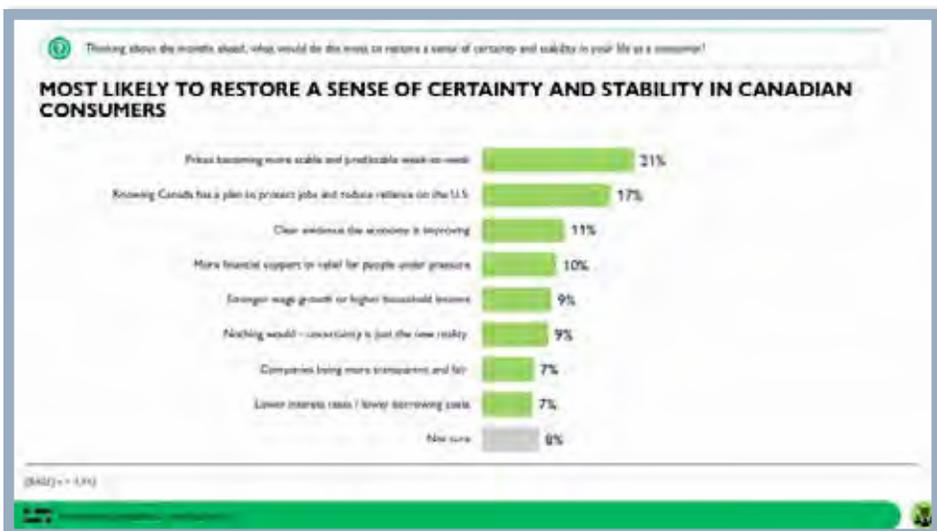
The margin of error for a comparable prob-



ability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.24%, 19 times out of 20.

The data were weighted according to census

data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region.



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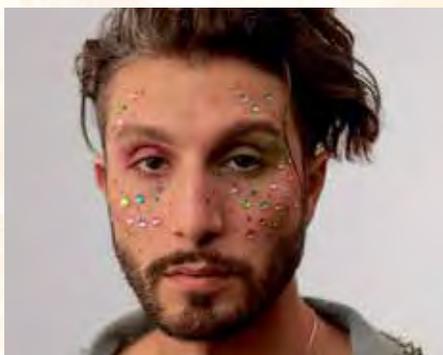
# Things to do

# UPCOMING

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

## BBNO\$ THE INTERNET EXPLORER TOUR

Concert



March 21, 2026  
8 PM

### Place Bell

1950, rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 0E4

As part of his world tour, Canadian rapper BBNO\$ is adding a show in Laval.

Whether you're coming alone, as a couple, with family, or with friends, get ready for a memorable experience.

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## DESTINATION VOIE LACTÉE

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### Centropolis

1799, avenue Pierre-Péladeau, H7T 2Y5

Place Centrale is transformed into a starry sky thanks to large illuminated towers that rise toward the sky and twinkle like stars. These spectacular structures are accompanied by a light projection on the ground, creating an immersive and magical atmosphere unique to Laval. Throughout the winter season, the colours, reflections, and visual effects will change week by week, inviting visitors to return and discover the magic in a whole new light.

## KAÏN LA COUR DES GRANDS : 25 YEARS OF KAÏN

Concert



April 2, 2026  
7:30 PM

### Salle André-Mathieu

475, boulevard de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

Kaïn is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a tribute album to Quebec's biggest names. More festive and lively than ever, the show promises a party and plenty of drinks!

Starting at \$48.50  
Visit [Co-motion](#) for tickets

## NATURE ET SANTÉ

Conferences



April 2, 2026  
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles  
345, boulevard Sainte-Rose, H7L 1M7

In collaboration with AQME, the Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles is hosting a lecture on the benefits of nature for human health. Presented by Patricia Clermont, AQME's director and spokesperson, who will explore the topic in depth and conclude with a Q&A session, during which you can ask questions and further the discussion.

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## Scammer from Laval who targeted Nova Scotia seniors sentenced to house arrest

A fraud artist based in Laval who was facing more than 30 charges in Atlantic Canada after taking part in a scheme to cheat senior citizens while posing as a policeman, a lawyer and a bail bondsman has been sentenced to 15 months of house arrest, while also being ordered to pay back \$57,000 to victims.

Omar Zanfi, 28, was arrested in Moncton NB in December 2022 when it was alleged he defrauded 15 seniors in Nova Scotia using the "grandparent scam."

