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**Greg Bradic  
needs a  
kidney**



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Martial arts instructor Gregory Bradic, a Chomedey Blues alumnus and life-long resident of Chomedey, needs a donated kidney and is reaching out to the community for help.

**"Time for bold reforms,"  
says Boyer**



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**SWLSB roundup**



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James Di Sano, chairman of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, in his office.

**30<sup>th</sup> annual Sainte-  
Rose Art Symposium**



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From the left, Laval city councillor for Sainte-Rose Flavia Alexandra Novac, Shirley Thérout and city councillor for Champfleury Carole St-Denis at last week's preview of the 2026 Symposium de Sainte-Rose. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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# Laval fast-tracks flood protection with \$21.3 million more in infra funding from Quebec

*Cities 'on the front lines of the impacts,' says climate minister Pascale Déry during stop in Vimont*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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Less than 48 hours after a torrential rain storm caused extensive flood damage in several neighborhoods of Montreal, officials from the provincial government and the City of Laval were on hand last Monday morning at a stormwater drain worksite in Vimont to announce a \$21.3 million subsidy from Quebec to boost Laval's ability to deal with a heightened risk of floods.

## An overdue modernization

Faced with increasingly frequent extreme rain-fall events and the challenges posed by aging municipal infrastructure, the City of Laval says in a press release, the municipality is accelerating the modernization of its water systems to better adapt its territory to new climate realities.

This year alone, according to the city, more than \$102 million will be invested in drinking water, sewer and stormwater management infrastructure throughout Laval, including \$65 million funded by Quebec through various programs.

Laval is receiving the \$21.3 million in financial aid through the Quebec government's OASIS program to accelerate, over the next three years, the deployment of green drainage infrastructure designed to better manage stormwater and strengthen the Laval territory's resilience to climate change.

## Climate change's impact

"Climate change has a real impact on our



From the left, Vimont MNA Valérie Schmaltz, Quebec Environment and Fight Against Climate Change Minister Pascale Déry and Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer go over some points with supersize rainwater drain pipes ready to be buried at a work site in Vimont last Monday morning. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

neighborhoods and requires us to act faster and invest more intelligently," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer. "Thanks to our ongoing efforts to secure funding and rigorous planning of our interventions, we are maximizing every dollar invested and accelerating the modernization of our water infrastructure.

"And thanks to the funding received through the OASIS program, we will take advantage of our projects in the coming years to integrate more sustainable stormwater management solutions directly into our neighborhoods," he added. "The goal is simple: to better protect our residents today and prepare our city for the realities of tomorrow."

"Municipalities are on the front lines of the impacts of climate change," said Pascale Déry, Minister of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change in the Coalition Avenir Québec government.

"Through the OASIS program, our government supports projects that adapt infrastructure to new realities," she continued.

## Reducing sewer overload

"The green spaces that will be deployed in Laval will be able to absorb a significant amount of rainwater, the equivalent of approximately seven Olympic-sized swimming pools, thus reducing sewer overload and the risk of flooding, while making neighborhoods greener and more pleasant for residents," she said.

This year alone, according to the city, more than 40 kilometres of pipes will be upgraded in Laval, the equivalent of the distance between Laval and Mirabel.

The funding provided through the OASIS program will allow Laval to integrate more green drainage infrastructure into its street reconstruction projects over the next few years.

Features, such as vegetated strips, drainage planting pits and bioretention areas, will allow for the capture, filtering and drainage of some rainwater directly into the ground rather than into the sewer system, in addition to reducing urban heat islands.

To optimize public investment, the infrastructure will be strategically placed primarily in areas where underground infrastructure work is already planned. This approach, according to the city, will allow for multiple interventions to be carried out simultaneously, limiting costs and maximizing benefits for residents.

## Managing stormwater at source

The city says it is relying on an integrated approach to strengthen the performance of its infrastructure and increase the resilience of its territory. Complementary interventions planned by the city combine increasing the capacity of certain networks, rebuilding aging infrastructure, rehabilitating existing pipes without excavation, and deploying green infrastructure to manage stormwater at its source.

This year alone, work will be carried out on nearly one hundred street sections in Laval, representing more than 40 kilometres of infrastructure. The approach, according to the city, will not only reduce the risks of overflows, backups, and stormwater flooding, but also protect natural environments while ensuring sustainable service for the population.

The city says the projects it has planned for this year will contribute to strengthening the capacity of municipal infrastructure while sustainably improving the Laval region's resilience to extreme weather events.

