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## LAVAL HONOURS GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Pages 16-18



From left to right: Saint-Martin City Councillor and Associate Member of the Executive Committee Aline Dib Chomedey, City Councillor Aglaia Revelakis, Vice Premier of the Hellenic Republic Kostis Hatzidakis, City Councillor for Abord-à-Plouffe Vassilios Karidogiannis, and President of the Municipal Council Cecilia Macedo. (Photo: Martin Alarie)

On Friday, March 27, Greek Independence Day was officially commemorated at Laval City Hall. The municipal authorities marked the occasion with a formal ceremony highlighting the strong ties between the city and the Greek community.

The Vice Premier of the Hellenic Republic, Kostis Hatzidakis, was invited to sign Laval's Golden Book. City Councillor Vassilios Karidogiannis hosted the event, on behalf of Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

## Over \$16K raised at the Laval Rocket game for two foundations



Page 15

**ALERT TO ALL READERS**  
*BEWARE OF BREAD COMPENSATION SCAMS*

Page 3



**Starting April 1: new collection schedule**

**Waste and recycling collection will be every two weeks.**



Check your collection calendar so you don't miss anything





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# Gilles Vaillancourt suing City of Laval for more than \$3 million

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Following news in recent weeks that the City of Laval is being compelled to give \$1 million to the Canada Revenue Agency to pay off an income tax debt owed by former mayor Gilles Vaillancourt, there was word last week that Vaillancourt has now decided to sue Laval.

“An additional layer of outrage has been added to this deeply shocking case for Laval residents,” Mayor Stéphane Boyer said in a statement last week to the Montreal daily *La Presse*.

“The last thing they need is to be sued by Gilles Vaillancourt and forced by the court to pay taxes on money he stole from them,” he added.

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.

## Heavily redacted legal claim

According to *La Presse*, which obtained a heavily-redacted copy of a notice of legal action filed by lawyers for Vaillancourt, only 13 of nearly 40 paragraphs in the document were legible, making it difficult to understand the grievances of Laval’s former mayor.

Even the amount of the damages being claimed in the document was redacted beyond legibility. However, a handwritten note on the back of the mentioned a claim for \$3,517,000, although the reasons for this massive redaction, unusual in civil matters, were also not clear.

During the March 10 city council meeting, Mayor Stéphane Boyer tabled a resolution asking federal Finance Minister François-Philippe

Champagne to intervene in the City of Laval’s favor by reversing the CRA decision to bill the City of Laval for the remainder of Vaillancourt’s tax debt.

## Ex-mayor’s admissions in court

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

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 Vaillancourt’s file when the former mayor pays off the tax and interest.

Vaillancourt’s lawyers have argued that the City of Laval should be held responsible for the unpaid taxes since the municipality ultimately received the reimbursed sum. Boyer asked the Carney government to use its discretionary power to prevent Laval from having to pay this amount, as Quebec did in 2018.

## Vaillancourt seeks reimbursement

*Radio-Canada* reported last week that federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne will appear before the House of Commons’ Standing Committee on Public Accounts, where he may give an update.

In sections of his lawsuit that weren’t redacted, Vaillancourt’s lawyers explain that he reached agreements in 2016 with Revenu Québec, the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions and the City of Laval.

Vaillancourt’s lawyers say he is asking the court to order the City of Laval to pay four separate amounts – which were all redacted in the legal document – including reimbursement of his extrajudicial fees.



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## Beware of bread compensation scams

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A legitimate Canadian classaction settlement does exist related to the longrunning **bread pricefixing case**. Unfortunately, scammers are now exploiting this real situation by sending **fake emails, text messages, and linking to fraudulent websites** that pretend to be part of the official compensation process.

These scams are designed to look convincing – and many Canadians have already been targeted. Staying informed is the best way to protect yourself.

### How the bread scam works

Scammers are posing as official settlement administrators and contacting people directly. Their goal is simple: **to steal your personal and financial information**.

Common tactics include:

- Messages claiming you can “**claim your bread compensation now**.”
- Fake emails or text messages pretending to be from the settlement administrator.
- Links that lead to professional-looking but **fraudulent websites**.
- Requests for sensitive information such as:
  - Banking or credit card details
  - SIN (Social Insurance Number)
  - Driver’s licence information

### Important

The legitimate settlement **does NOT send text messages, never required receipts, and does not ask for banking information upfront**. Any message that does is a red flag.

Scammers often create urgency, pressure, or fear to get you to act quickly without thinking.

### How to identify a scam

You should be suspicious if:

- You receive a **text message** about bread compensation.
- The message urges you to **click a link immediately** or warns of missing out.
- The website asks for personal or financial information.
- The sender’s email address looks **unofficial, generic, or slightly misspelled**.
- You receive a **payment notice** even though you never filed a claim.

If something feels rushed or “too good to be true,” it likely is.

### What you should do

- **Do not click** links in suspicious emails or text messages.
- **Do not share** personal or financial information.
- Visit the **official settlement website directly** by typing the address yourself, rather than clicking links.
- If you already clicked a link or shared information:
  - Change your passwords immediately.
  - Monitor your bank and credit card accounts closely.
  - Consider reporting the incident to your financial institution and consumer fraud authorities.

### Stay alert, stay protected

Scammers rely on confusion and trust. By spreading awareness and staying cautious, we can prevent these fraud attempts from causing harm.

If you’re unsure about a message, **pause, verify, and never rush**. Your security is worth it.

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Cité de la Santé WAS originally supposed to have 1,000 beds

It was April 1978. Dr. Lucien Paiement, who had become mayor of Laval five years earlier, was “christening” his newborn: La Cité de la Santé. Highway 440 did not yet exist. To reach the hospital from the south, one had to travel along Boulevard des Laurentides, turn right onto rang Saint-Elzéar East, then turn right again before veering onto a gravel road bordered by fields of leeks.

There, rising majestically, stood La Cité de la Santé—like a cathedral in the middle of... leek fields.

“What an idea, building a hospital in the middle of a field!” exclaimed Premier René Lévesque to Lucien Paiement at the hospital’s inauguration. Paiement replied calmly: “You have no idea what Laval is going to become.”

I can still see Réal Dubord, the hospital’s first executive director, bursting out laughing.

The Parti Québécois government, elected two years earlier, was managing the province’s finances so tightly that the hospital—originally planned to have 1,000 beds—was granted only 320. Today, it is clear that Dr. Paiement was right, given Laval’s explosive population growth: 250,000 residents in 1977, nearly 470,000 in 2026, and likely half a million within two decades.

Yet this demographic upheaval—and its consequences for North American local infrastructure—had already been foreseen. It was notably discussed in the book *The Essential Community — Local Government in the Year 2000*, published in the late 1970s by the

International City Management Association (ICMA). The book brought together the results of deep reflections by 34 fiscal experts, urban planners, lawyers, engineers, and municipal chief administrators.\*

In 2026, Quebec’s public finances still must be managed carefully. Yes, La Cité de la Santé Hospital can be expanded—and indeed, Dr. Paiement had planned for this. Massive bolts protrude from the roof of the north wing. They are still visible today from the windows of the hospital’s L’EntreDeux restaurant. Those bolts have been there for nearly half a century, specifically to support future expansions.

But one day or another, tight finances notwithstanding, a new hospital will have to be built.

Roger Desautels

## Testifying for Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection

*Celebrating Easter of peace, renewal, faith, hope, and love*

Easter is often celebrated with springtime colours, flowers, chocolate, and whimsical bunnies, yet for many Catholics this festive atmosphere feels at odds with the solemn reality of our broken world. Yes, it is proclaimed in churches that the Resurrection of Christ conquers death, that hope is reborn; yet as wars rage in Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere, as civilians suffer, and poverty, violence, and civil unrest mark daily life, is it right that we should celebrate in the midst of such painful times? Is there still room for genuine hope?

Yes, it is crucial that we celebrate. For the Church, Easter is not a denial of suffering. It is the declaration that suffering and death do not have the last word. The Resurrection is the source of what Christian’s call “living hope” - trust that God is at work even when the world looks broken, and that evil will not triumph forever. This is not mere optimism, it is the conviction that Christ’s victory over death can still renew persons, communities, and history. In this light, Easter does not ignore the pain of war, social injustice, or personal struggle; it reinterprets them in the light of grace.

At the heart of Easter stands the mystery of the Trinity: God the Father, who in love sent His Son into the world; Jesus the Son, who fully shared our humanity, suffered with us, died for us, and now rises to open the way to new life; and the Holy Spirit, often symbolized as a dove, who gently guides, comforts, and unites us. This Triune God is not distant from suffering. He enters into it and transforms it. The Father receives our pain, the Son bears it on the Cross, and the Spirit brings consolation, courage, and communion. When we say “Christ is risen,” we’re not just celebrating a past event, but opening ourselves to God’s ongoing presence - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working in our hearts, our homes, and our communities, even in these dark and uncertain days.

That message matters deeply in our time. Pope

Francis in his time, and Pope Leo XIV in recent time, have repeatedly linked Easter hope to prayers for peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other regions scarred by conflict, reminding the faithful that amid bombs terror, and refugees, the risen Christ calls humanity to compassion, reconciliation, and conversion from hatred. The Easter spirit asks us to see the displaced not as burdens but as neighbours, the wounded not as statistics but as children of God, and our enemies not as objects of vengeance but as possibilities for peace. In this way, Easter becomes not only a feast of the heart but a moral challenge to live as peacemakers, defenders of life, and builders of a more-just-and-humane civilization.

Yes, at the same time, Easter has become a global consumer event. Supermarkets overflow with brightly wrapped chocolates, pastel colored eggs, and stuffed rabbits, while parades and department stores display the season as cheerful, almost playful spectacles. For many, these customs are simply part of tradition - family habits more than acts-of-faith. In that sense, they are not automatically hypocritical; they can express joy, renewal, and the arrival of Spring. The problem is not chocolate or flowers, but the risk that these symbols become the whole celebration, leaving little room for contemplation of the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ.

Commercial Easter often emphasizes sweetness, beauty, and entertainment, while the deeper themes of sacrifice, repentance, and new life recede into the background. When the season is reduced to candy and pastel decor, the Cross can be hidden behind the packaging. The danger is not that people enjoy eggs and bunnies, but that they forget what or rather who those symbols faintly echo. Eggs have long represented new life, rabbits symbolize fertility and renewal, and flowers speak of Spring and awakening. These are not Christian doctrines, yet they can still resonate with the Easter message if properly understood.

The real loss occurs when the symbols become the center of the feast, and the spiritual meaning is left behind.

Still, these customs need not be empty. The challenge for believers is to recover the heart of the celebration. Easter invites us to see the world with new eyes- to recognize that suffering is real, but so is grace; that evil is powerful, but not supreme; that humanity is wounded, yet capable of mercy and courage. In this light, even the bright colours and festive traditions can be viewed as imperfect reflections of the deeper truth that life rises from death, light follows darkness, and hope endures even in the darkest times.