According to the Halifax regional police, Zanfi

contacted victims by phone while pretending to speak on behalf of a member of the victim's family, saying he had been arrested and needed money to post bail.

While working with an accomplice, Zanfi went to victims' homes to pick up large sums of money defrauded from them. However, without his realizing it, images of Zanfi and of the vehicle he was driving were recorded by the home video security system.

Using the images, the police were able to track and locate Zanfi, leading to his arrest. Based on the terms of a sentence imposed by a Nova Scotia Provincial Court judge last month, Zanfi will be subject to an overnight curfew for the first nine months of his 15-month sentence.

As well, he will only be allowed out of his home for scheduled work or to deal with a medical emergency. In addition, the court gave Zanfi permission not to be obliged to remain in Nova Scotia during his sentence.

According to news reports in New Brunswick, Zanfi pleaded guilty to fraud charges in that province and is scheduled to be sentenced in April.



This image of Omar Zanfi (left) and an accomplice, recorded by a home security video system, was released by the Halifax Police to the media.

## Laval man among nine convicted for not paying \$1.7 mil. in tobacco tax

A 47-year-old man from Laval is one of nine people from various areas of Quebec who were recently found guilty of tax evasion after they sold tobacco products clandestinely while failing to pay around \$1.7 million in taxes owed to the provincial government.

Ahamed Kamel Awada, 47, was sentenced to seven months in prison and fined a total of \$521,525 for trafficking "significant quantities of unstamped tobacco" through his business, according to a statement issued by Revenu Québec.

In June 2022, an initial search resulted in the seizure of 90 kg of tobacco. Two months later, 11 search warrants led to the seizure of an additional 1,500 kg of contraband tobacco.



Two co-defendants, Kamel Mahmoud Awada, 66, and Chawki El Chami, 61, were sentenced to 30 and 90 days in prison respectively, as well as fines of \$40,585 and \$89,870.

## Laval's Leclerc among six provincial jails where \$1 million in contraband seized

The Leclerc Detention Centre in east-end Laval is one of six provincial jails throughout Quebec where nearly \$1 million in prohibited items – including tobacco, cell phones and drugs – were seized by guards over the past few months, according to the Quebec Public Security Ministry.

Members of the correctional services recovered tobacco products, narcotics and cell phones with an estimated institutional value of \$991,750, as well as mobile phone tools and accessories, in 16 major seizures, the ministry said.

In addition to Leclerc, the other detention establishments were in Amos, Hull, Québec City, Rimouski and Rivière-des-Prairies in Montreal.

The ministry said it should also be noted that anti-drone police operations that took place near the Montreal Detention Centre in Rivière-des-Prairies in January 2026 led to the arrest of five suspects by the Montreal Police.

"The teamwork carried out daily, combined with the use of hardware and technology in facilities across Quebec, makes it possible to prevent the delivery of packages by drones, to secure points of entry and to detect contraband," the Public Security Ministry said in its statement.

According to the ministry, the majority of major seizures at the province's jails result from the rapid retrieval of packages transported by drones before they enter the prison walls.



## Laval bus driver in 2023 daycare crash declared high-risk offender

Pierre Ny St-Amand, the STL bus driver who killed two children at a Ste-Rose daycare he crashed into although he was found not criminally responsible, was declared a high-risk offender last Monday at the Palais de Justice in Laval.

Quebec Superior Court judge Éric Downs

said the prosecution had provided enough evidence to justify the decision.

The designation now makes it more difficult for St-Amand to be released from detention at the Philippe Pinel Institute where he has been held since the finding of non-criminal responsibility last year.



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# Kids' corner



## How are fossils formed?

Have you ever seen a fossil? You know, those strange rocks that contain the preserved remains of animals or plants? How do these footprints, teeth, leaves and shells get captured inside stone?

It's a natural, and very slow, process called fossilization. This process occurs most often in aquatic environments, such as lakes, swamps and oceans. However, fossils can also form in peat bogs, glaciers, volcanic ash and other places.



So, how does it work exactly? Take the example of an animal fossil formed in water. When an animal dies, it may sink to the bottom of a body of water. Over thousands of years, sediment builds up over the animal's remains. Sediment is made up of various tiny particles of material like sand and shells. Over time, these layers gradually press together and harden into rock. Inside that rock, the animal remains turn into a fossil.

Of course, if the rock stays buried underwater, the fossil may never be found. However, the seabed sometimes rises to the surface, where wind and water slowly wear away layers of rock. As the layers break apart, fossils that were once hidden are revealed. Who knows, you might find a fossil the next time you go to the beach!