Among the major projects currently underway are the ongoing construction of the Cartier retention basin, designed to reduce overflows into the Rivière des Prairies; the modernization of water infrastructure in the Vimont district to reduce the risk of backups and stormwater flooding; and the Mille-Îles Blvd. stabilization project.

## Strategy to maintain assets

The city says the modernization of its water infrastructure is part of a strategy to maintain its assets. As part of Laval's 2026-2028 Three-Year Capital Investment Program, the city is dedicating the majority of its investments to maintaining and modernizing its existing infrastructure. The city has chosen to allocate 75 per cent of its investments to maintaining existing municipal assets and 25 per cent to new projects.

Regarding the water networks, the city says interventions are prioritized based on rigorous technical analyses, taking into account factors such as the condition of the pipes, network capacity requirements, history of breaks and risks associated with extreme weather events.



Among the stormwater drain infrastructure projects being undertaken by Laval this year is the modernization of systems in the Vimont district to reduce the risk of backups and stormwater flooding. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Je me souviens, in La Belle Province...

### *Do we dare dream of a Québec for all Québécois?*

June 24 is Québec's heartbeat, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day rising in collective breath, to remind us who we are, where we've come from, what came before us, and what's to come after.

In a continent shaped by English-speaking dominance, Québec's celebration isn't simply festive, it is deeply meaningful, affirming language, culture, and history that refuses to disappear.

In recent times, it has become better-known as La Fête nationale du Québec, giving the broader civic-and-political-meaning. While Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day carries religious and historical roots, La Fête asserts collective identity, belonging, and survival of a people intent on being recognized as a distinct society, if not independent of Canada, certainly different from, and equal to, the rest of the country.

Visibly and joyfully, throughout La Belle Province, from Laval's Centre-de-la Nature and beyond, families gather under summer skies, picnicking with renowned Québec artists, children running barefoot across grassy parks, faces resplendent of Fleur-de-Lys, laughter blending with music-of-shaped-generations.

'À Montréal', the Old Port and Place des Arts reverberate beloved Québec songs. Saint-Denis Street, the Plateau, across neighbourhoods from Hochelaga-to-Verdun, balconies in blue brightly survey cars displaying the Fleur-de-Lys, voices rising in language carrying centuries-of-history. Remembering arriving in Montréal from Australia, settling on Saint-Denis Street, in a triplex with winding-iron-staircases emblematic of the Plateau, the feeling was beautiful, vibrant, but deeply alienating at times. My neighbours, French-Canadians rooted in generations-of-identity, I'd yet to understand. Not one spoke English. I never understood why.

Adapting quickly, learning French not from textbooks, but from daily life - the speed, rhythm, and vibe-of-the-street. There was no soft transition, only pressure, expectation, at times exclusion. An Allophone, I experienced discrimination and the feeling that belonging was conditional. In those moments, integration felt less like welcome, and more like erasure.

Still, life gradually opened doors, French friends bridging, not only linguistically but culturally. Through them, and through persistence, I moved through a world that once felt closed; tensions did not disappear, but they did soften. We shared meals and traditions that once felt foreign, as 'cabane-à-sucre in spring, tourtière in winter, sirop-d'érable in

spring, sweetened everything. The distance slowly became more complex and human: not full-assimilation, but negotiated-belonging.

And then came Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day: concerts, standing among crowds, listening at first, then observing, gradually joining, music impossible to ignore, expressions of memory, resilience, continuity. Although from elsewhere, I felt their power.

In smaller towns and rural communities, celebrations dispense similar spirit, parades moving through flag-lined streets, local stages presenting blends of tradition, and contemporary expression. In some regions, bonfires flicker, recalling origins in faith and seasonal renewal.

For the young, the day is unlike others. French schools inspire children to learn Québécois songs days leading to June 24, when they become part of the celebration, faces painted blue-and-white, voices raised in pride. Culture is studied and lived. Regrettably, not so in English schools.

At heart, this day speaks to survival and continuity. French Québec is not an accident of history, it's the result of determination. The French Fact has survived and thrived- from La-Nouvelle-France through The British Conquest, the Québec Act, the Constitutional Act, the Rebellion of 1837, the British North America Act, La Grande Noirceure, La Révolution Tranquille, Maintenant ou Jamais/ Masters-In-Our-Own House, Equality-or-Independence, specters of the Never-Ending-Referendums, and beyond. Québécois have protected their identity through generations of change. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, and especially La Fête nationale, are reminders that survival was never taken for granted.