For Christians, then, Easter is both a source-of-joy and a call-to-responsibility. It is a reminder that the Resurrection of Christ is not a distant story, but a living presence that should shape how we live through solidarity with the poor, accompaniment of the suffering, and courageous witness for peace. In our own communities, Easter can be seen in the neighbour who shares food with the hungry, the volunteer who comforts the lonely, the teacher who protects the vulnerable, and the ordinary act-of-forgiveness that refuses to perpetuate hatred. In the greater community and beyond, this Easter can be a chance to choose kindness over anger, listening over judging, and dialogue over silence - small but powerful signs that hope is still alive.

At Easter 2026, may all members of the entire Christian and human community rejoice in the heart-of-the-matter and in their own hearts, thankful for comfort from family and friends, and for strength in their struggles. May we all be reminded that even in the midst of war, social tension, terror, and injustice - hope is not lost. Christ is risen, and from that truth flows the courage to keep believing, keep caring, and keep building a civilization of compassion, one small act of kindness at a time.

Renata Isopo



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A major boost to affordable housing is on the way for Laval residents, as the Government of Quebec and the City of Laval have officially given the green light to the construction of 1,013 new affordable rental homes in the heart of the city.

The project, led by Groupe Angus, will be built in downtown Laval within the future Carré Laval ecodistrict, a site envisioned as a vibrant, sustainable community. Construction

of the first of three phases is expected to begin in winter 2027, with additional phases to follow over the coming years.

For many families and individuals struggling to find reasonably priced housing, the announcement represents a concrete step toward easing pressure in an increasingly tight rental market.

### Strong public support to make housing more accessible

To bring this largescale project to life, the Quebec government is providing more than \$28.3 million in grants along with a \$60million

## More than 1,000 new affordable homes coming to downtown Laval

patient capital loan. The City of Laval is contributing \$23.3 million, offering a municipal parcel of land, and easing certain costs by waiving some parkrelated and permit fees.

Together, these measures are designed to ensure that the project can move forward efficiently while keeping rents accessible to residents who need them most.

### A project rooted in affordability

Of the 1,013 units planned:

- 411 homes will meet the rent ceilings set under the Quebec Affordable Housing Program (PHAQ).
- 602 additional units will offer intermediate affordability, with rents capped at up to 150 per cent of PHAQ limits.

The development will significantly increase the number of nonmarket housing units in Laval, helping the city meet the goals laid out in its Housing Action Plan and contributing to a more balanced, inclusive urban landscape.

### Building more, without additional subsidies

The Laval project was made possible through

the restructuring of a 2024 funding agreement between the Quebec government and Groupe Angus. That agreement originally covered three projects in Montreal and Rimouski. By optimizing the existing funds, a fourth project — Carré Laval — was added without requiring additional provincial subsidies.

As a result, four projects across Quebec will now deliver a total of 2,014 affordable homes, more than double the number initially planned.

### A shared commitment to meet local needs

The announcement was made by Caroline Proulx, Quebec Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, alongside Christopher Skeete, Minister Responsible for the Laval Region, Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer, and Christian Yaccarini, President and CEO of Groupe Angus.

For Laval's growing population, the Carré Laval project represents more than new buildings — it signals renewed hope for accessible housing, neighborhood vitality, and a stronger sense of community in the city's downtown core.

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**Chomedey:** Beautiful ground floor condo, open concept with private entrance and garage. Offering 1 huge master, 1 bath with shower and tub. Rented semi-furnished with fridge, stove, dishwasher, washer, dryer. Close to highways and schools.

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# Laval Unveils

## An Updated Waste Collection Schedule



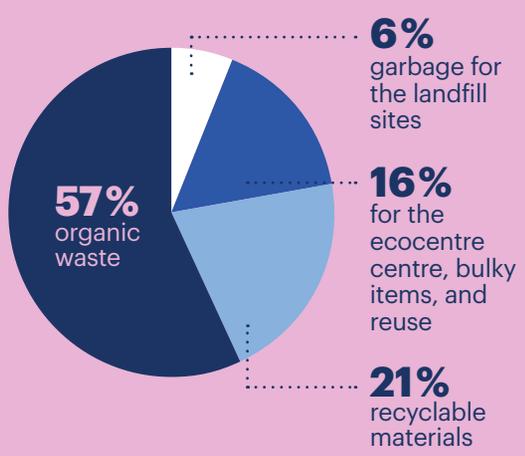
### New Collection Schedule, Better Sorting



Starting April 1, Laval will follow the lead of a number of other major cities in Québec and switch to a recycling collection every two weeks. At the same time, the garbage collection will also switch to a once-every-two-weeks schedule in Laval's districts.

So there will still be one collection per week, but it will be either recyclables or waste. This will make the process more efficient for the crews and easier for everyone to adapt to the new schedule.

**Did you know? In Québec, 78% of waste is compostable (brown bin) or recyclable (blue bin).**



#### Let's recap:

- 1 The black wheeled bin, for general waste, will be emptied every two weeks.
- 2 The blue wheeled bin, for recycling, will also be emptied every two weeks, but on a different week.

Don't wait—download the collection schedule for your district at

[laval.ca/recherche-par-adresse](http://laval.ca/recherche-par-adresse)

You can now add collection dates to your personal calendar online or on your cellphone.

#### Let's get your recycling bin organized...

Even though recyclables will be picked up every two weeks, your blue bin won't overflow. Why? Because from now on, we're going to fold and maximize space! To make sure the every-two-weeks collection works smoothly, you will simply need to reduce the volume in your bin as much as possible.

#### Here are a few tips:

- Flatten and fold all boxes and cardboard packaging. Without exception.
- Don't put items inside one another.
- Bring returnable beverage containers ranging from 100 ml to 2 L to a return location (for example, grocery stores, the Consignation network).
- Avoid buying disposable, overpackaged, or single-serving products as much as possible, and choose long-lasting items instead.

Please note that you can request a second recycling bin or a larger blue bin online, in the "Mon Dossier" section.

\*Provided based on available inventory.



#### Why carry out collections only every two weeks?

The recycling schedule change is already under way and is continuing to be gradually implemented across the province by the Québec government. The objective is to modernize curbside recycling, while improving Québec's environmental performance.

As for the optimization of the waste collection, this is a requirement of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM). In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this will result in significant savings (estimated at 22%) on transportation and operating costs. And lastly, less waste will be sent to landfill sites.

#### In Laval, waste sorting is already off to a good start

Most of us (74%) are taking concrete steps to reduce the amount of waste we put in the black bin—or are in the process of doing so.

More than half (66%) are already actively participating all year round in the blue bin and brown bin collections, which significantly reduce the amount of waste in the black bin.

Look for your next issue of the *Vivre à Laval* magazine to get your practical guide on where to dispose of different types of materials.

Sponsored content

# Happy Easter!



Important reminder: reservations fill up fast, so be sure to book your table early!

## Celebrate Easter at the restaurant? A fabulous idea!

This year, say goodbye to the stress of hosting family at home for Easter and treat yourself to a delicious, hassle-free meal prepared by professionals. Dining in a festive restaurant setting allows you to enjoy the occasion with your loved ones to the fullest.

### IT MAKES SENSE!

At a restaurant, each guest can choose their favourite meal or opt for the special Easter menu, featuring traditional dishes and modern variations, including vegetarian options. You could savour an aspara-

gus risotto or a delightful spring vegetable puff pastry. Mouth-watering, right?

After you've eaten your fill, look for a fun activity your family can enjoy together. Perhaps you can ride in a horse-drawn carriage, stroll around a mini-farm or visit a playground.

The best part? You don't have to worry about pre-meal prep or post-meal cleaning.

Browse the websites of restaurants offering Easter menus to find the perfect place to treat yourself and your loved ones.

## 3 Easter menu ideas

Having guests in for Easter and not sure what to serve? Here are three enticing ideas.

**1. Sugar shack feast.** Enjoy a French-Canadian tradition with ham, hashbrowns, sausages, baked beans, omelettes, pancakes and fried pork rinds called oreilles de crisse, all generously drizzled with

maple syrup.

**2. Traditional Easter dinner.** Delight everyone's tastebuds with a leg or rack of lamb served with a fresh salad like arugula with berries and a vegetable dish like scalloped potatoes or cauliflower au gratin.

**3. Vegetarian brunch.** Open-faced sandwiches with avocado and egg, a leek quiche,

puff pastry with spinach or mushrooms, pan-fried vegetables, spring salad, pasta and chickpea soup — with various veggie options, you're sure to keep everyone delighted.

Visit your local shops to find the ingredients you'll need. And don't forget the ideal beverage pairings to accompany your dishes!



My best wishes to all for a  
*Happy Easter*

Mes meilleurs vœux à tous pour de  
*Joyeuses Pâques*



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*Wishing everyone a  
Happy Easter*

*Je souhaite à tous de  
joyeuses Pâques*



**SONA LAKHOIAN OLIVIER**

Députée de / MNA for Chomedey

450-686-0166 | Sona.LakhoianOlivier.CHOM@assnat.qc.ca

# Happy Easter!

## How to level up your Easter egg hunt

Do you want to surprise your kids for Easter this year? Here are a few ways to put a creative spin on the traditional chocolate egg hunt.

- Draw a treasure map of your home with Xs to mark the spot of hidden Easter treats.



- Hide plastic eggs filled with stickers, mini animal figurines, bouncy balls and other small toys.
- Fill plastic eggs with silly instructions (hop like a bunny, chirp like a chick, etc.) that your kids must do to earn a candy.
- Put tiny glow sticks inside plastic eggs and have your Easter egg hunt in the evening.
- Send your kids on a scavenger hunt to find one of each type of hidden egg (a green one, a striped one, a blue one, etc.).
- Leave written clues around the house that eventually lead to a stash of chocolates.
- Divide up pieces of a puzzle or Lego creation among the plastic eggs so it can be assembled once the hunt is over.
- Fill plastic eggs with slips of paper that list a reward the finder gets (skip chores, stay up late, have a pizza night, etc.).

If it's a nice day, consider having your Easter egg hunt in the backyard.

