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Christine Fréchette elected leader of the CAQ

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA
info@newsfirst.ca

The political landscape in Quebec reached a historic turning point on Sunday April 12, as Christine Fréchette was elected leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec. This victory effectively makes her the 33rd Premier of Quebec, succeeding François Legault. Fréchette won 57.9% of the vote at the party's convention in Drummondville, defeating Bernard Drainville and becoming only the second woman to lead the province in its history.

A vision for a new generation

In her first address as leader, Fréchette characterized her win as a “time of renewal” for the province. She focused her speech on the daily realities of citizens, promising a pragmatic government that prioritizes results over rhetoric.

“You have voted for another style of leadership so that a new generation can lead Quebec,” she stated. Her immediate focus will be on economic relief to combat the rising cost of living, alongside investments in hydroelectricity and the continued protection of the French language.

Looking Toward the Election

The transition comes at a high-stakes moment, with a general election scheduled for October 2026. Outgoing Premier François Legault, who led the party since 2011, urged unity behind his successor to maintain the party's momentum.

Fréchette will now spend the coming weeks finalizing her cabinet. The National Assembly is expected to resume on May 5, 2026, where the new Premier will officially begin defining her administration's path before facing the electorate this fall.

Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer pledges collaboration following Christine Fréchette's victory

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA
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The political landscape in Quebec shifted this weekend as Christine Fréchette secured a significant victory, drawing immediate reactions from municipal leaders across the province. Among the first to extend a hand of partnership was Stéphane Boyer, the Mayor of Laval, who signaled a strong desire for provincial-municipal synergy.

In a public statement shortly after the results were confirmed, Mayor Boyer offered his “full collaboration” to Fréchette, emphasizing the importance of a unified front between the National Assembly and local city halls.

A call for local focus

Boyer's congratulatory message was not merely a formality; it was a clear invitation to bring Laval's specific concerns to the forefront of the provincial agenda.

“Congratulations to Christine Fréchette! I offer her my full collaboration. I look forward to discussing the issues affecting the people of Laval with her.” — Stéphane Boyer, Mayor of Laval

The Mayor highlighted that while the province faces broad, systemic challenges, the solutions often lie within the expertise of urban centers. By framing cities as “allies,” Boyer is positioning Laval as a proactive partner in tackling the complex hurdles currently facing Quebec.

Key Issues on the horizon

While the Mayor's statement remained celebratory and diplomatic, several pressing “Laval issues” are expected to dominate future discussions between his office and Fréchette:

- **Public Transit & Infrastructure:** Expanding the connectivity between Laval and the Montreal core remains a top priority for local residents.
- **Housing Affordability:** Like much of the province, Laval is grappling with a housing

crisis that requires coordinated funding and zoning strategies.

- **Economic Development:** Strengthening local commerce and supporting the tech and industrial sectors within Laval's borders.

Looking ahead

The “great challenges” Boyer referenced—likely ranging from climate change to healthcare and social services—will require more than just provincial oversight. By expressing his eagerness to begin discussions, Boyer is ensuring that Laval's voice remains loud and clear as Fréchette begins her new mandate.

The collaboration between the Mayor's office and the provincial government will be crucial in the coming months as both levels of government seek to turn policy goals into tangible results for the citizens of Laval.



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OPINION & Editorial



Fréchette's election challenge: Carney's shadow

The comparison between Christine Fréchette and Mark Carney has rapidly become the dominant storyline in Canadian politics this week. Since Fréchette's decisive victory at the CAQ leadership convention in Drummondville on Sunday, commentators, insiders, and voters alike have begun framing her challenge through a familiar lens. Like Carney before her, she is taking the reins of a governing party that appears electorally exhausted, deeply unpopular, and staring down a daunting polling gap—nearly 20 points—just months before a general election.

It is the kind of inheritance that normally signals defeat, not renewal. Yet Carney proved only a year ago that even the bleakest political math can be overturned under the right circumstances. The question now dominating Quebec politics is whether Fréchette can engineer a similar turnaround—a “Carney-esque” miracle—before voters head to the polls this October. What follows is an examination of the strategy she would need, the advantages she possesses, and the formidable obstacles standing in her way.

The “Carney blueprint”

To assess Fréchette's chances, it is essential to first understand how Mark Carney managed to defy expectations. When he replaced Justin Trudeau, the federal Liberal Party was widely considered a spent force. Polling suggested the electorate was eager for change, the party's brand had grown stale, and Conservative momentum seemed unstoppable. Carney's victory did not happen by accident—it followed a deliberate and disciplined playbook.

First and foremost, Carney did not simply present himself as a refreshed version of the same political offering. His leadership marked a fundamental repositioning of the Liberal brand itself. Gone was the emphasis on personality-driven, legacy politics. In its place came a persona rooted in technocratic competence, economic seriousness, and institutional credibility. For fatigued voters, this shift alone signaled that something substantial—not cosmetic—had changed.

Second, Carney succeeded in consolidating the political center. Rather than leaning into polarizing ideological battles, he focused relentlessly on economic pragmatism. By doing so, he drew voters back not only from the Conservatives but also from the NDP, recapturing moderate voters who had drifted away during the Trudeau years. His message was less about grand visions and more about stability, predictability, and competence.

Finally, Carney capitalized on momentum. Strategic by-election victories—small contests

with outsized symbolic power—allowed him to demonstrate that the political tide was turning. Each win reinforced the perception of inevitability, calming nervous supporters while sowing doubt among his opponents. Together, these elements formed what is now widely referred to as the “Carney Blueprint” for political revival.

Fréchette's path: case for a repeat

Christine Fréchette enters the race with several traits that echo this model, giving the CAQ at least a fighting chance of resurgence. Chief among these is her economic credibility. Like Carney, Fréchette is grounding her leadership in numbers, balance sheets, and policy literacy. Her communication style emphasizes fiscal responsibility and economic realism, rather than ideological spectacle.

This shift in emphasis is significant. By steering the CAQ away from the identity-focused politics that came to define the later years of François Legault's mandate—particularly under figures like Bernard Drainville—Fréchette is attempting to reposition the party as a stabilizing force. Her willingness to adopt controversial but economically driven positions, including her stance on shale gas, signals seriousness to voters who prioritize cost-of-living concerns, investment climate, and long-term growth.

In effect, she is chasing what might be called the “ballast vote”: pragmatic, risk-averse voters who may not be enthusiastic but want a government that feels steady and predictable. In a volatile political environment, that cohort can decide elections.

The “Referendum Chill”

One of Fréchette's most potent potential advantages lies in the broader dynamics of the race. Current polls place the Liberals and the Parti Québécois roughly neck-and-neck, hovering around 32–33 percent, while the CAQ languishes far behind at approximately 13 percent. On its face, this suggests an impending collapse. But beneath the surface, anxiety about the PQ's commitment to a 2030 independence referendum is reshaping voter psychology.

The prospect of another constitutional showdown is creating a quiet but palpable unease among nationalist and moderate voters alike. If Fréchette can convincingly position the CAQ as the only “safe” nationalist option—one that defends Quebec's autonomy without plunging the province into years of political and economic uncertainty—she may be able to reclaim voters currently parked with the Liberals out of fear of a sovereigntist government.

Her leadership also benefits from timing. As only

the second leader in the CAQ's history, Fréchette is not fully entangled in François Legault's late-term baggage. While she cannot erase the past, she can plausibly argue that she represents generational renewal: a reset button for voters who feel disillusioned but not yet ready to embrace either federalism-by-default or independence-at-all-costs.

The obstacles to a miracle

Still, the parallels with Carney have clear limits, and Fréchette's road is arguably steeper. The first challenge is structural. Carney's federal race was largely a one-on-one contest, with Pierre Poilievre as the principal opponent. Fréchette, by contrast, faces a three-party battlefield. She must fight simultaneously against a resurging Liberal Party and a disciplined, focused Parti Québécois.

This “math of three” is unforgiving. Any significant split in the non-PQ vote risks delivering a PQ majority by default. Even modest CAQ gains could inadvertently weaken Liberal resistance and smooth the PQ's path to power.

The second obstacle is credibility as an agent of change. While Carney was an outsider parachuted into an incumbent party, Fréchette is undeniably a creature of the CAQ government. She served as a senior minister under Legault and now occupies the Premier's chair herself. Convincing voters that she represents genuine change—rather than continuity under a new label—will be one of her greatest tests.