## SUDOKU 6X6

COMPLETE EACH GRID WITH THESE SIX SYMBOLS

	×	□	◇		
		◇	○		
□				◇	
	○			+	×
△					
	◇			□	△

Symbols can only appear once in each line, once in each column and once in each box of six squares. Each box of six squares is marked by darker lines. Some symbols are already included in each box to help you get started. Don't forget: a symbol can't be repeated in the same line, column or box.

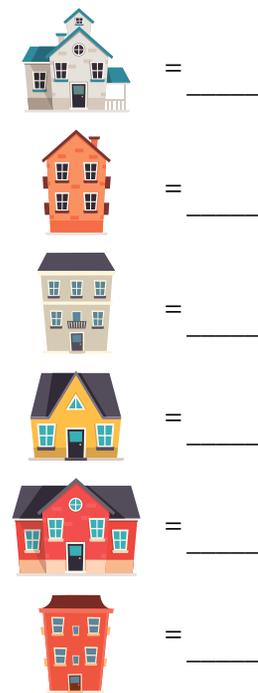
▽	□	+	○	◇	×
◇	○	×	+	□	▽
×	+	□	▽	○	◇
○	◇	▽	×	+	□
□	×	○	◇	▽	+
+	▽	□	×	○	◇

ANSWER



## MATCH GAME

ADD UP ALL THE MATCHING IMAGES



ANSWERS: 4, 8, 8, 8, 4, 7

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## PART-TIME FRIEND

**Q** I am a middle-aged woman who teaches at a university and is happily married, so I feel stupid asking you this question. I just wanted you to know I am not a teenager!

A Christian friend of mine has stopped going to breakfast with me, which was once a treat for us as we are both very busy. I know she is occupied, but the signs of cooling are there, I think. Without naming them she tells me she has been breakfasting with other friends.

My husband and I were once welcome at her beach house, but the offer was not extended when they bought a new beach house this past year. Her morning phone calls were once almost daily but now are few and far between. She calls me randomly when she is out on errands, but not for long chats.

Long ago I was warned by a friend she dumped that she uses people for her own purposes, like getting them to volunteer at her church outreach. Then she dumps them when the need disappears. I feel so dumb if this is the case.

I know lives change and circumstances are constantly varying, but what do you think? If she is dumping me, please advise how I can feel better about it and not mope.

Elisabet

**A** Elisabet, author Nassim Nicholas Taleb once wrote about the dilemma faced by turkeys. If you are a turkey being fed for a long period of time, what should you believe? Does the feeding confirm your safety, or does it confirm the danger of becoming dinner?

You were forewarned. You knew what might happen, and yes, it happened to you. When we get a little bit older we don't have to wrestle things into what we want them to be. We can accept them for what they are. Today we can leave the bed unmade.

The number of people you will have a real bond with will always be small. What you had with this woman wasn't love or deep friendship but mutual benefit for a time. Though it was more in your eyes, in her eyes it was a symbiotic relationship, a tit for tat, a quid pro quo.

In the novel "Anne of Green Gables" Anne Shirley hopes for a "bosom friend." Perhaps you have an opening for that, and that is why you wrote. From your experience you know this woman is not a candidate for close friendship. Knowing that will free you to give time and attention to more constant friends, one of whom may become the bosom friend you desire.

Wayne & Tamara

## SECONDHAND ROSE

**Q** I am a full-time college student. Two months ago my boyfriend went away for training. On the day he left, as I entered my car in a rush to work, he handed me a ring and asked that I wear it and also specified it was not an engagement ring but a promise ring. The ring was very nice and barely fit my ring finger. I gave him a kiss goodbye and off I was.

After taking a closer look during my drive, I realized this ring looked strangely familiar. One night early in our relationship he pulled out this box and showed me a wedding ring set which belonged to his ex-wife. I have a good

eye and know for a fact the ring he gave was not new or purchased specifically for me. It's the wedding ring from the set. We agreed I will move in with him after I graduate. Am I wrong for feeling offended?

Misty

**A** Misty, isn't that special! He gave you another woman's wedding ring that doesn't even fit. Is he planning on making you his next ex-wife?

Regifting is most often done for people we don't care about. His was a secondhand promise with a secondhand ring. Don't have a second thought about returning it.