## Un message de votre élue

**Joyeuses Pâques !**  
**Que cette belle fête vous apporte joie, douceur et de précieux moments avec vos proches.**

**Happy Easter!**  
**May this beautiful season bring you joy, warmth, and special moments with your loved ones.**



**Aglaia Revelakis**

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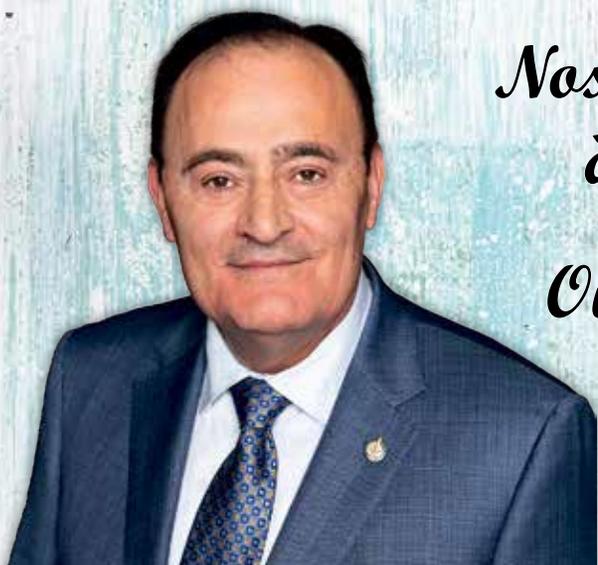
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*Nos vœux les plus chaleureux à l'occasion de Pâques !*

*Our warmest wishes to you for Easter!*



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# Celebrating PASSOVER

## What is Passover?

Art by Sefira Lightstone



Passover means "passage." And for those who observe the Jewish religion, this "passage" commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery under the Pharaoh. Moses offered the Jewish people divine protection and it was under him that they fled Egypt to enter into the glory of God. Each year, Jews celebrate their freedom as individuals and as a people during Passover, which takes place in April.

While Judaism has been around for some 3,000 years, Christianity has its roots in

the Exodus. Both religions observe Easter. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ, and Jews relate and re-enact the exit of Hebrews from Egypt and their passage from slavery to freedom. Through stories and songs, Jews feel as though they themselves have just left Egypt.

Passover is a Jewish celebration that offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on one's own existence. Reliving the night of the Exodus to understand its meaning, Jews break bread and raise their wine glass. The bread symbolizes the misery

that their people suffered in Egypt. The wine symbolize the sweetness of freedom. During this celebration of contrasts, one says, "Whoever is hungry shall come and eat. Whoever is in need, shall come and do the Passover."

The eight-day Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated in the early spring, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of Nissan, April 1 - 9, 2026. Passover (Pesach) commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Pesach is observed by avoiding leaven, and highlighted by the Seder meals that include four cups of wine, eating matzah and bitter herbs, and retelling the story of the Exodus.

In Hebrew it is known as Pesach, because G-d passed over the Jewish homes when killing the Egyptian firstborn on the very first Passover eve.



Reliving the night of the Exodus to understand its meaning, Jews break bread and lift their wine glass.



My best wishes to the Jewish community for a *Happy Passover*

Mes meilleurs vœux à la communauté juive pour une *Joyeuse Pâques juive*



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*Wishing a Happy Passover to the Jewish community of Laval*

*Joyeuse Pâques juive à la communauté juive de Laval*



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## Celebrating PASSOVER

**Passover history  
in a nutshell**

As told in the Bible, after many decades of slavery to the Egyptian pharaohs, during which time the Israelites were subjected to backbreaking labor and unbearable horrors, G-d saw the people's distress and sent Moses to Pharaoh with a message: "Send forth My people, so that they may serve Me." But despite numerous warnings, Pharaoh refused to heed G-d's command. G-d then sent upon Egypt ten devastating plagues, afflicting them and destroying everything from their livestock to their crops.

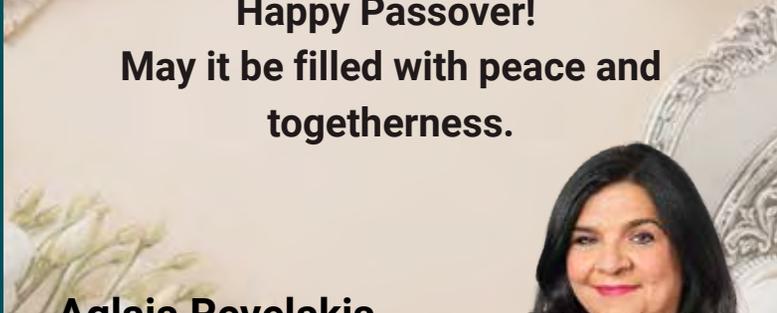
At the stroke of midnight of 15 Nissan in the year 2448 from creation (1313 BCE), G-d visited the last of the ten plagues on the Egyptians, killing all their firstborn. While doing so, G-d spared the children of Israel, "passing over" their homes—hence the name of the holiday. Pharaoh's resistance was broken, and he virtually chased his former slaves out of the land. The Israelites left in such a hurry, in fact, that the bread they baked as provisions for the way did not have time to rise. Six hundred thousand adult males, plus many more women and children, left Egypt on that day and began the trek to Mount Sinai and their birth as G-d's chosen people.



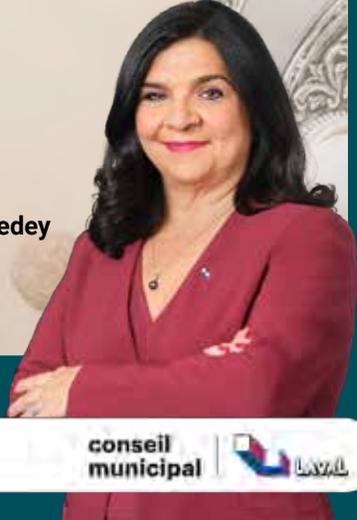
## Un message de votre élue



**Joyeux Passover!**  
Que cette fête soit remplie de paix et de beaux moments partagés.



**Happy Passover!**  
May it be filled with peace and togetherness.



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## *Joyeuses Pâques juive à la communauté juive ! Happy Passover to the Jewish community!*



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# “Big bang” tax reform

*Unleashing growth in the Canadian economy*

Table 1: Per Capita Gross National Income, Cumulative Growth, and Inequality for G7

	GNI Per Capita 2023 \$*	Cumulative Growth Per Capita GNI 2013-23 (percent)	After-tax Gini Coefficient** (Disposable Income) 2022	After-tax Gini Coefficient as a Percent of Pre-tax Gini Coefficient 2022
Canada	54,796	2	0.28	64
France	55,022	7	0.28	67
Germany	65,122	6	0.26	78
Italy	52,183	12	0.34	61
Japan	46,656	6	0.30	71
United Kingdom	53,132	5	0.36	65
United States	74,190	15	0.38	76
Australia	58,406	14	0.33	70
Ireland	87,099	39	0.29	67
Sweden	64,545	9	0.29	61
High Income Countries	56,964	11	0.31	65

\* In 2021 international dollars.  
 \*\* The Gini coefficient is a widely used measure of income or wealth inequality, with higher values indicating higher inequality.  
 Source: Our World in Data, Luxembourg Income Study, OECD (for France).

NICHOLAS DAHIR, ALEXANDRE LAURIN, JACK M. MINTZ  
CD HOWE INSTITUTE

Tax policy is a powerful policy tool for shaping an economy. The primary aim of taxation is to raise revenue to fund well-managed public services. However, taxes discourage whatever we choose to tax. Some taxes create more economic harm than others. If governments rely on a poorly designed tax structure to raise revenue, they unnecessarily undermine economic prosperity and make it harder for the economy to sustain the public services voters expect.

After a decade of virtually stagnant per capita economic output, tax reform and broader growth reforms are now on the front burner once again. The need for bold growth-oriented policy changes has become even more acute in light of US “America First” tariff policies, geopolitical tensions, and higher private and public debt financing costs. The federal government promised an “expert review” of the corporate tax system in the last election, but it is absent from its first budget. The budget includes enhanced tax depreciation allowances for a few sectors. We argue that Canada needs a much broader and more comprehensive reform effort.

Several tax reform efforts have been successful in the past. Some were initially unpopular – such as the adoption of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 1991 – but were later judged successful because they ultimately improved the economy while providing the government with more stable revenue. The federal and provincial income tax reforms of 1972, 1985–87, 1 and 2000 lowered tax rates and broadened the base, creating a more neutral and fair system that benefited the economy. By contrast, reforms that raise rates or provide preferences for politically favoured activities increase complexity, raise economic costs, and worsen fairness. As American actor and humorous social commentator Will Rogers, once said: “The difference between death and taxes is death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets.”

In this article, we propose several “big bang” tax reforms to promote greater Canadian prosperity. We emphasize “big bang” because Canada urgently needs to reorient its economy onto a more prosperous path. These reforms are politically difficult, especially if the aim is to maintain the same level of revenues. The winners from revenue-neutral reform are often silent while the losers strongly oppose any shift in tax burdens. If tax reform is undertaken with some loss in revenue, paired with spending reductions, the reform becomes easier since most taxpayers will be winners.

While our focus is on growth and simplification, we do not ignore fairness. By fairness, we mean both (i) a level-playing field with an equal treatment of equals and (ii) distributing tax burdens according to ability to pay. Canada already achieves the lowest degree of inequality among G7 countries after accounting for taxes and transfers. However, it has also had the lowest per capita growth rates among all G7 countries in the past three decades. Thus, our emphasis is on pro-growth tax reform, given the heightened concern that Canadians have over the economy, with little change in households’ average tax rates.

Below, we set out the case for “big bang” tax reform. Canada relies too much on personal income taxes with high marginal tax rates at relatively low levels of income compared to other G7 countries. These rates discourage work effort, risk-taking, and investment, and they encourage Canadians to migrate abroad. The corporate income tax no longer provides an advantage for locating businesses in Canada and distorts the allocation of capital markedly to its most profitable use. Unlike other major countries, Canada relies too little on taxes that cause less economic harm, such as the GST (which itself could be improved) and payroll taxes.

Our “big bang” reform includes four major recommendations that work together as a package while relying less on the most economically damaging taxes, relying more on those that are less harmful, and improving the taxation of corporate income. In designing this package, we have sought to ensure it remains implementable, even if politically challenging, and that does not compromise Canada’s high level of income redistribution:

1. Reduce marginal personal income tax rates and widen income brackets. Federal income tax rates would begin at 14 percent for incomes up to \$60,000, 20.5 percent for incomes between \$60,000 and \$180,000, and 26 percent on incomes above \$180,000. Provincial rates would apply in addition to the federal rates: the top rate on average would be 45 percent, similar to a decade and a half ago.
2. Introduce an optional simplified \$10,000 tax credit. Taxpayers could choose this credit instead of itemizing numerous deductions and credits. This policy would especially benefit most low- to mid-income taxpayers and simplify the tax system.
3. Reform the corporate income tax to remove preferences. We explore two options. The first reduces the federal corporate income tax rate by five points to 10 percent with the elimination of tax incentives including accelerated depreciation, the small business deduction, and tax credits. The second option exempts retained earnings reinvested in business activities and taxes only distributed book profits at 13 percent. This would result in a substantially lower tax cost on investment for all businesses and encourage venture capital and research. Given that three- to four-fifths of the corporate income tax falls on labour incomes, the reform will improve wages for workers.
4. Offset reduced reliance on income taxation by increasing less harmful taxes. We propose either a 2.8-point increase in the GST or a new employer payroll tax at the rate of 3.2 percent of pay earmarked for healthcare, similar to many European countries and the United States. The payroll tax would apply to payroll and self-employed earnings above \$15,000 earned by each individual and therefore fall more on higher earnings.