A narrow window

Fréchette's victory in Drummondville has undeniably given the CAQ a crucial credibility injection. It has stabilized caucus morale and reopened conversations that many believed were already settled. But history suggests that leadership changes alone rarely produce electoral miracles. For a true repeat of the Carney phenomenon, Fréchette will need not only to redefine her party, but to benefit from a fragmentation—or outright collapse—of the opposition's competing narratives.

If the Liberals and the PQ continue to cannibalize one another over the independence question, an opening may emerge in the political center. However, time is not on her side. Where Carney had roughly a year to reposition his party and build momentum, Fréchette has barely six months before Quebecers vote on October 5.

In that compressed timeframe, competence will not be enough. She will need discipline, luck, and flawless political timing. In short, Christine Fréchette does not merely need to be a capable leader—she needs to be a political magician.

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City undertakes massive upgrading at La Pinière wastewater treatment plant

\$334 million allotted by Laval to modernize facility in St-Vincent-de-Paul

The City of Laval is taking a bold step forward with a decision to modernize its wastewater treatment infrastructure with a planned investment of \$334 million in the La Pinière plant in Saint-Vincent-de-Paul, which serves three-quarters of the city's population.

The project will involve a major upgrade in the heavy equipment used to treat the solid waste stream at the city's main wastewater treatment plant in order to adapt the facility to meet strong population growth and increased urban development, while reducing the environmental footprint of its operations.

Major financial commitment

In keeping with the requirements of the project, the city's executive committee has recommended the adoption by city council of one of Laval's largest-ever borrowing by-laws to finance the undertaking.

According to the city, the upgrade of the La Pinière plant (the largest projected infrastructure project in Laval) underscores the crucial necessity for upcoming funding from the federal and provincial governments.

"Discussions are underway to secure the

necessary financial support, comparable to that provided to other similar projects in Quebec and across Canada," the city said in a statement issued last week.

"In Laval, our commitment is to focus on the essentials for the coming years, with particular attention paid to water management infrastructure," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

Will need government support

"Upgrading the La Pinière plant, which serves three-quarters of our population, is a major undertaking in this regard," he added. "This is also a large-scale infrastructure project that will require government financial support."

The state of municipal infrastructure, particularly the water and wastewater systems, "necessitates massive and sustained investments to ensure citizen safety, quality service and the economic vitality of our communities," Boyer continued.

"Current and future programs will need to be strengthened to meet these needs," he said. "Investing in municipal infrastructure means investing in Quebec's prosperity, the safety of Laval residents and the ecological transition that we must collectively achieve."

Meeting growth demands

Located in the semi-rural Saint-Vincent-de-Paul district near the eastern extremity of Laval, the La Pinière wastewater treatment plant plays a central role in the city's wastewater management scheme. Commissioned in 1998, the city says the facility now needs to be modernized to support the area's development, given increased pressure on infrastructure due to population growth, as well as the ongoing housing crisis.

Among the project's main objectives, according to the city, are increasing treatment capacity, recovering 100 per cent of the sludge produced and reducing the environmental footprint. The project also aims to ensure the long-term viability and adaptability of the facilities, in response to the area's growth, as well as future regulatory requirements for liquid waste treatment, which will be addressed in a separate project, the city says.

With this in mind, several pieces of equipment and systems are slated to be replaced. For example, a sludge drying system will be modernized to improve the reliability of the facilities, as well as public health and operational safety.

'Design-build' approach

For the project, the City of Laval chose the "design-build" approach (a project delivery system used in the construction industry), which had already proven successful on other projects, including the new municipal courthouse now under construction next to city hall, and the new Cultural Centre also under construction in the downtown core.

According to a statement issued by the city, "this integrated approach fosters close collaboration between partners from the outset, optimizing efficiency, ensuring greater technical consistency and guaranteeing high-quality execution within budget and on schedule."

The city says the selection of a design-build contractor will take place in two stages. The first will be a call for qualifications (currently open), aimed at determining the qualifications of a maximum of three candidates. The second stage will be a call for proposals, open to companies deemed qualified. This stage, lasting approximately one year, according to the city, will aim to develop a technical and financial proposal.

Some interesting points

Infrastructure: The La Pinière Wastewater Treatment Plant is recognized as one of the largest in North America, treating more than 254 million liters of wastewater per day, reaching up to 600 million liters during peak periods.

It may also be worth noting that guided tours of the La Pinière plant are occasionally available, sometimes organized by the Centre d'interprétation de l'eau C.I.EAU which delivers presentations on local water resources.

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Isabelle Piché to get expert advice at Action Laval consultation on mini-farm

Saint-François city councillor looking at alternatives for a potential reopening

MARTIN C. BARRY
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Action Laval city councillor for Saint-François Isabelle Piché has announced that François Handfield, an agronomist and engineering graduate, will act as an expert at a public consultation on the future of the Nature Centre mini-farm she will be holding later this month.

“With his exceptional background combining field experience, technical expertise, and commitment to the development of the agri-food sector, Mr. Handfield will make a valuable contribution to this process,” the municipal opposition party said in a statement last week.

A former organic farmer and co-founder of Ferme aux petits oignons, François Handfield, according to Action Laval, has built a successful business, recognized nationally, notably for its innovation and profitability.

Agricultural expert

Today, as a consultant, speaker and trainer, says Action Laval, Handfield supports agricultural businesses, public authorities and local communities in areas as diverse as production, economic management, planning, marketing and regulation.

He is also the president and founder of Mana Culture Inc., a company specializing in the design and manufacture of agricultural equipment. “His hands-on experience as a farm entrepreneur allows him to offer realistic, innovative solutions tailored to real-world conditions,” Action Laval says.

“The appointment of François Handfield is a major asset to our consulting,” said Piché. “His expertise, combined with his practical experience as a producer and entrepreneur, will allow us to develop a rigorous, credible and sustainable approach to the future of the Centre de la nature farm.”

Rethinking mini-farm’s future

Piché will be chairing an advisory committee on the mini-farm’s future, supported by Dennis Fiévè, who initiated a citizen petition to save the facility, and by Julie Vézina, a health strategist. A first phase of online consultations ended on March 31.

A second phase, during which the most popular options will be presented to participants in person, will take place on April 30 at a location to be announced. The recent closure of the petting zoo at the Centre de la nature sparked a strong grassroots reaction, with a petition that exceeded 20,000 signatures.



The mini-farm at the City of Laval’s Centre de la nature in Duvernay closed permanently recently, although Action Laval city councillor for Saint-François Isabelle Piché will be holding a consultation on April 30 to look at alternatives for reopening it.
(File photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

The city stood by its decision to close the mini-farm, noting that the facility was outdated and worn out, and the reconstruction costs were estimated to be between \$15 and \$20 million. The building itself had an immediate need for a new roof, with an estimated cost in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mini-farm now closed

Fiévè and Piché spearheaded efforts to rally the support of residents from all over Laval, in the hopes of saving the small but cherished

mini-farm which housed a range of domestic animals, including sheep, geese, chickens and donkeys.

Since then, the city took measures to replace the mini-farm with a mobile petting zoo that will be visiting the Centre de la nature on a regular basis beginning this summer, while offering visitors (many of whom are children accompanied by parents) the opportunity to interact with domesticated animals as they did for many years at the Centre de la nature’s mini-zoo.



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Action Laval launches survey on the city's worst streets

460,000 pairs of eyes will gather information and rate city's streets

MARTIN C. BARRY

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Action Laval's interim leader, Achille Cifelli, along with the municipal opposition party's two elected officials, David De Cotis of Saint-Bruno and Isabelle Piché of Saint-François, have announced the launch of a citizen-led initiative to identify the most damaged streets in Laval – similar to the work of CAA-Québec.

According to a press release issued by Action Laval, “the initiative aims to highlight the state of road infrastructure in order to contribute constructively to the municipal administration's

improvement efforts.”

Citizen reporting

Posted now on the Action Laval website at www.actionlaval.com and on the party's various social media platforms, the survey invites Laval residents to report streets in poor condition. An explanatory video also accompanies the survey.

“Citizens are best positioned to testify to the reality on the ground,” explained Cifelli. Citizens have until April 30 to complete the form, and the survey results will be compiled and made public in early May.