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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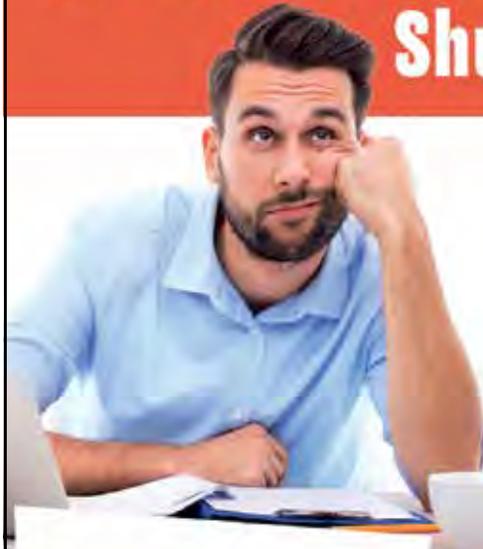
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# HOROSCOPE

Week of March 22 to 28, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:  
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

**♈ ARIES**  
Your honesty will bring hidden issues to light but may also cause some tension. An unexpected revelation will prompt reflection and doubt. The new moon's influence will cause a truth to be revealed, opening the path toward greater clarity.

**♉ TAURUS**  
Even if your finances are strained, solutions will appear. You'll have the chance to revisit a pet project or redecorate your home, rekindling your motivation and sense of hope.

**♊ GEMINI**  
This week promises to be lively and full of twists and turns. You may need to confront certain people to restore harmony. Even if you value peace, clear boundaries will help you rebuild trust and respect.

**♋ CANCER**  
Your intuitive and creative abilities will grow this week, giving you a more spiritual outlook and fresh perspectives. Your empathy will intensify. Your artistic or inspiring side may start to shine.

**♌ LEO**  
You may be unexpectedly inspired by a social media message that opens up new perspectives. A supportive friend will play a crucial role in helping you achieve something great, boosting your confidence and driving your pursuit of happiness.

**♍ VIRGO**  
Your schedule may become overwhelming if you take on too much. Space out your appointments to avoid stress and last-minute chaos. Treat your time like a precious resource. Use it wisely to regain balance and peace of mind.

**♎ LIBRA**  
You'll have the sudden urge to radically transform your life. A return to school or a career change could bring you closer to your true calling and pave the way for a more fulfilling, purposeful future.

**♏ SCORPIO**  
Your emotions could overpower your logic this week, influencing your decisions even as you try to stay rational. Accepting your feelings and daring to step outside your comfort zone will guide you toward change that aligns with your path.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**  
This week will highlight the need for balance in all your relationships. Whether at work, in love, with relatives or friends, you'll need to negotiate skillfully, make compromises and adjust your expectations to preserve harmony and happiness.

**♑ CAPRICORN**  
A disagreement or confusing situation at work could spark thoughts of a career shift. Before making a move, take a step back, weigh your options carefully and seek advice from loved ones.

**♒ AQUARIUS**  
You'll shine brightly this week, attracting the recognition you deserve. This recognition will boost your confidence, self-esteem and self-worth, setting the stage for meaningful change in your future.

**♓ PISCES**  
A move may be on the horizon, especially if your current home feels too big. This change could mark a new chapter in your life. In romance, positive changes could strengthen or rekindle your relationship.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 300

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19	20			21			
		22	23			24		25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32			
33			34			35		36		
37			38			39		40		
41						42				
		43		44	45		46	47	48	49
50	51	52				53		54	55	
56						57			58	
59						60				61

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### ACROSS

- Picnic insect
- Grand celebration
- Absent
- Seek the affection of
- Almost round
- Vatican City official
- Carry with effort
- Color
- Four-footed friends
- Glitch
- Clay brick
- Tread the boards
- Cato's language
- Hotel worker
- Wear down
- Verse type
- Stadium
- British brew
- Husbands' spouses
- Shrunk
- Method
- "\_\_\_ Do You Love"
- Weight units

### DOWN

- Piercing tools
- Verb's partner
- Roman garment
- Understood
- Pilot
- Go ashore
- Voice part
- Emerge
- Heartache
- Likely
- Proposal reply
- Sal, for example
- Laundry brightener
- Follower
- Croaker
- Run in neutral
- Requirement
- Curtsies
- Change a manuscript
- Impose, as a tax
- Part of rpm
- TV anchors
- Firstborn
- Long time
- Deadly snakes
- Pack animal
- At another place
- Stadium section
- Ship's mast
- Flawed
- Frozen dessert
- Young society woman
- Cheerless

# 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.

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

PUZZLE NO. 993

### Last Issue's Answers

## CROSSWORDS

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

## Sudoku

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



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