Our reform will increase investment by \$140 billion in the long run and GDP by \$79 billion. This analysis holds federal revenues constant in the short term. Naturally, if governments also moderated business grants or other spending, they could reduce taxes further and improve neutrality with respect to business taxation and grant support.

Over time, as economic activity increases due to the tax reform, the reform could yield over \$26 billion in additional tax revenues annually across all levels of government.

## What ails the Canadian tax system?

Over the past decade, Canada has had the worst growth in per capita Gross National Income (GNI) compared to G7 countries and some selected Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries (Table 1). In 2023, Canada’s per capita GNI was \$45,796 (in 2021 international dollars), below the average of high-income countries of \$56,964 and only 74 percent that of the United States.

Canada’s real growth in per capita GNI has virtually stalled in the past decade, with only a 2 percent cumulative gain. Ireland is one of the fastest-growing high-income countries and has one of the highest per capita GNIs in the OECD, surpassing even the United States. (We discuss below how taxation impacted Ireland’s growth). Australia, resource-intensive like Canada, did better with higher cumulative growth at 14 percent and a per capita GNI that was 6.5 percent higher than Canada’s in 2023. Sweden, also resource-rich and with low taxes on capital income under a “dual income tax” system, performed better than Canada. Its per capita GNI was 18 percent higher than Canada’s.

While Canada’s record on economic growth this past decade has been disappointing, it has a much better record in redistributing income once accounting for taxes and government transfers. On an after-tax basis, Canada has the lowest income inequality among the G7 countries, tied with Sweden as of 2022. If we measure the impact of redistributive policies by taking the ratio of the after-tax to pre-tax Gini coefficient, Canada’s fiscal system reduces inequality by 36 percent from 0.44 to 0.28. While France, Germany, Ireland, and Sweden redistribute even more, they have achieved superior economic growth to Canada. The United States has grown faster in per capita GNI but has the highest after-tax inequality and the least redistribution through its tax and transfer system.

From this analysis, we conclude that Canada’s focus for tax reform should be on economic growth, while limiting the burden on those with less ability to pay. Below, we lay out the existing problems with the tax system that impair economic growth.

## Canada’s tax competitiveness challenge

Ignoring non-tax revenues like user fees and royalties, Canada’s tax revenues are about 35 percent of GDP as of 2023, higher than the OECD average (Table 2). If social security taxes that fund mainly pension benefits (and in some countries, health insurance) are ignored, Canada’s tax burden stands at 29.6 percent of GDP – the highest of the G7 and OECD average. Taxes are much higher than in the United States, our most important trading partner, whether social security contributions are included or not. This gap compounds Canada’s competitiveness challenge, as pre-tax per capita GNI in Canada is about three-quarters of US levels (as noted in Table 1).

Income taxes account for about half of revenues collected in Canada: 37 percent from personal income taxation and 14 percent from corporate income taxation. Sales taxes account for another 22 percent of taxes paid in Canada, while payroll and social security taxes account for a further 16 percent. Canada relies more heavily on personal and corporate income taxes as a share of

Table 2: Taxes as a Share of GDP by G7 Country and the OECD in 2023, Percent

	Personal Income Tax	Corporate Income Tax	Sales and Excise	Property Tax	Payroll Tax	Other Taxes*	Total without Social Security Taxes	Social Security Taxes (Employers and Employees)	Total
Canada	37.2	5.9	4.9	3.4	0.8	0.8	29.4	6.2	35.6
France	9.4	2.3	11.2	3.5	1.9	1.0	29.3	14.5	43.9
Germany	9.8	2.2	9.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	23.0	14.3	37.3
Italy	11.4	2.9	10.7	2.2	0.0	2.0	29.2	13.3	42.5
Japan	6.2	4.7	6.7	2.7	0.0	0.2	20.5	13.2	33.7
United Kingdom	10.5	3.4	10.4	3.7	0.3	0.2	28.5	6.7	35.0
United States	10.2	2.2	4.0	2.9	0.0	0.3	19.6	6.0	25.6
OECD	8.3	3.9	10.1	1.7	0.5	0.4	24.9	8.9	33.7

\* Includes profits of fiscal monopolies, customs and import duties, taxes on capital and other taxes.  
 Source: Taxation Statistics, OECD.

▶ Continued on page 13

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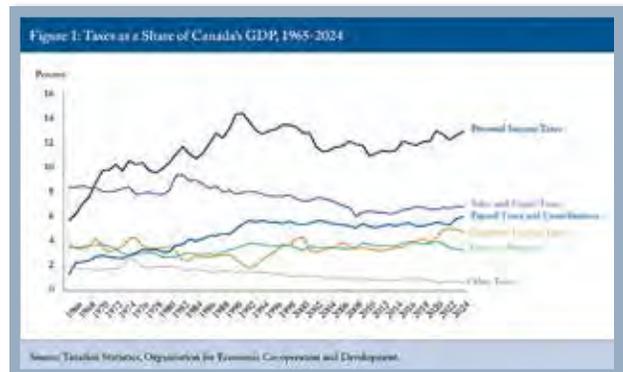
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GDP (18 percent, the highest in the G7) than the OECD average (12 percent) or the United States (12 percent). Canada is light in taxing consumption with sales and excise taxes at 6.9 percent of GDP compared to the OECD average of 10 percent. In the United States, sales and excise taxes account for only 4 percent of GDP. Canada and the United States also rely less on payroll and social security taxes (5.2 and 6 percent of GDP respectively) compared to the OECD (9 percent) and other G7 countries. Canada's economic growth is harmed by relying on a tax structure heavily focused on income taxes, which impose a higher economic cost than consumption or payroll taxes.

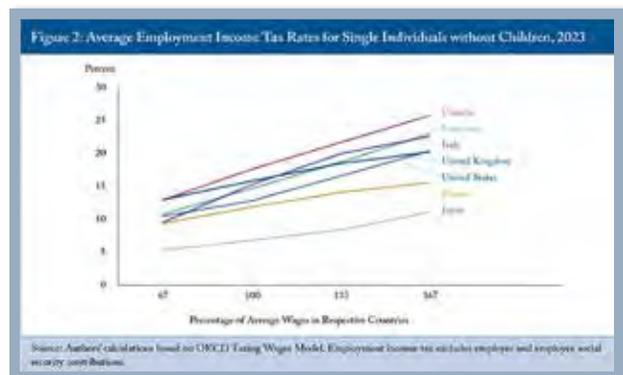
**Canada's over-reliance on personal income taxes**

As noted above, Canadian federal and provincial governments rely disproportionately more on personal income taxes (PIT) compared to other revenue sources. As shown in Figure 1, the increased reliance on PIT began after the Second World War. In 1965, governments collected less PIT (5.8 percent of GDP) than sales and excise taxes (8.5 percent). By 1970, PIT revenues had risen to about 10 percent of GDP and peaked at 12 percent by the mid-1980s. In response to mounting deficits and debt, governments pushed PIT revenues to record highs in the late 1980s and 1990s – reaching 13 to 14 percent of GDP, almost double the revenue from sales and excise taxes. After falling during the 2000s, PIT revenues have been rising again, growing from 11 percent of GDP in 2010 to 13 percent in 2023. Today, PIT is almost twice the size of any other source of federal or provincial taxes.



PIT rates in Canada are progressive. Income earned on retirement assets (including pensions, registered retirement savings plans [RRSPs], tax-free savings accounts [TFSA], and principal residences) is tax exempt. Dividends and capital gains are taxed preferentially to mitigate double taxation at the corporate and personal levels. However, capital gains face lower top rates than eligible or ineligible dividends, which encourages taxpayers to recharacterize income as capital gains rather than dividends to minimize personal income tax.

Given Canada's greater reliance on PIT as a share of GDP than any other G7 country, Canada's PIT average tax rates on employ-



ment income (Figure 2) are correspondingly higher across much of the income spectrum. According to OECD data, Canada's income taxes as a share of wages and salaries for single individuals without children are higher at the average-wage scenario up to the top income scenario.

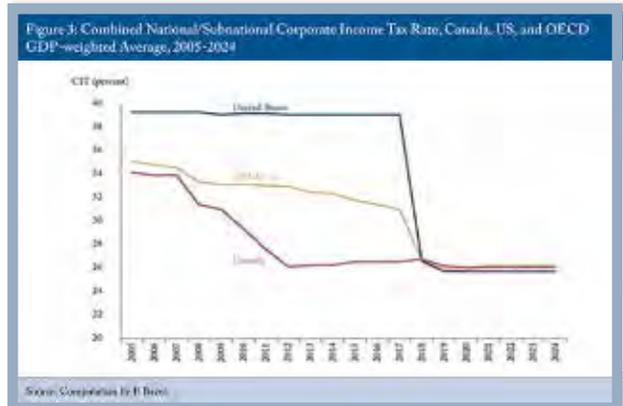
**Canada's corporate income taxes no longer provide a distinct advantage**

Corporate tax competitiveness has concerned policymakers for decades. Canada faces two distinct disadvantages for investment: a small population dispersed across a large landmass along its southern border, which limits economies of scale, and a cold climate (Mintz 2003). The Technical Committee on Business Taxation (1997) recommended a corporate tax rate below that of other countries and a more neutral tax system to create a policy advantage to attract investment and profits while reducing economic distortions in the tax system. While much focus is on the United States, the current federal government's desire to diversify trade means that Canada needs to create a distinct policy advantage to attract investment compared to many countries today.

Since the May 1985 budget, when corporate tax reform was proposed, Canada has embarked on a series of corporate income tax reforms to reduce rates and broaden tax bases. Initially, reform was intended to improve market efficiency and reduce tax erosion due to tax preferences. However, after the 1986 Reagan corporate tax reform in the United States that reduced the federal rate by 12 points (from 46 to 34 percent), corporate tax reform was also pushed by the potential loss of investment and corporate income to the United States. By 1988, the federal general corporate income tax rate was lowered from 36 to 28 percent and investment tax credits, inventory allowance, and depreciation deductions were scaled back. With a federal surtax of about one point and provincial tax rates of 14 points, the general rate topped at 43 percent.

As other countries were reducing corporate income tax (the US rate was about 39 percent), Canada had the highest corporate income tax rate among industrialized countries by the end of the 1990s (Canada 1997). Concerned about base erosion and competitiveness, governments reduced corporate income tax rates again. By 2012, the federal general rate had fallen to 15 percent and provincial rates ranging in 2026 from 8 percent in Alberta to 15 percent in Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island, with tax preferences also reduced. Canada enjoyed a clear advantage over the United States until 2018, when the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered the federal corporate rate by 14 points, from 35 to 21 percent. Including state taxes, 2026 US corporate rates range from 21 percent (e.g., Ohio, Texas, and Washington) to 30.1 percent in New Jersey.