Supporting solutions

“With this survey, we want to give citizens a

voice and gather concrete data to support effective and sustainable solutions,” said Piché.

Action Laval says it is inviting all residents to take part in large numbers to make their voices heard and contribute to better street maintenance in the city.

“We have 460,000 residents in our territory,” noted De Cotis. “That's 460,000 pairs of eyes to gather information and assess the situation in our city,”

What the city says

On one of the City of Laval's web pages describing work done to repair potholes and other damage on the municipality's many streets, the

city maintains that its roadways are monitored closely throughout the year for street repair work when necessary.

Regarding pothole repair, the city says it “regularly inspects the condition of roads: Potholes are repaired throughout the year. Repair work intensifies in the weeks following the spring thaw.”

For street maintenance work, the city says two main factors are taken into account when prioritizing work: the level of deterioration of the street section, and the state of disrepair of underground infrastructure (sewers, water mains, etc.).

Combining upgrade projects

“In the interest of sound management of public funds, the city carries out all work requiring excavation and road reconstruction in a single project,” states the city.

When streets are resurfaced, the existing pavement is covered with a new layer of asphalt, the lifespan of which is 5 to 10 years, according to the city. The duration of this type of work is normally around one week on average.

Managing public funds

Regarding road reconstruction, the city says roadways are most often rebuilt during underground infrastructure renewal work, such as sewer and water mains or storm sewers, “in the interest of sound management of public funds.”

Existing pavement is removed to rebuild the base and lay the new pavement. Curbs and sidewalks in poor condition are then repaired or replaced. The lifespan of new pavement is around 40 years for a neighborhood street, 25 to 30 years for a collector road or artery, with the duration of such work being four to six weeks on average.



Achille Cifelli, Action Laval interim leader



Isabelle Piché, Saint-François councillor



David De Cotis, Saint-Bruno councillor



After a profoundly enriching professional chapter, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Alice Abou-Khalil, Member of the National Assembly for Fabre and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Cybersecurity and Digital Affairs, for the trust she placed in me by welcoming me into her team as a political advisor and office manager.

It has been an immense honour to work by your side, to support your efforts with local associations and community partners, and to contribute to our shared mission of serving the people of Fabre.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of standing with you through achievements and challenges alike, always with loyalty, steadiness, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Madam Member of Parliament, I want you—and all those who call Fabre home—to know how truly privileged I feel to have collaborated with you and served this exceptional riding.

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\$20 million allocated by Laval and Carney government for Pont-Viau development

City moves to accelerate new housing and revitalization in Cartier Metro area



A birdseye view of the area in Pont-Viau where the City of Laval will be installing new underground infrastructure with subsidies furnished by the federal government. (Aerial photo: Vincent Girard, City of Laval)

MARTIN C. BARRY
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An extensive phase of new residential development is set to begin in the City of Laval's Pont-Viau district following an announcement last week that the Carney Liberal government will be contributing \$8 million to help modernize key underground infrastructure through Ottawa's Strong Communities Fund.

Laval is the first municipality in Quebec to receive support through the new program. The development, taking place near the Cartier

Metro station and the Pont-Viau bridge, will enable the construction of nearly 1,800 housing units, representing a total investment of nearly \$20 million including the City of Laval's contribution.

Cartier Metro revitalization

The project aligns with a revitalization vision for the Cartier Metro area initiated by the City of Laval in 2016, in conjunction with a specific urban planning program (PPU) in place since 2022.

In recent years, the city has undertaken numerous initiatives to transform the neighbourhood,

including the acquisition of sites of interest, the improvement of public spaces and more greenery.

The goal, according to the city, is to create a place where people can live, work and enjoy leisure activities within walking distance, close to public transit, and in a high-quality living environment.

Among the city's recent projects were the acquisition of property that included the Convent of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception on Place Juge Desnoyers, opening a new chapter for the heritage site.

Impending transformation

Set for a transformation, the redeveloped site will house new housing as well as a cultural and community hub, while contributing to the revitalization of the area. The project, like others to come, will directly benefit from the infrastructure modernization plan announced by the city and the federal government.

In the area near the Cartier Metro, according to the city, underground infrastructure networks have reached their full capacity, currently limiting the development of new residential projects. Upgrading the infrastructure is therefore seen as a concrete means of accelerating housing construction while meeting growing consumer demands.

The work, which is scheduled to begin in the fall, will increase sewer and water network capacity by replacing or upgrading nearly 2.5 kilometres of underground pipes, ensuring reliable municipal services while reducing the risk of overflows. The project will also incorporate features promoting active transportation, greening and sustainable stormwater management.

Major construction coming

"We're going to have a lot of buildings built around this area," Laval city councillor for Marigot Cecilia Macedo (which includes the area slated for development) said in an interview with *The Laval News*.

She noted that in addition to being the location of one of Laval's three Metro stations, the area is one of the main vehicle traffic entrances into Laval and the focus for a number of years for projected improvements.

"To build a strong Canada, we must first build strong communities," Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure in the Carney cabinet, said during an outdoor press conference held on the edge of the area to be developed.

"Thanks to the new Strong Communities Fund, we are investing in the construction of reliable infrastructure at a pace and scale unprecedented



"We are investing in the construction of reliable infrastructure at a pace and scale unprecedented in generations," said Minister of Housing and Infrastructure in the Carney cabinet Gregor Robertson. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

ented in generations: roads, hospitals, schools and water systems that support people, create jobs, and build connected communities," added Robertson.

Targeted development

"Focusing on what matters most means investing in the infrastructure that allows our city to develop smartly," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer.

"With this project, we are upgrading underground infrastructure networks, unlocking the construction of nearly 1,800 housing units, and providing concrete support for the transformation of the Cartier metro area," he continued. "This is a neighborhood undergoing revitalization, where we are helping to create complete, accessible and high-quality living spaces close to public transit."

The new Strong Communities Fund "will help strengthen communities across the country," said Trois-Rivières Liberal MP Caroline Desrochers, Parliamentary Secretary to Robertson. "By investing in municipal infrastructure in Laval, we are supporting the facilities that communities need to grow and build a strong Canada."



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From the left, Laval city councillor for Marigot Cecilia Macedo, Marc-Aurèle Fortin Liberal MP Carlos Leitão, Alfred-Pellan Liberal MP Angelo Iacono, federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Gregor Robertson, Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer, Trois-Rivières Liberal MP Caroline Desrochers, and Laval city councillors Christine Poirier and Nicolas Borne. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Liberals conclude their largest-ever policy convention in Montreal

Prime Minister Mark Carney struck a note of unrestrained optimism

MARTIN C. BARRY

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The Liberal Party of Canada capped off its 2026 National Convention in Montreal last weekend after bringing together a record-breaking 4,500 members, some of whom were perhaps a little on edge about the outcome of impending by-elections that could lead to the Liberals finally having a majority government.

"This was one of the best conventions in the history of the Liberal Party," Laval-Les-Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury said in an interview with *The Laval News* last Sunday, a day after the convention closed.

Laval MPs 'energized'

"We are proud to have a leader like Mark Carney," added El-Khoury. "We were more than 4,500 members there. We all were very proud and I am sure everyone enjoyed it."

Vimy Liberal MP Annie Koutrakis agreed with her parliamentary colleague that the convention was an extraordinary success. "It was energizing and so great to see so many new people, new faces from across the country who participated in their very first convention," she said.

The Liberals' leader struck a note of unrestrained optimism in the keynote address he delivered on

the last day in accordance with a political party convention tradition.

"Over the past three days, Liberals have come together with energy and determination to shape the future of our party and our country," said Prime Minister Mark Carney.

A 'decisive moment,' said Carney

"At this decisive moment, Canadians are looking for strong leadership and serious solutions, and that's exactly what our new Liberal team is delivering," he continued. "United, we will build Canada Strong, a Canada Strong for all – a Canada Strong that no one can ever take away."

After Carney spoke to the thousands of Liberal members and delegates waving Canadian flags as well as signs bearing his name, some political observers speculated that the event resembled a pre-election rally more than a gathering for the purpose of discussing and setting new policies.

Among the thousands of members who converged in Montreal, more than half were taking part in a federal Liberal Party convention for the first time, according to Liberal Party of Canada organizers.