Yet Québec is no longer a homogeneous society, immigration transforming cities, classrooms, neighbourhoods, raising important questions. What does Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day mean in today's pluralistic Québec? For newcomers, the celebration can feel both welcoming and distant: songs, symbols, and references deeply-rooted, but not immediately accessible. Participation begins by watching, listening, and trying to understand.

Over time, however, something can shift. Familiarity can grow into fragile but real senses of belonging, not ones that erase origin, but ones that facilitate connection and dare-we-say - integration. My own journey reflects that evolution, from alienation on Saint-Denis Street to standing among thousands on June 24, no

longer outside-the-story.

Sadly, the celebration has become politically-charged. Québec's need to protect language and identity is real. In predominantly English-speaking North America, French remains vulnerable. Laws, policies, and expectations around use of French reflect that reality. For many Québécois, these are necessary tools of collective survival.

At the same time, for many Anglo and Allophone communities, these same measures can feel restrictive, even exclusionary. People who live, study, work, and raise families in Québec, in French, may still feel that their place is conditional, their rights and voices more fragile than they should be in a province that unofficially sees itself as bilingual; lines between preservation and imposition can be very thin.

This tension is the heart of the debate. Québec must defend its historic minority language in the continent. But minority communities also have the right to feel that protection of one identity doesn't require weakening of others. Survival should not become a competition of exclusions. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day reminds that Québec's nationalism is not only political, it is cultural, linguistic, and emotional-in songs, language, rituals, memory. It's pride, but it also creates distance. It can unite, but can also divide. For those from elsewhere, belonging is rarely immediate, too often to be negotiated, sometimes painfully hard-won.

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day therefore has the dual-responsibility of remaining a stronghold of Québec's identity, while serving as an invitation to others to participate, to overcome the feeling of being erased. That's what elevates the day above politics. It not only reminds us of what Québec has been, but asks what kind of society it hopes to become. Cultures that close in on themselves may survive, but risk becoming rigid. Cultures that demand too much assimilation may protect language while alienating and losing those willing to embrace it.

So, why do we celebrate? Does Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day show the strength of culture confident enough to be shared, or unease of one still unsure of survival? In protecting what was nearly lost, are we building a future others can belong to, or reinforcing a past only some can fully claim?

On June 24, Québec does not simply celebrate its past—it reflects on its future. To all les gens du pays ... Bone fête.

Renata Isopo

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## Laval Receives two awards for communications achievements

Two projects by the City of Laval's communications and marketing division received awards in June from leading communications organizations in Quebec and internationally.

The redesign of the laval.ca website received

a Merit Award at the 2026 Gold Quill Awards from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

At same time, the internal rollout of a new branding by the city won the Silver Award

at the Quebec Society of Public Relations Professionals (SQPRP) Awards of Excellence.

"Receiving, within a few days of each other, such prestigious international and Quebec awards in two distinct areas of communications demonstrates the expertise and innovation that characterize the City of Laval," Mayor Stéphane Boyer said in a statement.

"These awards reflect the excellence of the work done by our teams and our commitment to developing impactful initiatives that concretely meet the needs of the public and our staff," added Boyer.

Designed to meet the needs of more than 460,000 citizens, according to the city, the new laval.ca was thoroughly redesigned to offer a modern, accessible and user-centric experience. A continuous feedback section allows residents to provide comments and contribute to the ongoing improvement of the platform.

Designed according to best practices in digital accessibility, the city says the site facilitates access to information and municipal services for people with physical or cognitive limitations.

Its redesign was also guided by eco-design principles, notably through a streamlined architecture that promotes more responsible use of digital resources.

The City of Laval also distinguished itself on the Quebec scene by winning the Silver Award at the SQRP Awards of Excellence on June 3 in the Internal Public Relations Program category.

The city said the award highlighted the internal rollout of the City's new employer branding, a strategy focused on collective experience and team engagement. The initiative generated results that exceeded the established objectives in terms of awareness, participation, and satisfaction, according to the city.

"These accolades demonstrate the expertise of the Communications and Marketing Department and its ability to develop effective strategies that enrich both the citizen and employee experience," stated a press release from the city, acknowledging both awards.