CIT revenues have therefore been affected by both economic conditions and corporate tax reforms. CIT revenues fell from 4 percent of GDP in 1975 to 2 percent following a deep recession that ended in 1992 (Figure 1). They rebounded in the next decade as profitability improved and corporate tax reforms in 1986-87 lowered rates while eliminating or scaling back many tax preferences. With robust profitability, CIT revenues remained relatively stable from 2000 to 2020, despite reductions in statutory rates.



Since 2020, CIT revenues have risen again, reaching 4.7 percent of GDP.

As shown in Figure 3, Canada achieved a significant tax advantage in 2012 by lowering the combined federal-provincial corporate income tax rate well below the GDP-weighted OECD average. However, that advantage has since disappeared. The US rate cut in 2018 – particularly significant given the US share of roughly one-quarter of global GDP – eliminated Canada's statutory rate advantage entirely. By 2024, Canada's combined corporate tax rate stood at 26.1 percent, virtually identical to the OECD weighted average, while the US rate was 25.7 percent.

The effect of taxation on investment depends not only on the statutory tax rate but also on tax incentives, such as accelerated depreciation and investment tax credits. Other taxes on capital, such as sales taxes on capital inputs, real estate and financial transfer taxes, property and asset-based taxes, also affect capital decisions. Even these taxes do not tell the whole picture. Payroll taxes on labour and fuel and carbon taxes on energy increase input costs in production. A more complete measure to compare tax competitiveness would focus on production costs to incorporate taxation of different inputs (McKenzie, Mintz and Scharf 1997; Technical Committee on Business Taxation 1997).

Nonetheless, it is useful to consider how the profit-based taxes impact investment in Canada, particularly across sectors, to determine how they distort the allocation of capital (the finance sector is excluded due to a lack of data). Including the 2025 Budget provisions, Bazel and Mintz estimate the marginal effective tax rate (METR) on new investment in Canada to be 12.6 percent in 2025 and 18.6 percent by 2034 when the accelerated provisions are phased out.

Canada's tax competitiveness and productivity are weakened by a distortionary corporate income tax system, which leads to a misallocation of capital. The system particularly favours forestry (including lumber and pulp and paper manufacturing activities), critical mining, and manufacturing, all of which face effective tax rates substantially lower than those of service sectors and oil and gas (Table 3).

	Canada 2025 <sup>**</sup>	Canada 2034 <sup>**</sup>	United States 2025 <sup>**</sup>
Agriculture	11.9	15.5	16.1
Forestry	-6.7	12.6	18.3
Mining – Non-critical (Iron)	12.9	14.9	3.2
Mining – Critical (Copper)	6.0	11.1	3.5
Oil and Gas	26.0	31.2	29.9
Manufacturing	-4.4	14.2	17.8
Utilities	12.0	16.0	10.9
Construction	19.0	21.3	16.3
Transportation	11.8	15.0	14.6
Communications	11.3	18.3	15.7
Wholesale Trade	19.6	21.8	20.1
Retail Trade	20.4	22.3	22.6
Other Services	15.8	20.7	14.0
Average <sup>***</sup>	12.6	18.6	15.5

Notes:  
<sup>\*\*</sup>Estimates of marginal effective tax rates include the 2025 Budget provisions in Canada, accelerated depreciation and the Productivity Super-Deduction for temporary and phased-out by 2034.  
<sup>\*\*</sup>The United States has entered the bonus depreciation phase, not included under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which was scheduled to begin in 2024. Under the "Big Beautiful Bill" passed by Congress in 2025, the 2017 bonus depreciation provision (the US equivalent of accelerated depreciation) has been extended indefinitely.  
<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Marginal effective tax rates are equal to the combined value of rates paid to shareholders plus the rate of return on capital. Taxes and other corporate income taxes, profit-based credits and timing preferences on marginal investment income.  
Source: Calculations by P. Bazel based on the School of Public Policy, METR model. Estimates include corporate income tax, mining, profit loss and profit-based oil and gas taxation.

In 2025, the dispersion in effective tax rates (26.7 percentage points) is more than twice the average effective tax rate. By 2034, this dispersion falls to 20.1 percentage points with the elimination of accelerated depreciation. Eliminating accelerated depreciation and the productivity incentive would make the profit-based business tax more neutral, although effective tax rates would increase.

In some instances, tax incentives target low-growth industries. The Budget 2025 Productivity Super-Deduction particularly benefits manufacturing. Yet, despite this and previous favourable tax incentives, manufacturing has declined for other reasons, such



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as the shift of production to China and other Asian countries since 2000. Manufacturing value-added as a share of GDP has steadily fallen from 15 percent in 1997 to 9 percent in 2025. Bazel and Mintz (2022) show that Canada has historically the most biased system towards manufacturing than any other OECD or BRIC country except India.

In 2025, Canada's average effective tax rate on capital (12.6 percent) will be somewhat below that of the United States (15.5 percent). However, eight of 12 industries, including the technology-intensive communication sector, mining, utilities, transportation and construction, are currently more heavily taxed than in the United States. Once the 2025 Budget proposals expire in 2034, the effective tax rate on capital in Canada (18.6 percent) will exceed the US rate (15.5 percent), leaving nine of 12 sectors in Canada disadvantaged.

The above estimates of effective tax rates on new investment mask other distortions with the corporate income tax, including:

Effective tax rates vary by type of investment. The system provides preferences for clean energy, research and development, and machinery and equipment that are taxed much less than structures and inventory investments.

The estimates assume the same degree of leverage (40 percent debt financing) for all industries. Yet, given the deductibility of debt financing, the corporate tax system encourages greater leverage unless limited by thin capitalization rules.

Given that governments take a greater share of profits than their shares in losses, income taxation discourages investment in risky enterprises, including high-tech and start-up companies.

Foreign income, especially in low-tax jurisdictions, is typically taxed less than domestic income earned by Canadian corporations, thereby encouraging capital outflows. Foreign companies operating in Canada may be taxed more highly than Canadian companies due to withholding taxes on income remitted to foreign investors and limits on interest and other deductions, thereby discouraging foreign ownership. The new 15 percent global minimum corporate tax, including Canada's domestic minimum tax, will raise taxes on large multinationals, though foreign investment may still receive relatively favourable treatment.

Small businesses are given preferential corporate income and payroll tax rates. Canadian-controlled private corporations face a small business corporate rate of about 13 percent compared to roughly 26 percent for large businesses, while unincorporated business income is taxed in the hands of individual investors.

In other words, Canada's business tax structure is a jumble of distortions that misallocate capital in the economy, with tax considerations influencing investment decisions rather than having them taken solely on the basis of economic profitability.

### Efficiency considerations

While progressive personal income tax rates play a redistributive role, high marginal rates discourage work, labour force participation, savings, and risk-taking. They can also weaken incentives for entrepreneurship and innovation and may encourage high-income earners to emigrate. Numerous studies show that personal income taxes impose a higher efficiency cost per dollar of tax revenue than consumption or property taxes (Table 4). This cost rises exponentially as top tax rates increase.

Corporate income taxes are generally considered even more distortionary. Dahlby and Ferde (2011, 2022) demonstrate their high economic cost due to their impact on investment decisions and incentives for profit shifting. However, the incidence of corporate tax depends on firm size. Corporate taxes on large, internationally financed firms tend to be regressive, with much of the burden passed on to relatively immobile labour and consumers. By contrast, corporate taxes on small private firms may be progressive, since these firms' profits often reflect returns to personal savings.

The GST is widely regarded as one of the least distortionary taxes. It does not penalize savings and has little effect on the economy,

Tax Base	Barlas and Benassy (2004)	Dahlby and Ferde (2011)	Dahlby and Ferde (2022)
Corporate income	1.37	1.71	3.02
Personal income	1.32	1.87	2.36
Payroll	1.83	n/a	n/a
Consumption	1.83	1.11	n/a

Note: The marginal cost of funds represents the cost to society of raising an additional dollar of tax. It is a function of the elasticity of tax bases, plus the economic efficiency cost of that dollar of tax.

though it can reduce work incentives at low-income levels. While the GST/HST is regressive in isolation, refundable tax credits mitigate its impact on low-income households. Middle-income households bear the heaviest burden, which may explain political resistance to rate hikes.

Still, Canada's GST/HST collects from slightly less than half the potential tax base due to exemptions and zero-rating (OECD 2024), which increases its distortionary impact. Broadening the base, as in New Zealand's value-added tax (VAT), which collects 96 percent of potential consumption, could lower GST/HST rates by almost half while improving efficiency. Alternatively, the additional GST/HST revenue could be used to reduce more harmful taxes.

Payroll taxes fund social insurance programs like the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, and provincial workers' compensation. Some provinces also levy general employer-paid payroll taxes. Unlike consumption taxes, which retirees also bear, payroll taxes apply only to workers and employers. Contribution ceilings also cap their fiscal and behavioural impact. About two-thirds of OECD countries use payroll taxes to fund healthcare – a potential alternative to general tax-financed health contributions (Khanal, MacKinnon and Mintz 2024). Payroll taxes are generally less distortionary than personal and corporate income taxes, especially when designed as flat contributions with benefit linkages. Expanding the role of payroll taxation, particularly for healthcare, may offer a more efficient and transparent way to raise revenue while preserving economic growth.

### Complexity

Canada's tax system is extremely complex. Originally enacted in 1917 as a six-page document, the federal Income Tax Act has expanded dramatically over the past century. On the personal income tax side, the T1 General Income Tax Return has grown to include 14 schedules and multiple sections, reflecting decades of accumulated rules and preferences. As a result, non-experts increasingly rely on accountants or specialized software, especially when reporting income beyond standard T4 employment income.

The corporate income tax system is even more intricate. The Income Tax Act devotes hundreds of pages to corporate taxation. Although the T2 Corporation Income Tax Return is nominally nine pages, corporations often complete dozens of additional schedules depending on their activities. Businesses claiming investment tax credits, carrying forward losses, or engaged in research and development must complete highly detailed forms. Frequent and layered tax changes further increase complexity.

Recent years have seen the introduction or expansion of measures such as Specified Corporate Income rules, the Tax on Split Income, Adjusted Aggregate Investment Income thresholds, the Underused Housing Tax, bare trust reporting requirements, the Excessive Interest and Financing Expenses Limitation, the Digital Services Tax, the Global Minimum Tax, the new Mandatory Disclosure Rules, updates to the General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR), and a suite of clean economy investment tax credits. Each of these measures introduces additional definitions, filing obligations, and interpretive uncertainty, making compliance significantly more difficult for businesses and their tax advisors. Taxpayers must also navigate differing federal and provincial rules, further increasing compliance burdens and reliance on tax professionals.