Record-breaking fundraising

Delegates engaged in policy discussions, as well as campaign trainings and plenary sessions, while hearing from a range of speakers and voices from



across Canada. Party members also came together to help shape policy direction and elect members of the Liberal Party's next national board of directors.

According to the party, up to 300,000 people from across Canada became card-carrying Liberal Party members since last year when the leadership race saw Mark Carney become leader in March 2025. The momentum also translated into record-breaking grassroots fundraising that saw 2025 as the Liberals' best-ever fundraising year.

Carney's message to fellow Liberals came as the latest of several House of Commons floor crossers strengthened the party's situation, while still falling short of a minimum 172-seat majority.

Five new Liberals at convention

Since he stepped into the Prime Minister's position, Carney's government has attracted a total of five MPs from rival opposition parties. They include Lori Idlout from the NDP, as well as four Conservatives: Chris d'Entremont, Michael Ma, Matt Jeneroux and only last week Marilyn Gladu.

The Liberals held 171 seats in the House of Commons before last Monday's by-elections, in which they were expected to increase their seat

count.

The trade war with the United States loomed large in Carney's keynote remarks, with the prime minister pointing to his government's economic agenda. He said a strong economy would be essential to the party's mission of building a just society. Carney received standing applause when he said a just society is anchored in a woman's right to choose while allowing for a wide range of lifestyle diversity.

Carney's speaking points

Carney's speech also highlighted his government's defence industrial strategy, military spending, infrastructure investments, major projects office and efforts to diversify international trade.

The convention delegates spent last Saturday morning debating and voting on several non-binding policy resolutions. Two resolutions which were adopted related to setting age restrictions on social media and artificial chat bots.

Grassroots members of the party also debated a resolution on restricting use of the notwithstanding clause, by invoking disallowance on any provincial legislation that proactively invokes the clause before court challenges are exhausted.



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"Big bang" tax reform

Unleashing growth in the Canadian economy

continued from previous edition

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

Past studies have shown mixed impacts. The company income tax has been found to be passed on by corporations as higher prices charged to consumers (Baker et al. 2020), or largely by reducing employment and wages paid to workers (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). An Australian government analysis on the incidence of the company tax finds that two-thirds falls on workers through lower real wages and the rest on capital owners (Rimmer et al. 2014). A German and an American study each found that about half of corporate taxes are shifted onto workers, with the balance onto capital owners (Fuest et al. 2017; Kennedy et al. 2022). Crisan, McKenzie and Mintz assume that the tax on large corporations falls primarily on workers, while owners of small corporations largely bear the corporate tax (roughly one-fifth of taxable business income is earned by corporations claiming the small business tax deduction).

Growth and taxation

Canada's tax system is ailing. It is inefficient and complex. This is certainly pertinent to the fact that Canada has had a decade of lost opportunity. Its per capita GNI growth lags all other G7 economies since 2015. Non-residential investment per worker has declined sharply, and Canada's capital stock per worker is below other G7 countries, especially the United States (Bafale and Robson 2024). Taxes also affect labour supply, human capital accumulation, and the mobility of skilled workers.

Economic growth depends on multiple factors beyond taxation, including interest rates, regulatory frameworks, political stability, and the rule of law. Rigorous studies control for non-tax impacts when analyzing GDP effects. The online Appendix presents recent empirical work. Below is a preview of the main findings from these studies.

Growth and employment, migration effects

Extensive empirical evidence demonstrates that higher personal and corporate tax rates constrain economic performance, while lower rates promote growth and employment. The magnitudes are economically significant. Peterson and Blair (2022) estimate that each percentage point increase in US corporate income tax rates reduces per-capita GDP by over \$1,000. Provincial evidence from Canada shows that corporate tax reductions have lifted GDP per capita by more than 1 percent (Ferde and Dahlby 2019). Analysis of the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act yields GDP-level gains ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.8 percentage points (York et al. 2023; Mertens 2018).

Employment responds similarly. Duan and Moon (2025) find that Quebec's four-percentage-point reduction in small business corporate tax rates increased employment by 1.7 percent and payrolls by 2.3 percent. Conversely, Curtis and Decker (2018) show that start-ups lose 3 to 4 percent of their workforce for each percentage point increase in corporate taxes. Personal income tax changes also influence labour markets: Ferde (2021) finds that a one-point cut in Canada's top federal personal income tax rate increased private employment by 0.25 percent.

Migration patterns confirm that individuals and businesses respond to cross-jurisdictional tax differences. While domestic inventors show limited responsiveness to tax changes (Akcigit et al. 2016), foreign inventors and high earners are more sensitive to tax policies. Akcigit et al. (2016) and Agrawal and Foremny (2018) report that a one percent increase in tax rate results in one to two percent more emigration for these mobile skilled populations. Kalin et al. (2024) document similar migration responses among retirees relocating to Portugal, with emigration effects equal to 1.5

to 2 percent for a percentage increase in the tax rate.

Investment, taxable income, incidence effects

Tax policy significantly influences investment decisions through its effect on the cost of capital. Hartley et al. (2025) estimate that each percentage point decline in the user cost of capital increases investment by 1.3 to 2.4 percentage points. The US tax reform experience provides additional evidence: Chodorow-Reich et al. (2023) and York et al. (2023) document investment gains of 7 to 20 percent, alongside long-run increases in corporate capital stock of 7 to 14 percent.

Taxable income exhibits considerable sensitivity with respect to tax rates, creating revenue feedback effects. Estimates for each percentage increase in the tax rate range from a 0.9 percent loss in reported income for firms (Coles et al. 2022) to over 2 percent for high-income individuals (Gorry et al. 2018). These studies imply that tax rate increases erode the tax base, reducing the revenue gains from higher rates.

Tax incidence studies reveal that workers bear substantial portions of ostensibly capital-based taxes. Corporate tax burdens fall on workers to the extent of 36 to 56 percent (Duan and Moon 2025; Kennedy et al. 2022; Fuest et al. 2017). Provincial corporate tax increases in Canada have reduced wages by more than the additional revenues collected (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). Payroll taxes show similar patterns: Canadian workers bear nearly the full burden (Deslauriers et al. 2018), while US workers bear about 58 percent (Carloni 2021).

Implications

The empirical evidence spanning the past quarter-century documented in the online Appendix consistently supports theoretical predictions about taxation's economic effects. Higher tax rates demonstrably reduce per-capita GDP levels, constrain employment growth, discourage investment, trigger migration of mobile factors, and often fail to deliver proportional revenue increases due to base erosion. These findings highlight the importance of considering economic efficiency alongside revenue needs when designing tax policy. While taxes remain necessary to fund public services, the substantial economic costs documented in this literature review suggest that over-reliance on income taxes should be approached with caution, particularly for personal income taxes on high earners and corporate taxes.

The need for big bang tax reform

Personal income taxes are too high. Canada no longer has a corporate tax advantage to offset other disadvantages for investment. The tax system is inefficient and complex. Further, as global trade realigns in response to US tariffs, economic growth will be a challenge in a world competing for capital.

A modest reform, such as a tax point reduction here or there, will not have much impact on the economy. Instead, we argue that Canada needs a "big bang" reform that substantially restructures the tax system to raise living standards. This is particularly important now given reduced access to the US market and the goal of trade diversification.

We realize that a "big bang" tax reform is not easy to accomplish. Some reforms involve scaling back tax preferences that will raise opposition to reform. If governments lose too much tax revenue, they will have difficulty meeting their budgets. However, a marginal reform such as the recent reduction in the lowest marginal personal tax rate to 14 percent, while welcomed by taxpayers for some relief, will not significantly improve the economy nor make it easier to balance the federal budget. Better reforms of equal revenue cost would have a larger impact on the economy by reducing reliance on the most harmful tax policies. Past major reforms, such as Ireland's

Box A: The Irish Big Bang Tax Reform

The "Irish miracle" goes back to the 1980s when the government adopted a highly successful pro-growth strategy. No longer the poor cousin of Europe that it had been for two centuries, the Irish economy has become one of the richest in the world (Hoselton and Walsh 2002). By 2024 per capita GNI of \$77,920 (current US dollars, Atlas Method, World Bank) is now 46 percent higher than Canada at \$53,140. This is in sharp contrast to 1970, when Ireland was poorer (\$1,520) than Canada (\$4,410).