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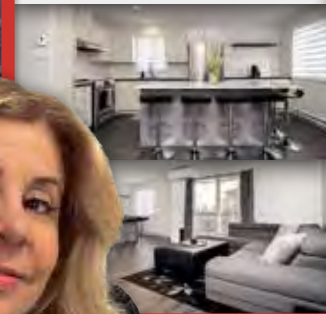
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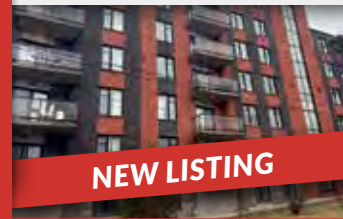
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# 'Time for bold reforms,' Mayor Boyer tells Quebec's Municipal Infrastructure Summit

## *Calls on provincial election leaders to work towards reducing municipal infrastructure costs*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer says he is encouraged by discussions held at the Municipal Infrastructure Summit last week on the skyrocketing cost for financing municipal infrastructure.

In a statement, he said he particularly welcomed the Quebec government's commitment to abandoning the total nitrogen standard in wastewater treatment facilities.

According to Boyer, this measure alone would allow Laval to avoid additional investments estimated at nearly \$250 million, without compromising its environmental leadership and commitments.

Boyer is now calling on the leaders of the political parties in the upcoming provincial elections to continue working to sustainably reduce the cost of municipal infrastructure.

In its brief presented during the summit, the City of Laval advocated for a review of the standards it claims have contributed to skyrocketing construction costs, a simplification of government subsidy programs, and an acceleration of the construction permitting process.

### Optimizing public funds

The city also reiterated the importance of continuing efforts to pool resources among municipalities and the Quebec government in order to reduce costs and optimize the use of public funds.

With the next Quebec election campaign close to getting underway, Laval's mayor said he was inviting all party leaders to continue the work begun at the summit.

According to Boyer, controlling infrastructure costs will require decisions that may sometimes



**Laval and other cities need a new deal from the Quebec government given the skyrocketing costs for important infrastructure work like this water infrastructure project in 2021 near the corner of Curé Labelle and Notre Dame in Chomedey. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

be difficult but necessary, in order to preserve the ability of municipalities to invest in the services and equipment their citizens need.

"Municipal infrastructure is becoming increasingly expensive and taxpayers have the right to expect that every dollar will be used as efficiently as possible," Boyer said in the statement issued by the city.

"Today, we have put forward concrete solutions to reduce costs, simplify processes and increase resource sharing," he continued. "Now we must have the courage to see this through, and I invite all political party leaders to commit to taking the necessary steps to make our infrastructure more affordable for citizens."

### 'A shared and funded vision'

The memo submitted by the city stated that

the City of Laval "aspires to a shared and funded vision to act proactively in order to maintain economic prosperity and vitality while keeping public health and environmental protection at the centre of its concerns and making constructive proposals in this regard."

The city listed three main priorities: reduce standards that increase construction costs; increase efficiency in the management of government programs; and accelerate the pooling of resources.

The city's memorandum also offered some additional reflections: creating a more efficient, flexible and predictable funding model, both locally and provincially, while generally respecting taxpayers' ability to pay; identifying methods for prioritizing the needs related to maintaining municipal assets; and identifying standards and requirements that can be reviewed or reduced to lower infrastructure construction costs.

### Bearing costs without revenues

In the document's conclusion, the City of Laval also maintains that cities in Quebec are responsible for 60 per cent of public infrastructure, but receive only 7.7 per cent of tax revenue, and the deficit in maintaining water and road assets is approaching \$50 billion – an amount that could double by 2036 if nothing changes.

"The wastewater treatment plant that serves three-quarters of Laval's households needs to be renovated," it continues. "Lacking government funding, the city had to borrow \$334 million to avoid delaying a project essential to its residents."

"This episode perfectly illustrates what these Estates General are seeking to correct: a financing model that is neither predictable enough nor flexible enough to keep pace with actual needs, and which shifts a risk onto taxes and

municipal debt that municipalities cannot bear indefinitely."

### Memo says cities ready to rethink

The city says it took action to try to address these problems, noting that an "alliance formed with the City of Longueuil to explore the opportunity to launch joint calls for tenders, share plans and specifications and standardize replicable facilities demonstrates that municipalities are ready to rethink their practices to build more efficiently and at a lower cost."

"This initiative directly addresses the central objective of the government's approach to reducing construction costs," the memo continues. "This is particularly relevant when we consider that municipalities absorb up to \$1.5 billion in additional costs each year, a significant portion of which results from the accumulation of government regulations. Cities are not waiting for efficiency to be imposed on them; they are already inventing it."