Measuring compliance costs is difficult because they vary by taxpayer and income source. One analysis shows that the time taken to fill out the average personal income tax forms has fallen from 5.6 hours in 1985 to 2 hours in 2022 with digitization (Vaillancourt 2020). However, taxpayers increasingly purchase software or hire professionals. Vaillancourt estimates that the

cost per tax return has fallen from \$288 in 1985 to \$138 in 2022 (in 2024 dollars). In 2022, self-employed taxpayers paid 1.7 times the average cost per form (\$235), while the highest income tax filers incurred a cost 1.4 times the average (\$193). Total personal income tax compliance costs reached an estimated \$4.2 billion in 2022 (\$4.5 billion in 2024 dollars). These estimates exclude compliance costs for other taxes including property, payroll taxes, and many tax benefits that require special forms (such as home ownership and education plans).

For businesses, the World Bank estimates that the average Canadian firm spent 131 hours per year complying with taxes in 2019. About 45 hours are spent on corporate income taxes, 36 hours on payroll taxes, and 50 hours on VAT/sales taxes. Compliance time is highest in Chile (291 hours) and Poland (260 hours). Of the G7 countries, Italy tops at 238 hours, followed by Germany (218 hours) and the United States (175 hours). Canada's compliance time exceeds that of the United Kingdom (110 hours), Australia (105 hours), Ireland (82 hours) and Switzerland (63 hours). With an average hourly cost of \$40 in 2024 and 2.6 million corporate taxpayers, the compliance costs for business taxes in Canada are estimated to have been \$14.7 billion in 2024.

Governments also incur significant administrative costs in collecting taxes. The Canada Revenue Agency's operating budget (excluding transfer payments) is \$6.2 billion as of 2024/25. Provincial tax administration, court proceedings, and tax policy development add further costs. However, a rough estimate for provincial tax administration (based on Ontario tax and benefit administration in 2023/24) is \$1.3 billion. Overall, compliance and administrative costs of Canada's tax system total approximately \$26.4 billion, or 2.1 percent of tax revenues. This figure likely understates the true burden, as it excludes many costs associated with tax expenditures, property taxes, land transfer taxes, and vacant property taxes.

### Fairness

Tax systems strongly influence income distribution. Typically, tax fairness has been defined in terms of horizontal equity (equal treatment of equals) and vertical equity (generally measured according to the ability to pay tax). As Table 1 shows, Canada has successfully redistributed income through its tax/transfer system compared to other G7 countries.

While the system is successful in achieving vertical equity, it is less successful in achieving horizontal equity. It particularly benefits seniors relative to the working population. Crisan, McKenzie and Mintz (2015) measure effective net tax rates (taxes paid minus transfers divided by market income), on personal and corporate income, payroll, sales/excise and property taxes, and money transfers, including the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)/Québec Pension Plan (QPP), Employment Insurance, and social assistance. The richest quintile pays an average net tax rate of 34 percent, and the poorest pay a net tax of -47.7 percent.

However, working individuals pay much more tax than seniors, even in the highest quintile. For example, workers aged 25-29 in the top quintile face a net tax rate of 34.2 percent, while those between 70-74 pay less than half at 15.5 percent. Middle-income workers aged 30-34 (third quintile) face a net tax rate of 20.3 percent, compared to 7.2 percent for those aged 60-64. Even though the data are from 2015, it remains applicable today: horizontal equity is not fair across taxpayers of different age groups. None of this is particularly surprising given the transfers geared to seniors, including Old Age Security, the pension income deduction, the age credit, and pension income splitting.

Few studies consider the effect of business taxation on individual income. Theoretically, taxes are shifted to customers through higher consumer prices, workers through lower wages or layoffs, or owners through reduced capital income receipts. Corporate profits in part reflect economic rents that can be shared by capital owners and workers through wage negotiation. Foreign-owned businesses should also be considered when assessing the impact of taxes on Canadian households.

*continued next edition*



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# A night of solidarity at the Rocket game raised over \$16,000 for two foundations

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA  
info@newsfirst.ca

On Friday, March 20, a Laval Rocket game became the setting for a successful fundraising initiative in support of the Fondation Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Fondation des Canadiens pour l'enfance.

The event brought together community members, partners, and volunteers in a powerful display of solidarity, where sport and

generosity combined in support of meaningful causes. City Councillor David De Cotis attended the game representing the Fondation Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his role as a board member, engaging with attendees and supporting the initiative throughout the evening.

Thanks to the strong engagement of participants, partners, and volunteers, more than \$16,000 was raised during the event. Of that total, \$4,400 was allocated directly to the Fondation Sir Wilfrid Laurier to support its



programs and community initiatives.

The evening was further highlighted by the Laval Rocket's 4-1 victory, which officially secured the team's playoff spot and provided an energetic and celebratory conclusion to the night.

Organizers expressed their sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the initiative, including volunteers, partners, and supporters. The March 20 event stood as a compelling example of what can be achieved

when a community comes together for a shared purpose.

The initiative once again demonstrated the positive impact of collective action, particularly in supporting programs that benefit young people. City Councillor Davide Decotis proudly marked his second consecutive year contributing to the Fondation Sir Wilfrid Laurier's efforts, reaffirming his ongoing commitment to strengthening the community and giving back in meaningful ways.

## Colorectal cancer screening

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA  
info@newsfirst.ca

Colorectal cancer screening is once again at the forefront this March, as the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) de Laval calls on residents to take part in a simple, free test that can significantly reduce deaths linked to one of the province's most common cancers.

### Rising concern in Quebec and Laval

Colorectal cancer remains a major public health issue in Quebec. Nearly 7,000 people are diagnosed every year, and about 2,550 die from the disease, making it the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among adults aged 50 to 74.

Laval reflects this provincial trend. According to recent data:

- Close to 300 Laval residents receive a diagnosis each year.
- 93% of cases occur in people aged 50 and older.
- Men are diagnosed more often than women.

These figures come from the *Colorectal cancer – Incidence and screening (2024 edition)*.

### A silent disease that demands early action

One of the challenges with colorectal cancer is that it can develop without symptoms for years. By the time signs appear, the disease is often more advanced. Health authorities emphasize that early detection

dramatically improves survival, making routine screening essential—even for people who feel healthy.

### A test designed to be easy and accessible

The provincial screening program aims to remove as many barriers as possible. The test is:

- Free
- Available to people aged 50 to 74, regardless of whether they have a family doctor
- Offered without a prescription
- Completed at home in just a few minutes

People under 50 with a family history of colorectal cancer may also qualify.

The test detects invisible traces of blood in the stool, often an early warning sign. If the result is abnormal, the individual is referred for a colonoscopy to confirm the diagnosis. Should cancer be found, all follow-up care and treatment are fully covered by Quebec's public healthcare system.

### Local support for residents

The CISSS de Laval provides guidance at every step—from information and test access to follow-up based on results. Eligible residents can book an appointment:

- Online through **Clic Santé**
- By phone at 18776444545

As the CISSS reminds the public, taking a few minutes to complete this test could be a lifesaving decision. Would you like this rewritten in a shorter, more headlined news style as well?

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# Laval and Montreal officials commemorate Greek Independence Day

Photos:  
Harry  
Barbaroutsis

*Dignitaries gather at Laval Cenotaph to celebrate Hellenic freedom,  
among them the Vice Premier of The Hellenic Republic Kostis Hatjidakis*

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

Elected officials from all three levels of government gathered at the Veterans' Cenotaph near Laval City Hall on the morning of Saturday, March 28, to pay tribute alongside residents of Hellenic origin in honour of Greek veterans and fallen soldiers. The ceremony marked the 205th anniversary of Greece's Independence. Joining this year's commemoration was Vice Premier of the Hellenic Republic Kostis Hatjidakis, who travelled to Laval to take part in the celebrations.

## Remembering a defining moment in history

Greek Independence Day commemorates the events of March 25, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patras blessed a Greek flag and proclaimed an uprising against the Ottoman Empire. This act is widely regarded as the beginning of the Greek War of Independence, a struggle that continued until 1832, when the modern Greek state was officially proclaimed and recognized by the world's major powers. Within the Montreal region, Laval is home to the largest concentration of residents of Greek heritage, making the annual commemoration especially meaningful for the local community.

Each year, Greeks from throughout the greater Montreal area gather at the Cenotaph to honour those who sacrificed their lives for Greece's freedom. The ceremony includes the laying of commemorative wreaths. Among those laying wreaths this year were Vice Premier of the Hellenic Republic Kostis Hatjidakis, Laval-Îles MP Fayçal El-Khoury, Vimy MP Annie Koutrakis, Marc Aurele Fortin MP Carlos Leitao and St-Laurent MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos. Senator Housakos laid a wreath on behalf of the Canadian Senate. Wreaths were laid by Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan-Olivier and Milles-Îles, MNA Virginie Dufour.



Representing The Hellenic Community  
of Greater Montreal President Basil  
Aggelopoulos



Representing the Hellenic Government  
Vice Premier of the Hellenic Republic  
Kostis Hatjidakis.



Representing Canada Liberal MPs Carlos  
Leitao Emmanuella Lambropoulos,  
Annie Koutrakis and Fayçal El-Khoury.



City councillors Isabelle Piché, Aglaia  
Revelakis, Bill Karydogiannis, Aline Dibb  
and Seta Topouzian laid a wreath.



Opposition leader in the Senate,  
Leo Housakos laid  
a commemorative wreath.

My best wishes for a  
*Happy Greek Easter*

Mes meilleurs vœux pour une  
*Joyeuse Pâques grecque*

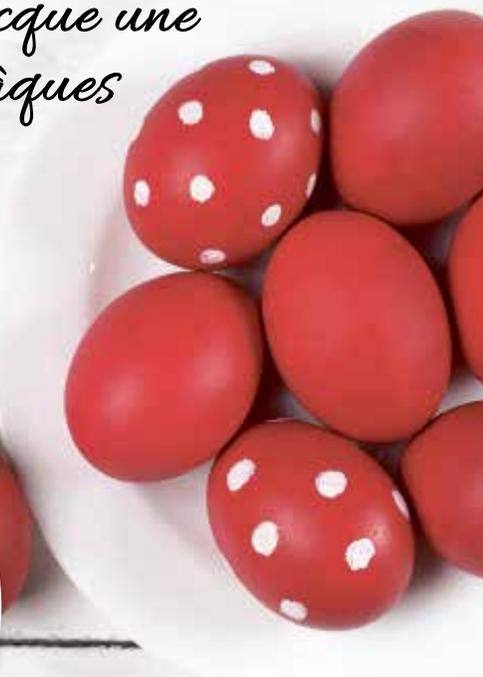



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NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC

*Wishing the Greek Orthodox  
community a Happy Easter*

*Je souhaite à la communauté  
orthodoxe grecque une  
joyeuse Pâques*




**SONA LAKHOYAN OLIVIER**  
Députée de / MNA for Chomedey  
450-686-0166 | Sona.LakhoyanOlivier.CHOM@assnat.qc.ca

ASSEMBLÉE  
NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC

# Hellenics from Laval and Montreal gather for Greece Independence Day festivities

*Visit by republic's Deputy Prime Minister adds to HCGM's 120th anniversary celebration*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

The 120th anniversary of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal along with an observance of the 205th anniversary of the liberation of Greece was a dual celebration for 500 guests who attended a gala dinner on the evening of Saturday March 28 at the Château Royal in Chomedey.