The Celtic Tiger's success has been attributed to several factors, including fiscal discipline, attracting talent through education, substantial infrastructure investment, access to EU markets, and deregulation. No doubt, its corporate tax rate policy was a major factor in its growth (Hoselton and Walsh 2002). Initially, it began with 10 percent on manufacturing and Dublin financial services in the 1980s (16 percent on other sectors) and later applied a 12.5 percent on trading profits (25 percent on passive income) to all sectors since 2003 (with elimination of some targeted measures). The unique, low tax rate drew many multinational companies to hire better-educated Irish workers at higher pay. As profits shifted to Ireland, corporate taxes grew, which led to the EU curbing some incentives. Instead of losing population, Ireland now has net migration inflows. Its poverty rate (below \$1.90 per day) has dropped by over four-fifths since 1990.

While its GDP growth has been impressive, the Irish domestic economy has had its bumps, including weak financial regulations that led to a sharp contraction for several years following the 2008 financial crisis. Driven by foreign investment and exports, Ireland recovered strongly with household disposable income growth outstripping most OECD countries. From 2015 to 2019, inflation-adjusted disposable income grew by 4.5 percent a year, compared to 2 percent in the EU and 1.9 percent in Canada.

Ireland is over-the-top when it comes to investment. Public and private fixed capital formation rates that doubled from 2015 to 2019, far exceeding every other advanced country, including second-place Hungary (with a corporate tax rate of just 9 percent) and third-place Estonia, with its unique corporate tax on distributed profits. In contrast, Canadian investment fell by 0.5 per cent.

Growth slowed during the pandemic but rebounded strongly in 2024, reaching 7.4 percent (World Bank). Currently, Ireland's fiscal position is far better than Canada's (IMF Fiscal Monitor 2025). Government revenues equal 27.8 percent of GDP (compared to 42.6 percent for Canada). It has a general government budgetary surplus in 2024 equal to 4.4 percent of GDP (in contrast to a 2.1 percent of GDP deficit in Canada) in part due to corporate tax revenues received from a tax settlement with Apple (this surplus is expected to drop to 1.7 percent of GDP in 2025). Gross government debt stands at 41.1 percent of GDP, compared to 110.8 percent in Canada.

No doubt, "big bang" corporate tax reforms paid off handsomely for Ireland in the past final decades.

unique corporate tax strategy (see Box A), demonstrate how a "big bang" tax reform can strengthen growth while sustaining public revenues. That is our goal in the proposals below.

Big bang personal tax reform

Canada's overreliance on personal income tax is the result of higher tax rates across the income spectrum, particularly at higher income levels. The first stage of our growth-oriented tax reform lowers personal income tax rates where they most affect growth, while also introducing a generous basic allowance. This allowance, consolidating numerous tax preferences into a simplified tax credit, will disproportionately benefit lower-income earners.

Taxpayers who would benefit more from itemizing tax provisions rather than claiming the simplified tax credit would still have the option to do so. However, a simpler system – with lower documentation and filing costs, and greater certainty of outcomes – will reduce pressure on politicians to maintain or expand special tax preferences. Many countries operate far simpler personal tax systems. In jurisdictions with fewer opportunities for tax optimization, filing is often far easier, and in some cases tax returns are automatic or unnecessary (Laurin and Dahir 2022). The simplified tax credit would move Canada toward a system where filing could eventually become much easier.

Reducing personal income tax rates

We propose reforming the federal personal income tax schedule to compress marginal tax rates at higher income thresholds while maintaining the government's recent reduction in the lowest tax bracket. As discussed earlier, rate reductions are more economically effective at higher income levels, while the new simplified tax credit will disproportionately benefit lower-income workers.

The reform lowers the marginal tax rates applying to income above roughly \$117,000 while preserving current rates at lower income levels. The proposal aims to enhance economic efficiency by reducing disincentives to earn additional income, particularly among higher-income earners, where behavioural responsiveness to tax rates is well documented (see online Appendix).

Provinces may reduce, increase, or maintain their current personal tax rates. If they leave rates unchanged, the top tax rate will be, for example, 46.53 percent in Ontario and 41 percent in Alberta. These rates are somewhat above the top rates in 2011, with Ontario at 46.41 percent and Alberta at 39 percent. An important principle, argued by the Carter Report, is that top rates should be below 50 percent to balance social fairness with economic pragmatism,

▶ Continued on page

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since high rates discourage effort, initiative, and tax compliance.

Before accounting for behavioural responses, the proposed rate changes would reduce federal personal income tax revenues by roughly \$15.5 billion in 2026 (Table 6). However, taxpayers are known to respond to lower marginal tax rates. Empirical research suggests that higher-income individuals exhibit greater responsiveness to marginal tax rates through a variety of channels, including labour supply, tax planning, and income shifting. Estimates suggest that a one percent reduction in after-tax income resulting from a higher marginal tax rate would lower the taxable income of high-income individuals by approximately 0.4 to 0.7 percent – known as the elasticity of taxable income (ETI).

In this analysis, a 0.4 percent response for the top tax bracket is applied to reflect this behavioural adjustment, consistent with estimates from the Department of Finance and other sources (Canada 2010; Laurin 2015; Milligan and Smart 2014; Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO] 2022). Following the PBO (2022) guideline assumptions, individuals in the fourth bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.2 percent, while those in the third bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.1 percent. These conservative response estimates were chosen to keep the focus on the fiscal cost estimates, rather than on the precise value of the ETI. After incorporating behavioural responses, the net fiscal cost of the reform is reduced by approximately one-third to roughly \$10.9 billion (Table 6).

While immediate effects on labour supply will be modest for some taxpayers, particularly primary earners, the cumulative impact of reduced marginal tax rates can be substantial over time, particularly when considering the broader, long-run impacts on work experience, skills development, and productivity (Keane 2010). The rate reductions will also help attract high-earning talent to Canada and encourage entrepreneurs to invest in riskier ventures. By targeting rate relief where behavioural responsiveness is highest, the reform provides a more efficient path to boost productivity and strengthen long-term economic growth than broad-based cuts.

Critics argue that reducing top personal income tax rates favours higher-income Canadians. This is not surprising since higher-income taxpayers account for most of the personal income taxes paid. Those with incomes above \$117,000 pay 55 percent of total personal income taxes, while those with less than \$60,000 pay only 11 percent, even though the latter represent more than 60 percent of all tax filers.

Nevertheless, individuals in the first and second tax brackets would also see a reduction in the amount of personal income tax they owe, through a simplified tax credit described below.

A simplified personal income tax credit

To reduce complexity and improve transparency, we propose a new optional non-refundable simplified tax credit that would replace numerous existing deductions and credits. The simplified credit amount would be set at \$10,000 and added to the existing Basic Personal Amount. As a result, individuals could earn more than \$26,000 tax-free.

The reform would also lower the federal age credit base amount to \$4,000 from roughly \$9,000. Seniors today are the least likely age group to live in poverty (Statistics Canada 2022), given the importance of Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and provincial credits targeted at low-income seniors. Most seniors eligible for the age credit will benefit from the new simplified credit, more than offsetting the age-credit reduction, and resulting in a net reduction in tax payable.

The simplified credit would be optional. Tax filers could claim the \$10,000 simplified credit or retain access to all existing provisions by forgoing it. A limited set of targeted provisions would remain within the simplified system, namely: allowances for social security and tax-recognized savings, recognitions for work-limiting circumstances such as caregiving or disability, charitable donations, personal/corporate tax integration provisions, and expenses incurred to earn income. For those opting in, the tax form would retain only a small number of credits and deductions.

	\$Billion
Lower PIT Rates	-15.4
Taxable Income Response	4.1
Subtotal Lower PIT Rates	-11.3
Simplified Tax Credit*	-3.6
Total Revenue Shortfall	-14.9

Note: *The Simplified Tax Credit amount is inclusive of the reduced federal age credit base amount.
Source: Author's calculations using SP22/MLA 35.3

These would include:

Non-Refundable Credits:

- Basic Personal Amount (and Unused Amount Transferred for Spouse/Child).
- Simplified Tax Credit.
- CPP and EI contribution credits.
- Disability and caregiver credits.
- Charitable donations credit.
- Federal dividend and foreign tax credits.

Deductions:

- RRSPs, registered pension plans (RPPs), and other tax-deferred contributions.
- Alimony paid.
- CPP/QPP on self-employment income.
- A 50 percent capital gains inclusion.
- Select employment and business-related deductions.