### Planning for the coming years

By making asset maintenance the top priority of its financial planning for the coming years, with major financial commitments to water, roads and underground networks, "the City of Laval is fully assuming its share of responsibility," states the city. "This effort, however determined, is reaching the limits of what a municipality can bear alone."

The memo closes by saying, "This is not about asking higher levels of government to replace cities, but about re-establishing a partnership commensurate with the challenge: a reduction in standards that increase construction costs, increased efficiency in the management of public programs, and an acceleration of the pooling of resources."

## City mobilized to support households seeking housing on July 1

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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As the annual July 1 moving day approaches, the City of Laval says it is reaffirming a commitment to support individuals and families facing hardship.

In conjunction with its partners, including the Housing Search Assistance Service (SARL) at the Laval Municipal Housing Office, the city says it is deploying resources to support tenants, while continuing efforts to better protect them and preserve affordable housing.

"Housing has long been a top priority for Laval," said Mayor Stéphane Boyer. "In recent years, numerous measures have been implemented

to help the most vulnerable find housing, and we intend to continue to go further. The SARL's support for households seeking housing is an important tool that we are deploying once again."

The SARL is offering free support to Laval households at risk of becoming homeless, helping them find solutions tailored to their situation. Services are tailored to various eligibility criteria, including the household's circumstances and income.

The city says it is working with its Social Emergency Division as well as community organizations to ensure a rapid and coordinated response. To date, the SARL is providing support to 154 Laval households. Of these, 28 cases are considered a priority for July 1 due to the risk of becoming homeless, while 32 others involve situations where the move-out date is later in the year.

Taking into account the current intense pressure in the rental market, the city says it is working towards the adoption this fall of a new bylaw aimed at better regulating eviction practices, thereby helping to prevent wrongful evictions and keep households in their homes.

Following the implementation of the new regulations, applications for demolition permits for any building with 10 or more units will be assessed based on the loss of affordable housing and the number of affordable units planned in the replacement project, while also taking into account the characteristics of the neighborhood and the vulnerability of the households. The bylaw will also specify the applicants' obligations to the tenants.

The city says it is continuing the implementation

of its recently adopted 2025-2028 Housing Action Plan. This plan aims to sustainably improve access to quality, affordable housing that meets the needs of the population.

By 2028, the city intends to contribute to the construction of 2,000 social, affordable and non-profit housing units through a series of measures, including financial incentives, to promote residential construction and social inclusion, as well as the mobilization of municipal land and resources to accelerate residential development.

Available Resources: Individuals experiencing housing difficulties are encouraged to contact the SARL at 450-505-6025 or by email at sarl@omhlaval.ca. For information on the various collection services, go to laval.fr/collectes on the city's main web page.

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# A year of adjustment and investment at Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

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Over the past year, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has invested more than \$12 million in infrastructure, expanded capacity in the North Shore and added hundreds of new classroom technologies. Those moves have marked a significant period under chairman James Di Sano's leadership.

"When I came in, there was a need to improve our infrastructures across the organization," said Di Sano. "Not just Laval, but across the North Shore."

Rather than concentrating funds into one major project, the board spread the investment across multiple schools. Some saw significant upgrades, particularly older flagship buildings, while others received more modest improvements that nonetheless address pressing issues.

"We invested to respond to the needs of the respective communities," he said, emphasizing that each region required a different approach.

At the same time, the board has expanded to meet rising enrolment in certain areas. A similar trend is unfolding in Saint-Jérôme, where Laurentia Elementary has reached capacity. In response, the board opted to expand beyond its original site, acquiring a second property with support from the Ministry of Education for just over \$5.5 million. Located roughly 12 minutes from the main building, the new site will serve as a secondary campus to better accommodate growing student needs. The building required

minimal work to become operational and provides an opportunity for future expansion if enrolment continues to rise.

Growth all across the regions has required more immediate solutions. At Mountain View Elementary in Deux-Montagnes, rising enrolment led to the installation of portable classrooms, modular units connected directly to the main building. These portable classrooms are a cost-effective way to expand schools immediately.

"It's like another wing to the school," he said, noting that the additions can range from single-level units to multi-storey extensions depending on demand.

Rather than viewing the expansion as a strain, Di Sano frames it differently. "It's to respond to the growing numbers, which is a fantastic position to be in."