For Greeks around the world, March 25 in the year 1821 was the beginning of the revolutionary fight that ended 400 years of Ottoman rule.



**The 2026 Hellene of the Year, following a nomination process held by the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal, was Montreal-area social services consultant Danae Savides.**

Following a protracted war in which Greek patriots received support from Russia, Britain and France, Greece finally received recognition from the world as an independent nation in 1832.

### Deeply spiritual meaning

For Greeks every year, the commemoration date also has deeply religious significance as it falls on the feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary in Christian Orthodox tradition.

Among the dignitaries



*Photos: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia*

at the Château Royal were Deputy Prime Minister of Greece Kostas Hatzidakis, Greek Ambassador to Canada Ekaterina Dimakis, Greek Consul General in Montreal Nikolaos Karalekas, federal Health Minister Marjorie Michel and Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal president Basile Angelopoulos.

Also present were Laval-Les Îles MP Fayçal El-Khoury, Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan-Olivier, Saint-Laurent Liberal MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos, Laval city councillors Vasiliou Karidogiannis (representing the mayor) and Nicolas Borne, Chomedey city councillor Aglaia Revelakis and Montreal Vice-Mayor Effie Giannou.

### A bridge between nations

In an exclusive interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, the Greek republic's deputy prime minister said he was impressed by the turnout and enthusiasm shown by members of the Greek

diaspora in Laval and Montreal on the occasion of the HCGM's birthday as well as the anniversary of the independence of Greece.

"Greece unites us, and we believe that the Greek Canadian community here is a bridge between Greece and Canada," said Hatzidakis, adding that Greece and Canada share characteristics and are "like-minded" states, while Canada and Greece "cooperate on things like NATO and we hope this will continue."

### Greek Republic's mail-in votes

Hatzidakis said he especially wanted to emphasize that a recent decision by the Hellenic Parliament to allow mail-in voting by Greek citizens living outside Greece in upcoming national elections will lead to even closer ties between the home country and the Greek diaspora abroad "to the benefit of both sides."

In the evening's keynote address, the HCGM's

president emphasized the Hellenic community's looking towards the future, rather than focusing on the past. "Our parade on Jean Talon will not be a march of memory – it will be a declaration of the present," Angelopoulos said, referring to the Greek Independence Day parade in Montreal the next day.

### Danae Savides Hellene of the Year

The 2026 Hellene of the Year Award, following a nomination process held by the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal, was presented to Montreal-area social services consultant Danae Savides. She was presented with a plaque by HCGM president Basile Angelopoulos. Among other accomplishments, Savides has written on the phenomenon of Suicidal Adolescents and the Greek Community of Montreal.



**"Greece unites us," Deputy Prime Minister of Greece Kostas Hatzidakis told Newsfirst Multimedia, referring to the Republic of Greece's close relationship with members of the Greek diaspora residing in Canada.**

*Nos vœux les plus chaleureux à vous et vos familles célébrant la Pâques orthodoxe !*

*Our best wishes to you and your families on the occasion of Orthodox Easter!*



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



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

# Montreal's mayor and Greece's Deputy PM led the 2026 Greek Independence Day Parade

*Hellenic or not, many people waved Greek, Canadian and Quebec flags proudly*

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

Several thousand people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds – although primarily Greeks – lined the sidewalks of Jean-Talon St. in Parc Extension last Sunday afternoon for the Montreal Hellenic community's biggest annual celebration – the Greek Independence Day Parade.

## HCGM's 120 years in Montreal

It was all the more important this year as 2026 marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the largest organization representing the greater Montreal Hellenic community.

The parade marshals this year were Montreal mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada and Deputy Prime Minister of Greece Kostis Hatzidakis. They led the dignitaries westward on Jean Talon St. past Athena Park near the corner of Bloomfield Ave. where they climbed the stairs onto an outdoor stage to review the marchers passing by.

Greek or not, most people brought many flags to the parade in order to pay tribute to the history, heroism and the independence of Greece – the nation that gave birth to modern-day traditions of democracy.

## A day for everyone to be Greek

"On March 25 everybody is Greek," said Laval city councillor for Souvenir-Labelle Vasilios Karidogiannis, who attended the parade on behalf of Mayor Stéphane Boyer. "Greeks have always been known for their hospitality and



generosity. So today everybody who is here is as Greek as us."

"We must never forget the sacrifices made by those Greeks who gave their lives so they and we could all be free," said Laval-Les Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El Khoury.

"This is very heartwarming," said Vimy Liberal MP Annie Koutrakis, noting that her parents and those of her spouse all came to Canada during major waves of immigration in the 1940s and 1950s from Greece.

"So when you see how much our community has achieved through hard work and dedication after momentous historic events like World War II and the Greek civil war, this is very meaningful and an especially proud moment to be Greek," added Koutrakis.

## 'A vibrant community,' said Revelakis

Laval city councillor for Chomedey Aglaia Revelakis noted that Laval city council unani-

mously passed a motion in February declaring March to be Hellenic Heritage Month. "The Greek community especially in my district is a vibrant community and we're very close to our culture and heritage," said Revelakis.

"This is a real milestone," said Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier, referring to the HCGM's anniversary. She said the occasion was positive proof that the Montreal Hellenic community is a fundamental part of the culture and economy of Quebec. "They helped Quebec become what it is," she said.

## HCGM's anniversary continues

In addition to continuing a decades-old tradition with a series of commemorative events marking Greek Independence Day all last weekend, the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal (HCGM) has been celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary with special events throughout the year. In a statement, the HCGM said this year's parade marked a double celebration.

"On the one hand, the heroic Greek Revolution of 1821 and the timeless values of freedom and democracy, and on the other, the long and proud journey of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal, founded in 1906, which continues to uphold and preserve the ideals of Hellenism."

Additionally, on the occasion of this important anniversary, the federal government arranged that on March 25, the Samuel-De-Champlain Bridge was illuminated in blue and white in honor of Greece's National Independence Day and in celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal.



I would like to congratulate the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal for the festivities of the 205<sup>th</sup> Greek Independence Day. Congratulations to the organisers, the participants but especially to all the school children in the parade!

*Fayçal El-Khoury*  
Député/M.P. –Laval-Les îles



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## Sexual assault charges laid against 49-year-old Laval man

The Laval Police arrested 49-year-old Jerry Bonce on Thursday evening last week on suspicion he sexually assaulted three women he met through dating sites.

Bonce was scheduled to appear in court last Friday morning at the Laval courthouse.

According to a statement released by the Laval Police, Bonce allegedly used the pseudonym "James" and a fake profile picture to contact women on various dating sites.

"He allegedly invited them to his home

where he sexually assaulted them," says a statement issued by the LPD. The assaults allegedly took place from December 2024 to October 2025 in Laval where Bonce lives. He had previous run-ins with the law since 1995 with 22 court cases.

## LFD firefighter injured in blaze on Kugler St. in Duvernay

A firefighter with the Laval Fire Department suffered a serious but non-life-threatening injury on March 21 while helping put out a blaze at a home on Kugler St. in the eastern reaches of Duvernay.

It is initially believed to have started when a BBQ set fire to a rear balcony.

Around 2:36 pm, according to information posted on the Association des pompiers de Laval's X social media feed, firefighters arriving

observed that the rear balcony of the detached house was almost entirely engulfed in flames.

"Flames visible with propagation up to the level of the attic," they wrote, adding that the situation required a second alarm to be called in.

Given the intensity of the flames, which were spreading to the outer siding of the building and were heading towards the roof, significant efforts were made to control their spread as

quickly as possible and contain the fire before it reached the interior.

Three people were rescued during the operation, and the blaze was reported to be under control before 3:45 pm. Urgences-Santé was summoned after one member of the LFD personnel was injured after falling from around five feet.

Damage to the building and to its furnishings and other contents was estimated at \$375,000.



## Fire inflicts serious damage on house in Duvernay



A family that was living in a residential part of Laval's Duvernay district will be living away from home for a while at least after a fire that caused more than \$190,000 in damage to their dwelling.

A few minutes before 2 am on March 11, the Laval Fire Dept. received a call from the 9-1-1 emergency service that a house on des Perron Ave. was ablaze. The occupants, an adult and two children, were awakened by smoke, according to an account furnished by the fire

department.

Flames were visible at the roofline when fire-

fighters arrived on the scene. It was considered to be under control by 3 am.

## Fire causes \$2.5 million damage to snow contractor in Duvernay

Carelessness is believed to have been the underlying cause of a fire that decimated garages and other installations at a snow removal contractor's base of operations on des Perron Avenue near Montée Saint-François in Duvernay in early March.

The Laval region's 9-1-1 service received a call around 5:45 pm on March 10 and Laval Fire Dept. personnel were on the scene at

Déneigement SM within minutes.

As is frequently the case with industrial fires, a tall pall of dark smoke rose and hung in the sky, visible from a considerable distance.

It wasn't until nearly 9:20 pm that the firefighters were able to finally declare the blaze under control. The LFD speculated that the cause may have been a carelessly discarded cigarette butt and estimated overall damage at \$2.5 million.





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# Things to do

# UPCOMING

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

## WHERE TO CELEBRATE EASTER



**Cosmodome, APRIL 4 AND 5**  
Experience the thrill of space

**Bistro Bar le Rossignol, APRIL 5**  
Easter Brunch

**Nature Center, UNTIL APRIL 6**  
Easter Scavenger Hunt – Free

**Miss Joséphine**  
Unique Easter chocolates

**À la boîte à fleurs**  
Beautiful garments at the flower shop

**Serres Cléroux**  
Floral arrangements and bouquets

## CANDLELIGHT, WATERCOLOUR, COCKTAILS

*Art and drinks*



**April 7**

**Atelier Art Intuitif**

235 Sainte-Rose boulevard, H7L 1L7

Come enjoy an evening of art! Take some time to ground yourself, find your center, and let your creativity flow.

*Visit website for reservations*

## MEHDI BOUSAIDAN

*One-man show*



**April 9**  
7:30 PM

**Salle André-Mathieu**  
475 Avenir boulevard, H7N 5H9

Mehdi Bousaidan is back with a show in which he reveals himself like never before. He recounts his journey with humor through personal and universal anecdotes. We get to know a more intimate Mehdi, who is as funny and authentic as ever.

*Starting at \$43.50*

## LAVAL ROCKET

*Hockey game*



**April 10 (7 PM)**  
**April 11 (3 PM)**

**Place Bell**  
1950 Claude-Gagné street, H7N 5H9

The Rocket's hockey games are ideal for family outings or evenings with friends. Come enjoy the renowned in-game atmosphere for the last two home games of the regular season.