Filers claiming the simplified credit would forgo other provisions, including:

- Pension income splitting.
- Employment credit.
- Union and professional dues.
- Childcare expenses.
- Moving expenses.
- Capital gains exemption (LCGE).
- Tuition tax credit.
- Age and pension credits.
- Volunteer firefighter credit.
- Home accessibility and home buyers' credits.
- Medical expenses and refundable medical supplement.
- Canada Training Credit.
- Political contributions credit.
- Investment and labour-sponsored fund credits.
- Many other narrow provisions.

By reducing line items and eligibility calculations, the simplified option would ease the tax filing burden for many Canadians, lower their compliance costs, and facilitate tax-filing automation by greatly increasing the number of people with basic tax returns. As the federal government moves to expand automated tax-filing options for low-income Canadians, the new simplified tax credit will make this process much easier, since overcomplexity is the main barrier (Laurin and Dahir 2022). Over time, it could also curb the tendency of elected officials to introduce narrowly targeted tax preferences as tools for political gain or broad policy objectives, fostering a more neutral tax system.

The new optional simplified tax credit, including the baseline reduction of the federal age credit base amount, would cost approximately \$13.6 billion. We expect more than 90 percent of filers to choose the simplified credit rather than itemizing individual deductions and credits. Over time, as provinces align and taxpayers adapt, the option to itemize could be phased out, allowing the tax system to play a more limited role in social policy.

Big bang corporate tax reform

With the goal of building up productive capacity, a big-bang approach is needed to put Canada into a better position to attract investment and reduce distortions in the business tax system. There are some major revenue-neutral reforms that could improve neutrality and simplify what has become an overly complex corporate tax.

One option, following the United States, would be to expand and make permanent accelerated expensing of machinery and

equipment to all business activities, beyond its current application for manufacturing, clean technology, exploration, and research and development. Expensing could also be widely implemented for all capital expenditures, including structures, inventories, and land and development expenditures in the resource sector.

However, when coupled with interest deductibility on debt used to fund capital expenditures, expensing can lead to negative effective tax rates, as the value of tax deductions exceeds the cost of purchasing capital. Expensing policies also favour short-lived capital (e.g., machinery) over long-lived capital like structures, thereby increasing distortions. Many expenditures, such as inventories and land purchases, do not qualify for incentives. Because of the richness in deductions, many companies accumulate tax losses to be carried forward against future profits. Firms may then use after-tax financing and other schemes to transfer these losses to other companies, reducing revenue predictability.

A second option is to adopt a rent-based corporate tax that allows companies to write off the cost of new equity financing, including changes in the tax value of retained earnings. A rent tax, in principle, is neutral for marginal investments since the full cost of capital is deducted. Only the return in excess of the cost of investment is subject to tax. Two approaches have been used to tax rents:

1. Allowance for Corporate Equity (ACE): Firms deduct the cost of equity financing in addition to interest, while capital is depreciated.
2. Cash flow tax: Firms expense capital fully which is equivalent to deducting net interest and equity financing costs.

The ACE approach has been used in a few countries, and the cash flow approach has been used as a means of levying profit-based royalties on non-renewable resource companies (as seen in Alberta's oil sands and British Columbia's mining profit taxes).

A rent-based approach has merit, especially if the personal tax is also converted into a tax on earnings and economic rents (above-normal returns). A personal tax would remove limits on deductions for RRSP savings (dissaving would be fully taxed), and other net capital income, including housing, would be taxed in excess of the "normal return to capital." This is an appealing approach towards a full expenditure-based personal tax that exempts savings from taxation, but it requires greater study since it could lead to higher income tax rates being levied to maintain tax revenues. A related model is the Scandinavian "dual income tax," which taxes capital income at rates less than labour income. For example, Norway's top personal income tax rate is 47.4 percent, while its corporate and capital income tax rate is 22 percent.

While the rent-based approach to corporate tax alone offers an interesting way to tax all corporate investments, it is not consistent with the personal income tax system. Corporate rents would still face taxation at both corporate and personal levels, encouraging firms to recharacterize rents as wages or deductible payments. Further, deducting equity costs at the corporate level without corresponding adjustments to personal capital gains taxation would create mismatches (see Canada 1997). Investors could deduct interest personally while corporations deduct equity costs on the same financing, creating unintended advantages.

Below, we suggest two types of reform: adopting an "Irish-style" low corporate tax rate or implementing a corporate tax that exempts retained profits invested in business activities from taxation (a corporate tax on distributed profits).

An "Irish" approach to corporate tax reform

Consistent with past approaches to corporate tax reform in Canada, a major reform would be to substantially reduce the corporate income tax rate while broadening the corporate tax base to eliminate as many non-neutralities as possible. Lowering the rate would reduce non-neutralities across sectors and make Canada more attractive for companies to shift investment and profits into the country. A uniform corporate rate for all businesses, large and small, would also simplify the system by eliminating the small business deduction and consolidating the two dividend tax credits into one.

continued next edition

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Kids' corner



Dr. Jane Goodall, who passed away in 2025 at 91 years old, was famous around the world for her work with chimpanzees. In 1960, she became the first scientist to report that these fascinating primates could use tools to feed themselves.

While researching in the African country of Tanzania, she observed a chimpanzee using a blade of grass

Have you heard of Jane Goodall?

and a small branch to pick termites out of their nest. This discovery changed her life and transformed how people understand the relationship between humans and other animals. Until then, most scientists believed that humans were the only species capable of making tools.

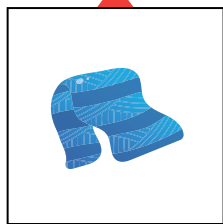
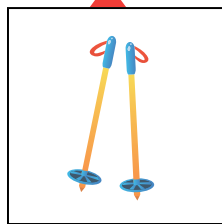
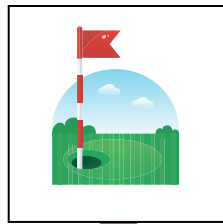
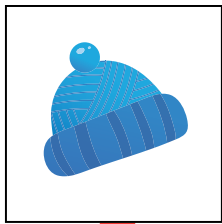
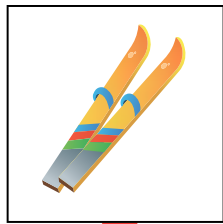
A passionate defender of biodiversity, Dr. Goodall also founded the Jane Goodall Institute. The institute promotes research, education and wildlife conservation. Her work shone a light on the importance of every species.

PHOTO: IMAGE PRESS AGENCY

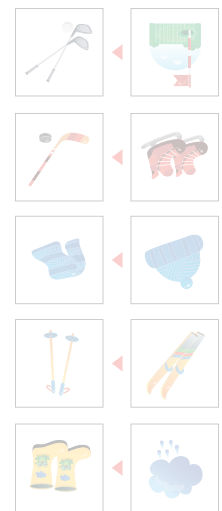


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Laval Police warn about circulation of \$100 counterfeit bills

Although it's a no brainer to ask someone to break a dollar in exchange for four quarters, most people who've lived in this country long enough are well aware that \$100 can't be exchanged for four \$25 bills because there is no such unit of currency in Canada.

While the Bank of Canada did issue a \$25 note in 1935 to honor the silver jubilee of King George V, the Laval Police used a mock-up of a fake \$25 bill on April Fool's Day (April 1) to make a point that counterfeiters in Laval are now circulating fake \$100 notes.

According to the LPD, several Laval residents have reported receiving counterfeit \$100 bills during transactions on resale sites like Facebook Marketplace. The police point out that victims of counterfeiting will not be compensated, regardless of their loss.

That's why they are urging anyone selling for cash to be vigilant and follow some practical

tips to help verify the authenticity of the bills received during such transactions.

Serial number: Each bill must have its own unique serial number. Make sure there are no duplicates.

Transparent strip: Examine the transparent strip of the bill. Tiny numbers corresponding to the currency's value must be visible.

Portrait on the transparent strip: The portrait visible on the transparent strip must match the main portrait on the currency.

Small numbers in the maple leaf: Using bright light, look for small numbers hidden within the transparent maple leaf.

Metallic portrait: Make sure the metallic portrait changes color depending on the angle of the light.