## Investing in more technology

Beyond physical space, the board has also focused on modernizing classrooms. Over the past year, it installed 398 new smartboards, representing an investment of approximately \$1.3 million. These investments have taken place across a system that remains uniquely complex. The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board spans Laval, the Laurentians and Lanaudière, covering a vast territory with 40 schools and centres serving very different communities.

"Collectively, the territory of our board is the size of Belgium," he said. "It's not always one size fits all. It's impossible. We adapt ourselves to the

specific region and clientele that we're servicing."

That geographic diversity is reflected in enrolment trends. While some schools in Laval are seeing declining numbers, others in the surrounding regions are growing steadily.

"We're losing in Laval, but we're growing in the regions," he explained.

## Inevitable budget cuts

The challenge for the board has been to respond to both realities at once, expanding when needed while maintaining stability elsewhere. That balancing act has been further complicated by financial constraints. Like many school boards across Quebec, the school board had to contend with budget pressures that force difficult decisions.

"When I came in, it was to make the board more transparent, more accountable, and more fiscally responsible," he said.

Those principles have shaped how the board has managed cuts. Rather than scaling back services outright, efforts have focused on restructuring and reallocating resources internally.

"If you're cutting me here, I'm going to go find it here to pay for it," he acknowledged. "We do the best that we can with the resources that we have."

## Community above all

Amid those pressures, Di Sano points to community involvement as a defining strength of the board. Within the English-language sector, parent engagement remains a consistent driver of school life. That involvement came into focus

at Our Lady of Peace Elementary in Laval West, where a new playground structure opened last fall after years of fundraising efforts by parents.

"The parents took five or six years to raise the money," he admitted. "And the difference that they were missing, we committed to funding."

The result reflects a broader reality across the board's schools, where projects are often shaped by collaboration between families and administration.

Student experience has also remained part of the board's focus. Efforts to promote inclusion included raising the Pride flag at head office, a move Di Sano says is intended to encourage dialogue and understanding.

"It's very important that students come together and have meaningful conversations about inclusion and respect," he said.

Academic achievement has continued alongside these initiatives. At Laval Senior Academy, students hosted the Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair, with several participants advancing to higher levels of competition in the United States.

Looking back on the year, there is no single defining initiative. Instead, what emerges is a pattern of response and adaptation. Investments in infrastructure and technology have been paired with expansion in growing regions and ongoing efforts to maintain services elsewhere.

Through it all, Di Sano returns to a consistent focus.

"Our collective duty and responsibility are to ensure the success of our students."

# The DPJ issues a call to strengthen Quebec's social safety net

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

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At a conference held June 11 in Quebec City, youth protection officials made one thing clear: improving outcomes for children starts long before the Direction de la protection de la jeunesse steps in. The latest annual report highlights rising demand and increasing complexity, but it also lays out a path forward rooted in prevention, investment, and stronger community networks.

In 2025 to 2026 alone, the DPJ received 144,321 reports involving 107,273 children, representing 6.4 per cent of all minors in the province. While that marks a 1.4 per cent increase from the previous year, only 39,661 of those reports, retained for further assessment. These figures suggest that while more families are being flagged, not all cases meet the threshold for intervention.

Many of the challenges families face begin outside the scope of the DPJ. Rising costs of living continue to strain households across the province. Housing is becoming harder to secure, food prices remain high, and access to essential services is not always within reach.

"Access to housing is becoming more difficult, to feed yourself is expensive, having access to certain services, it's the accumulation of all these factors. This is ultimately what raises stress levels for parents in Quebec," said Nadia Denis, youth protection director for Côte-Nord.

These daily struggles often build over time, even-

tually pushing families into crisis situations that could have been avoided with earlier support. That is why DPJ officials are calling for greater investment in prevention. Community organizations, schools, and local services are seen as key players in helping families before situations escalate. However, their ability to do so depends on reliable support.

"Community organizations need to know where their funding is coming from year to year," said Nelson Pimentel, director of youth protection for Montreal's West Island.

## Making activities and services accessible

Another major issue raised during the conference is accessibility, particularly when it comes to activities that contribute to a child's development. Sports, arts, and other structured programs provide more than entertainment. They help children build social connections, confidence, and stability.

However, these opportunities are not equally available to all families.

"Children's accessibility to activities, for example when you have to pay 500 dollars for a house league soccer team, that's a lot of money for some of our families, so it prices people out," said Pimentel.

This lack of access can have lasting consequences. The report notes that more than half of young people show signs of social anxiety affecting their well being and development. Without opportunities to engage in structured environments, these

challenges can worsen.