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## HEARTFELT REMARKS

**Q** My husband and son had a bad dispute in August, and my husband made some "comments" about our son's wife. My husband and son have since reconciled to the point of being polite, talking and joking, but there is still some strain and resentment on our son's part.

Our daughter-in-law still wants nothing to do with us. We have not seen her or spoken to her. I sent her Christmas presents home with our son. He said she didn't want to take them, but he convinced her that she should.

It is now her birthday. We give a card with money in it to our boys and their wives for each of their birthdays. I say we give her a card with money. My husband says she wants nothing to do with us, why be fake and send her a card. I would like to see the feud end at some point. I'd appreciate hearing what you have to say.

Myrna

**A** Myrna, we get letters involving alcoholism, neglect, and physical abuse—all of which can and should cause a permanent rift in families. Compared to those letters,

there is nothing in your letter which makes this problem one which should fracture your family, keeping one generation estranged from portions of the next two.

Perhaps your husband and your son are too much alike. At any rate, in the heat of a dispute your husband tried to hurt his son by hurting his wife, and your son repeated the remarks to get his wife on his side. Because it is always prudent to stay away from those who try to hurt us, your daughter-in-law's reaction is both understandable and justified.

There is a principle your husband would do well to keep in mind: we don't need to say everything which is in our head. Now his son's wife knows what he thinks of her, and that can't be taken back. However, your husband is right about one thing. It would be a fraud to send her a card—from him. But it is not a fraud for you to send the card along with money.

Treat your daughter-in-law like your other daughters-in-law. In time she may let this pass and accept your husband for who he is. In truly toxic families there is no solution except a split, but that is a remedy of last resort, not the first place to go to when we are furious.

Wayne & Tamara

## INVITING OFFERS

**Q** I am a male in my 30s in a very lovable, committed relationship. My partner is considerably older than myself. She finds no harm in giving and asking for other men's phone numbers in order to have coffee, though she tells them she is in a committed relationship. When men do phone to set up a coffee date, she declines.

When I find out about it, she says it is a purely innocent gesture, and she does not understand why I am angry or hurt. Is this a form of unfaithfulness, or am I just being a prude?

Rod

**A** Rod, the publisher Bennett Cerf was known for placing ads for books which didn't exist. He

or his staff would dream up a title like "Seven Tips of Great Gardeners." If enough orders came in for the book, he would commission someone to write it. In the meantime he would return customers' money telling them the book was out of stock or temporarily unavailable.

Your girlfriend is advertising her availability, a product which does not yet exist, but if demand is sufficient, it may. She is also compiling a list of back orders she may decide to fill. You know how much men respect a woman in a relationship who asks for their phone number. Those men know the difference between a committed woman and a woman asking them for a date, and so does she.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

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### NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY

(Avis dans le journal : C.c.Q., art.795)

Notice is hereby given that following the death of Josef MESSENLEHNER (the "Deceased"), domiciled at 650, Place Disraeli, City of Laval, province of Québec.H7W 4E3 on April seventeenth Two thousand twenty-four (2024), an inventory of the Deceased's property has been made in accordance with the law by the liquidator and can be consulted by interested parties at the offices of Mtre Line D'Aragon, notary situated at 842, Montee Gravel, City of Laval, (Québec) H7X 2B4.

Given on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Mtre Line D'ARAGON, notary

### NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF INVENTORY

(Avis dans le journal : C.c.Q., art.795)

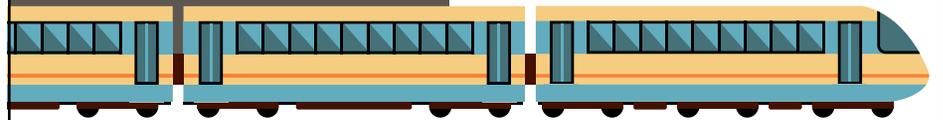
Notice is hereby given that following the death of Johann (John) GARTNER (the "Deceased"), domiciled at 529-505, Cardinal Street, City of Laval, province of Québec.H7V 3Y8, on September sixteenth Two thousand and twenty-five (2025), an inventory of the Deceased's property has been made in accordance with the law by the liquidator and can be consulted by interested parties at the offices of Mtre Line D'Aragon, notary situated at 842, Montee Gravel, City of Laval, (Québec) H7X 2B4.

Given on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Mtre Line D'ARAGON, notary

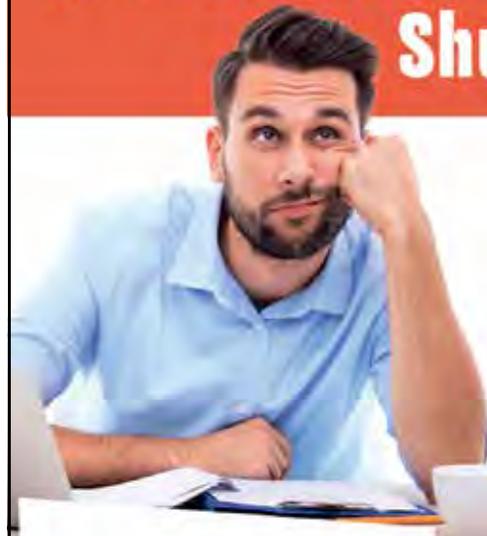
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# HOROSCOPE

Week of April 5 to 11, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:  
AQUARIUS, PISCES AND ARIES

**♈ ARIES**  
Don't suppress your emotions; they'll guide your decisions. Your friends and family will be there for you and show compassion if you're going through a tough time. You'll soon have clarity to find solutions and ease your worries.

**♉ TAURUS**  
Relations with coworkers and acquaintances will flow smoothly, unlike the increased tension in interactions with your loved ones. Friends and colleagues will understand you completely. Maintain a healthy distance to protect yourself and avoid unnecessary conflict.

**♊ GEMINI**  
Pay close attention to a small professional detail. Advancement may be within reach if you clearly define your responsibilities and your relationship with authority. The energy around you will be beneficial. Thoughtful gestures will strengthen your position.

**♋ CANCER**  
A friend might surprise you by revealing their romantic feelings. If you're single, you could find love unexpectedly. A sudden influx of money or unexpected compensation could help ease your financial worries.

**♌ LEO**  
A change of scenery is on the horizon. Despite your busy schedule, your family will remain your top priority. An online post will attract positive attention, bringing you recognition.

**♍ VIRGO**  
You may be tempted to make a big purchase, perhaps a new car. However, give it some calm consideration to avoid straining your budget with a rash decision. Patience and reason will help you resist this fleeting urge for a non-essential luxury.

**♎ LIBRA**  
This week will be all about heartfelt conversations. To resolve tensions and misunderstandings, devote more time to sincere exchanges. This will help restore harmony and closeness. Your intuition could help improve your financial situation.

**♏ SCORPIO**  
Your renewed vitality will inspire you to take on new challenges. The obstacles that once limited you are finally receding, leaving you feeling lighter. You'll feel ready to face the future with clarity and confidence.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**  
A minor health issue demands attention. Don't delay getting help. Act quickly to ensure a speedy recovery. A positive mindset will boost your vitality, helping you enjoy life more fully.

**♑ CAPRICORN**  
Those around you will be brimming with energy, bordering on intrusive. They'll be full of suggestions for new activities. Some ideas will excite you, while others won't. Choose what suits you best to preserve your energy, joy and sense of authenticity.

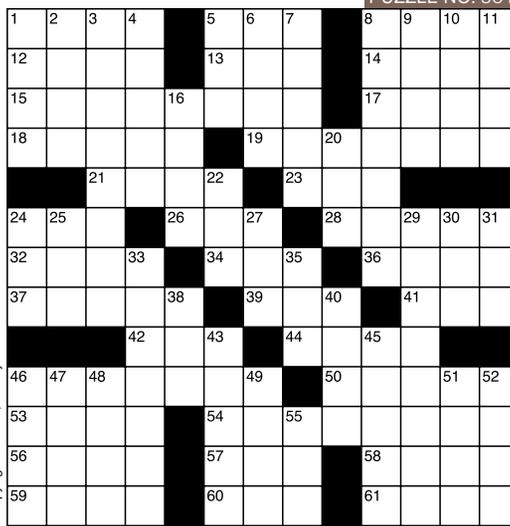
**♒ AQUARIUS**  
Between family obligations and professional responsibilities, you may feel overwhelmed. Setting clear priorities will help you move forward. By avoiding procrastination, you can experience the satisfaction of a job well done and peace of mind.

**♓ PISCES**  
You'll explore a spiritual path that helps you find inner balance. This journey will bring peace, renewed energy and an exchange of knowledge. This enlightening development will pave the way for lasting happiness.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 301



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### ACROSS

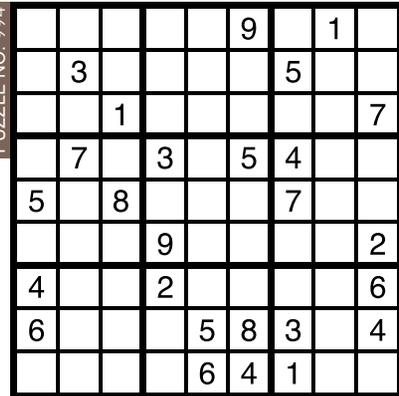
1. Pens
5. Had food
8. Spelling mistake
12. Sports competition
13. Brother's sib
14. River source
15. Church districts
17. Few and far between
18. Robbed
19. Detailed accounts
21. Do in, as a dragon
23. Tan
24. Igloo block
26. Toss
28. Father
32. Food fish
34. Container
36. Cabbage dish
37. Garden starters
39. Be ill
41. Spanish gold
42. Center

### DOWN

1. Naughty kids
2. Tidy
3. Lamp fluid
4. Silent
5. Fire residue
6. Cake layer
7. Road curves
8. Kingly chairs
9. 52 weeks
10. Fragment
11. Keats poems
16. Close up
20. Tavern
22. Not me
24. "\_\_\_ Impossible"
25. Prompter's offering
27. Bathing-suit top
29. Word list
30. Sense of hearing
31. Noah's number
33. Clung
35. Small bite
38. Amount of money
40. Unaccompanied
43. Defeats
45. Lighter
46. Turn
47. Morse \_\_\_
48. \_\_\_ in one
49. Go away!
51. Unit of land
52. Minus
55. Personal

# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 994



### 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.

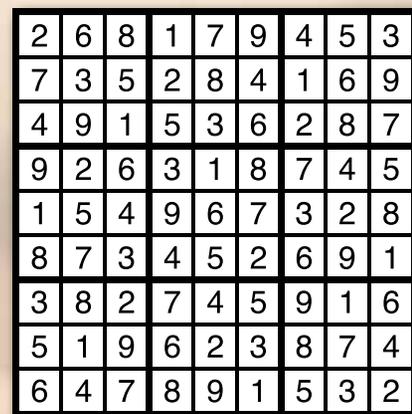
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

### Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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