Ink texture: Run your finger over the main portrait to feel the texture of the embossed ink. Remember that you are under no obligation to



accept a currency note if you have any doubts about its authenticity. You should feel free to ask for another or choose another payment method if you are unsure.

The Laval Police say that a neutral zone, supervised by the police, is available to ensure the security of transactions. This zone is located

at Laval Police Headquarters, 2911 Chomedey Blvd.

Anyone with information regarding the circulation of counterfeit currency is encouraged to confidentially contact the Laval Police on their Information Line at 450-662-INFO (4636) or by calling 911.



LFD was kept busy fighting fires recently

APRIL 9 | 19:16 // Building fire on Belmont Street in the Saint-François sector. Residential building. Visible flames. The Code was 10-09, full rescue engaged, possible worsening.



APRIL 6 | 10:30 // Building fire on Place des Capucines in the Sainte-Dorothée sector. Residential building. Visible smoke coming from the basement. Code was 10-09, full rescue engaged, possible worsening.



APRIL 3 | 15:08 // Building fire on boulevard Dagenais Ouest in the Fabreville sector. Multi-unit residential building. Visible smoke coming from a basement apartment. The Code was 10-07, intervention necessary.



The City of Laval's firefighters were more than a little busy over the last two weeks, putting out nearly a half-dozen fires at commercial and residential addresses throughout the city.

On April 8 around 9:45 pm, a building fire on des Laurentides Blvd. in the Pont-Viau district caused extensive damage to a non-profit retail business serving primarily a disadvantaged clientele.

The Carrefour des aubaines du Relais Communautaire de Laval was the scene of an electrical fire. A fault or defect in the electrical wiring installed in the walls is believed to have been the cause of the blaze.

Upon the arrival of the firefighters, smoke and flames were visible inside the building just south of Grenon St. They were able to halt the spread of flames, confining them to the front of the store. Despite the firefighters' efforts, damage was estimated at approximately \$100,000 for the building and \$50,000 for its contents.

Other recent fires:

APRIL 10 | 18:15 // Building fire on boulevard Curé-Labelle in the Chomedey sector. Commercial building. Visible smoke. The Code was 10-12, second alarm.





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Things to do **UPCOMING**

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

CANADIAN DANCE SPORT CHAMPIONSHIP

Culture



April 17 – April 18

Embassy Plaza

1003 boulevard Curé-Labelle, H7V 2V6

The 68th edition of the Canadian International DanceSport Championships will bring together the top dancers from Quebec and across Canada. As the only event offering qualification for the World Championships, it welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels from across the country. Tickets will be available for purchase on-site.

MASSAGE THERAPY SUMMIT

Exhibition



April 18 – April 19

Sheraton Laval Hotel

2440 A. des Laurentides, H7T 1X5

Last year's edition left a lasting impression: more than 3,000 visitors explored the 65 exhibitors on site, and the adventure continues... The Summit has become Canada's largest wellness and massage therapy event and returns with several new features.

Regular ticket, one day: \$35

SEED FESTIVAL

Museum



April 18 – April 21

Armand-Frappier Health Museum

2150 A. des Laurentides, H7T 0N1

To celebrate the arrival of spring, take part in a creative and educational activity that highlights plants and their vital role in biodiversity and the health of our environment. A wonderful opportunity to combine fun and exploration while reconnecting with the natural beauty that surrounds us!

Visit the website for tickets

MARIANNA MAZZA

Show



April 23

7:30 PM

Salle André-Mathieu

475 boulevard Avenir, H7N 5H9

This comedian returns to the stage with *Foie gras*, a show that is funny, sincere, and thought-provoking. In this, her third one-woman show, she reveals her true self, exploring transformation, vulnerability, and the strength that comes from being true to oneself.

\$54



WOMEN'S THRIFT DAY

SATURDAY MAY 2

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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

WRONG EXAMPLE

Q I think I'm in a tight spot. My older brother is married with two young children. He was caught having a little Internet fling a few years ago.

Nothing happened, but I suppose the correct way of putting it is he emotionally cheated.

He felt like crud, and we all thought he had put this behind him. He and his wife have been to counseling, and he did his best to be the best husband ever. Currently they're tense whenever they are together. You can cut the air with a knife, and it seems they are always ready to snap at each other. It's not easy to be around them.

My brother and I went to lunch today. Lately he's been constantly texting on his device, and today it lit up with a text. I glanced at what he was typing, thinking it was business. I saw him type, "So u say u like to role play. Tell me..." I stopped and looked at the ground. I got a sick feeling in my stomach.

So now, what do I do? I really don't think he was texting his wife. They're not sexual or

warm toward one another, and even if they were, he would know her likes by now, right? It's a new girl. Got to be. Do I tell my fiancée, who is friends with my sister-in-law?

Dennis

A Dennis, will you share your thoughts and events of the day with your life partner? Or will you compartmentalize what you say to her?

Your brother's marriage has reached a point where he is leading a second life away from his wife. That's not because it doesn't concern her, but because he has become a double agent. Such a divide is always present with two people who don't belong together.

You know what is right in a relationship. You saw a wrong happen, and you are affected by it. Your fiancée is also likely to be affected by it. By all means share what you saw. With her you want the closeness, love, and trust which is missing from your brother's marriage.

Wayne & Tamara

STICKS AND STONES

Q I am newly remarried and recently my husband compared a part of my body to his ex-wife, who I will call X. We were fooling around, and he grabbed my breast and said, "Nice, but X's are bigger." I freaked.

I flipped him out of his chair, kicked him, and pushed him down the hallway, hitting and screaming at him. Last time I had that much anger and acted like that, I was in my 20s, angry at my first husband, and alcohol was involved.

I feel bad I hit him and have made an appointment for counseling. My husband has apologized, but now I am thinking he must still be thinking of his ex, since he mentioned her body parts like that. I was not previously jealous, but now I am.

He has to maintain a relationship with her as they have a young child together. I am attractive, and she is fat and not very pretty. Should I

just drop this? Maybe I am making a big deal out of nothing.

Staci

A Staci, the old line about sticks and stones is false. Words do hurt, especially from a loved one.

The real story is your feelings toward his ex-wife. In marrying him, you became her hostage. She is a cash and time drain on your marriage. Their child is a reminder of their sexual relationship. Even though you both have a past, you have to wonder, what did he do with her? How do I compare?

The issue to explore in counseling is the basis of your gut reaction. Love, not looks, is the real basis for comparison with the ex-wife. If you and your husband share the deep emotional connection which holds two people together, there is nothing to worry about.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

Élection scolaire partielle du 22 mars 2026

AVIS PUBLIC DU RÉSULTAT DE L'ÉLECTION

Avis public est donné aux électrices et électeurs de la commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier que, à la suite de l'élection partielle du 22 mars 2026, le candidat suivant a été proclamé élu le 27 mars 2026 au poste mentionné ci-après.

CANDIDAT ÉLU AU POSTE DE MEMBRE DU CONSEIL – CIRCONSCRIPTION 9 :

Commissionnaire représentant la circonscription n° 9

Lorenzo LAGATTA

RENSEIGNEMENTS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES

Vous pouvez consulter la rubrique Résultats de l'élections partielle sur le site Web de la CSSWL à l'adresse www.swlauriersb.qc.ca pour obtenir les résultats détaillés.

Rosemère, le 6 avril 2026

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
Présidente d'élection



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

March 22, 2026, School By-Election

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION RESULT

Public notice is given to the electors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that, following the by-election of March 22, 2026, the following candidate was declared elected on March 27, 2026, to the positions listed below.

CANDIDATE ELECTED TO COUNCIL MEMBER POSITION – ELECTORAL DIVISION 9:

Commissioner representing electoral division no. 9

Lorenzo LAGATTA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can consult the By-Election Results section on the SWLSB website at www.swlauriersb.qc.ca for detailed results.

Rosemère, April 6, 2026

Lorraine Sperano Gauthier
Returning Officer

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 H7P 1T8

Chomedey / Sainte-Dorothée (Action Sport Physio)
 2316 rue Desserte Ouest,
 A. Chomedey, H7X 4G8

Duvernay (Action Sport Physio)
 4731 Boul Lévesque E
 Suite 201, H7C 1M9

St-François / Duvernay-Est (Marché Misti Perou)
 8076 Boul Lévesque E
 H7A 3K9

'Dangerous' snow pile on Trait-Carré draws complaint from resident

City pledges to do a better job making sure sidewalk's clear next winter

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

Although it can finally be said that winter 2025-26 in Laval is almost certainly over, one resident is thinking proactively about the snowfall next December and the first few months of 2027.