"Activities are important for the development of children, this is where we need to invest," Pimentel added.

The data also shows that neglect remains the leading reason for intervention, accounting for 30.1 per cent of cases, followed by risk of neglect at 17.9 per cent. These figures highlight how many situations are linked to broader living conditions rather than isolated incidents.

The principle behind prevention is clear. "A dollar of prevention on the front end will yield greater results for a society," Pimentel said.

## Keeping families together whenever possible

Despite the growing pressures, the DPJ maintains that its primary goal is to keep families together. Just over half of children receiving services, 52.1 per cent, remain in their home environment, while one in five children are placed with relatives rather than in institutional care. Removing a child from their home is considered a last resort.

This approach requires collaboration with parents and sustained support systems that address root causes such as financial stress, mental health challenges, and social isolation. It also depends heavily on services outside the DPJ's direct control.

The report further notes that 10,507 adolescents were involved in interventions under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, a 4.1 per cent increase from the previous year and part of a broader upward

trend over the past five years. This adds another layer of urgency to the need for early intervention and accessible youth programs.

Ultimately, the findings point to a system reacting to crises instead of preventing them. By investing in housing, food security, community organizations, and accessible activities, Quebec has an opportunity to reduce the number of families reaching breaking points.

When asked what level of funding would be required to make a tangible difference, Pimentel declined to commit to a specific amount.

"I think there's already been a significant amount invested, it's a much bigger question than I can answer," said Pimentel. "I'm not sure I can give you a dollar amount but we know that we need to invest."

The message from youth protection officials is clear: rebuilding the social safety net is essential. Supporting families earlier and more consistently will not only ease the burden on the DPJ, but also ensure that more children can grow up in safe, stable, and supportive environments.

This approach also requires long term commitment from both government and communities. Sustained investments, better coordination between services, and a focus on equity can help ensure that vulnerable families are not left behind. By acting earlier and more collectively, Quebec can shift from managing crises to preventing them, creating a system that supports children before they ever need protection.

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# Happy National Day of Quebec

June  
24



## National Day celebrations: a commemorative theme every year

Since 2025, Quebec's National Holiday has been an opportunity to collectively celebrate an important moment in our shared history by highlighting a different commemorative theme each year. This initiative promises to bring to light significant milestones in our collective history in future celebrations.

### THE 2026 COMMEMORATIVE THEME: THE 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF GUY LAFLEUR

Quebec's national holiday is an opportunity to commemorate a significant part of Quebec's history. For the 2026 edition, hockey will be in the spotlight as the commemorative theme honours the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Guy Lafleur, a prominent figure in our collective memory and a legend of Quebec hockey.

This decision aligns with the recent adoption of the Act recognizing ice hockey as Quebec's national sport. It underscores the exceptional contribution of an athlete who has left his mark on history through his talent, charisma, and influence.

### A TRIBUTE TO THE "BLOND DEMON"

An iconic figure in the history of our national sport, renowned for his elegant,

agile, and graceful skating, his powerful and lightning-fast shot, his phenomenal speed and his quick reflexes, he remains one of the most spectacular players Quebec has ever known.

In Quebec history, Guy Lafleur stands out as a model of success, following in the footsteps of Maurice Richard and Jean Béliveau. He was also an example of resilience and determination, thanks to his return to the National Hockey League at the age of 37.

Throughout his career and into his retirement, he was an excellent ambassador for his sport. But even more so, due to his long-standing presence in the media and his personal qualities, Quebecers considered him a member of their family.

### CALENDAR OF CELEBRATIONS

Shows, family activities, community gatherings, and festive events will be offered throughout Quebec to celebrate Quebec's National Holiday.

The major collective celebrations, eagerly awaited by Quebecers each June, promise to deliver once again this year through powerful, unifying and pride-inspiring

moments throughout the province.