In an e-mail to *The Laval News*, Hardik Anand, who lives on Lulli St. a short walk from the corner of de l'Avenir Blvd. and du Trait-Carré Rd., said he wanted to "highlight a serious and ongoing public safety issue" in Laval-des-Rapides near Montmorency Metro a short distance from a large seniors' residence.

Snow blocked sidewalk

"A sidewalk in this area has been blocked by a mountain of snow for months," he said at the beginning of April as spring was just starting to set in and the accumulated winter snow was melting.

"It has not been cleared," he continued. "And as a result, people have fallen there many times. This is especially disturbing given the location next to a residence for older people, who are even more vulnerable to injury."

Anand said he had tried repeatedly to get this addressed through official channels. "I submitted three separate online complaints to the city, and all three were closed without any response or meaningful action," he said.

'Nothing was done'

"I also emailed the mayor and the local councillor and sent photographs, but nothing was done," he added. "I then contacted the ombudsman, only to be told that he could not act because my online complaint is now more than three months old, even though the snow obstruction is still there and the danger still exists."

"This is exactly the kind of issue that deserves public attention," Anand said. "When residents report a hazardous sidewalk multiple times

and are ignored, and when even the complaint system becomes a dead end because of timing technicalities, it leaves people with no real recourse."

He said he hoped *The Laval News* could help bring attention to the blocked sidewalk and ask the city why such a dangerous condition had been allowed to remain for so long – especially near Montmorency Metro and next to a seniors' residence (Résidence Soleil Manoir Laval on de l'Avenir) in Laval-des-Rapides.

Five months without cleaning

In an interview with *The Laval News* late last week, Anand said the last of the snow bank was still visible since its enormous size meant it would continue melting long after most of the snow in the area had disappeared.

"That entire part of the sidewalk was never cleaned throughout the winter season – I would say for the last five months," he said, while adding that he had personally fallen there at least three times and knew of others who also fell in that spot.

While acknowledging that he suffered some minor injuries, he said they weren't serious, but the accumulation of snow on the sidewalk forced him as well as other residents to walk out on the street where they were exposed to the hazard of rapidly moving traffic.

Anand said the files for three complaints he made to the City of Laval, beginning in January, were summarily closed "without giving out any information. The first two complaints were closed without any response. By the time of the third complaint, they just gave a general response about snow clearing policy and stuff and they closed that one too."

City of Laval replies

Following an exchange of e-mails between *The Laval News* and the City of Laval's communications department, an official with the city got back to us with a response.

"The City of Laval is well aware of the situation reported by the resident regarding the snow accumulation on Chemin du Trait-Carré, near Boulevard de l'Avenir," said Nesrine Saci, adding that snow removal operations in the area are carried out by a private contractor hired by the city.

"Generally, snow removal operations aim to keep sidewalks safe and accessible to pedestrians," she continued.

Piling snow not allowed

"It is not permitted to leave piles of snow obstructing a sidewalk. That said, during clearing operations or due to space constraints, snow may sometimes be temporarily deposited near or along the edge of a sidewalk. Action is then taken to clear the walkways and ensure safety."

While noting that the 2024-2025 winter season was marked by significant snowfall, including two storms totaling nearly 80 centimeters of snow, Saci maintained this "can lead to exceptional situations related to snow storage capacity."

She said the city has a snow patrol that conducts on-site inspections to identify problem areas, including obstructions to pedestrian traffic. "Inspections will be carried out in this area during the upcoming winter season," she added. "And if necessary, tickets may be issued for any violations observed."



The snow pile on du Trait-Carré Road in Laval-des-Rapides that the City of Laval claims was left by a contractor, in violation of municipal rules, although the city failed to take action, according to a nearby resident.

HOROSCOPE

Week of April 19 to 25, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

♈ ARIES
Your confidence will help you express your ideas clearly and convincingly. This attitude will reinforce your credibility and earn you greater respect, strengthening your leadership skills and helping you perform better on your projects.

♉ TAURUS
To strengthen your relationship, break with the old routine and try more open communication. The idea of moving in together or taking a meaningful step forward could deepen your emotions and solidify your bond.

♊ GEMINI
A dynamic period has begun! It's all about action this week. New challenges, stimulating experiences and professional opportunities will drive your intellectual and spiritual growth, paving the way for major career progress.

♋ CANCER
Taking a step back can give your path more clarity. Make informed financial or relationship decisions to help restore balance. Your creativity will flow freely this week. The artist within you will find inspiration to create remarkable works.

♌ LEO
Your career is thriving, bringing a welcome boost in income. Your love life is also on the upswing. Your partner or an admirer will show unexpected affection, boosting your confidence and deepening your happiness together.

♍ VIRGO
A powerful revelation will guide your upcoming choices, illuminating the path toward your goals. Now's the perfect time to start a new project that's close to your heart, symbolizing renewal and unwavering motivation for your future.

♎ LIBRA
A transformative training course will open new perspectives and broaden your horizons. This experience will rekindle your enthusiasm and self-confidence, filling your life with inspiring discoveries and promising ventures.

♏ SCORPIO
Prepare for a lot of intense emotions this week as a wave of passion will sweep through your life. If you're in a new relationship, you'll receive a clear sign of commitment. These positive changes will bring you happiness and mark the start of a bright new chapter.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
Before making a major decision, consider the repercussions. Your generosity will strengthen your emotional bonds and inspire your loved ones. Sharing your joy comes naturally, highlighting the relationships that matter most and reinforcing your personal values.

♑ CAPRICORN
Small dietary adjustments could boost your well-being. In love, an open conversation will prevent misunderstandings and strengthen your relationship. Simple gestures and tenderness will nurture your emotional connection.

♒ AQUARIUS
A selfless gesture, such as listening, lending a hand or offering support, will strengthen your position with others. At work, your good mood will lighten the atmosphere and spread optimism, earning respect from those around you.

♓ PISCES
Moving is becoming increasingly important to you. You'll start looking for a place that truly fits your needs and those of your loved ones to create a more harmonious space conducive to comfort and sharing.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 302

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

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ACROSS

- 1. Grimm heavy
- 5. Catcher's glove
- 9. Garden veggie
- 12. Bubble
- 13. Aloft
- 14. Lick
- 15. Possesses
- 16. Mimicking bird
- 17. Employ
- 18. Wound up
- 22. Put out
- 26. Military rank
- 30. Agave
- 34. Agenda
- 35. Fate
- 36. Chapel seats
- 37. Bullets
- 38. Pacts
- 40. Stingy people
- 42. Brew hue
- 45. Attuned
- 50. Heartache

- 51. Word of regret
- 55. Secret language
- 56. Malt brew
- 57. Cab
- 58. Gigantic
- 59. Slangy affirmative
- 60. Woolly females
- 61. Mine metals

- 23. Flavors popcorn
- 24. Night noise
- 25. Express
- 26. Fitness place
- 27. Large tree
- 28. Female sheep's mate
- 29. Elflike being
- 31. Honolulu garland
- 32. Have debts
- 33. Superman's emblem
- 39. Solicit
- 41. Extremely annoyed
- 42. Not here
- 43. Birthmark
- 44. Horn sound
- 46. Canyon sound
- 47. Thine
- 48. Hem
- 49. Poor grades
- 52. Canon
- 53. Lumberman's tool
- 54. Bro's sib

DOWN

- 1. Wind instrument
- 2. Formal dress
- 3. Lemon peel
- 4. Besides
- 5. Dad's partner
- 6. Poison
- 7. Commandment number
- 8. Hint
- 9. Promote
- 10. Lessen
- 11. Imitated
- 19. Game cube
- 21. Conform

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 995

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

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

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

Sudoku

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



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Place-des-Arts Metro
514 667-0077

Place Alexis Nihon
1500, Atwater Av.
Atwater Metro
514 939-5552

4257 Boul. St-Laurent
Mont-Royal Metro
514 439-9934

Place Viau
7600, Viau Blvd.
514 376-6667

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Valleyfield Centre
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Valleyfield
450 373-0519

Châteauguay Regional Centre
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Châteauguay
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