### QUOTES

*"In a time of great upheaval, the national holiday is more than ever a moment to affirm who we are as a nation, celebrate our culture and be proud to be Québécois."*

— Christine Fréchette, Premier

*"The national holiday is a special time to highlight what unites us: our culture, our language, our music, and our artists. Across Quebec, it invites us to come together and celebrate our nation. I encourage everyone to gather and proudly share what unites us."*

— Mathieu Lacombe, Minister of Culture and Communications

*"Throughout Quebec, the national holiday takes root in our regions, where traditions are lived and our culture is passed on. Each local celebration is a living expression of our identity, carried by the people here. By showcasing this regional richness, we strengthen what unites us as a nation."*

— Mathieu Lévesque, Minister responsible for Youth and Minister Delegate for the Regions

*"For Télé-Québec, organizing and broadcasting the National Holiday Grand Show in*



*the capital is a source of great excitement and deep-rooted pride every year. Once again, we are eager to celebrate with all of Quebec, bringing together artists who will undoubtedly have us singing along, all across the province! The Grand Show is a vibrant and deeply unifying intergenerational gathering: it unites us, ignites our passions, gives our language its rightful place, and showcases our culture. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate together!"*

— Nadine Dufour, Vice-President of Content at Télé-Québec



Stéphane Boyer  
Mayor of Laval

## A Holiday That Brings Us Together

Every year, the *Fête nationale* invites us to come together, but also to remember that we are all moving forward as one. We celebrate our culture and our history, while building the Québec of tomorrow.

I am very proud of what the *Fête nationale* celebration represents in Laval. Our city is brought to life by a diversity of cultures, ideas and experiences, and this is our great collective strength.

I am very heartily inviting Laval residents of all ages to join us for our big show on June 23 at the Centre de la Nature. Performers such as Richard Séguin, Ingrid St-Pierre and Alphonse Bisailon will treat us to thrilling moments during this evening hosted by Xavier Watso, with music by DJ Montana.

Happy *Fête nationale* to all Laval residents!



# Happy National Day of Quebec

June  
24



## Quebec's National Day: a holiday celebration that dates all the way back

In Canada, nearly 10 million people speak French. Held annually on June 24, the National Day of Quebec, formerly known as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, is an occasion for Francophones across the country to show their pride by celebrating their language and their traditions.

### ORIGINS OF THE HOLIDAY

The origins of the National Day date back to immemorial times, when people celebrated the summer solstice. The tradition of this pagan holiday was for a large bonfire to be lit to symbolize the light that was at its peak. In Europe, mainly France, it was later attributed the name of Jean, the cousin of Jesus nicknamed "the Baptist", who first recognized and then baptized the Christ. That is how the link between the light and Saint-Jean-Baptiste was made.

### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

In 1827, journalist Ludger Duvernay bought the newspaper La Minerve from Augustin-Norbert Morin, and it quickly became an important newspaper in Lower Canada. In March 1834, Ludger Duvernay, George-Étienne Cartier, and

Louis-Victor Sicotte founded the society "Help yourself, the sky will help you", of which Duvernay is the president. The members gather to discuss politics and literature, conversations that lead to the revival of an interrupted tradition, idea developed by Duvernay. That tradition was the celebration of Saint-Jean-Baptiste. The purpose was to provide French-Canadian people with an annual national holiday.

On June 24, 1834, Duvernay organized a banquet in order to make this project come to life. About sixty people take part in it, and the banquet turned out to be a real success. Newspapers encourage people to celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste in their village in order to promote the union of French Canadians. Duvernay won his bet: the following year, National Day celebrations spread in many villages.

It was mainly celebrated in Montreal and Quebec, but over the years expanded to several regions in the province. However, we had to wait until 1925 before it became official and was declared by the Quebec legislature to be a statutory holiday. This day eventually became an

opportunity for people to gather and bear witness to the vitality and cultural richness of the French-Canadian nation. Despite multiple interruptions and obstacles in the course of its history, the holiday persisted and is still celebrated to this day.

### THE NATIONAL DAY TODAY

The National Day of Quebec consists of:

- nearly 750 projects, from small to large, over as many sites, spread throughout the territory
- over 20,000 volunteers
- more than 1,050 shows, from singers to puppets, on the big stages of the



Plains of Abraham or Maisonneuve Park

- more than 700 games organized for the whole family
- more than 360 bonfires
- more than 100 parades

In 2009, when marking the 175th anniversary of the National Day of Quebec, the *Mouvement national des Québécoises and Québécois* celebrated 25 years as the main coordinator of the holiday. They created the "Artisan de la Fête nationale" prize to highlight the invaluable support of those who give meaning to the holiday through their contribution. In this way, the thousands of volunteers who work every year to make the celebrations of the National Day a success are also honoured.

Francophone communities all across the country organize celebrations to honour Quebec, so be sure to stay on the lookout for events happening around you on June 24. For more information about the holiday or the celebrations in the province, visit the [fetenationale.quebec](http://fetenationale.quebec) website.

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# Happy National Day of Quebec

June  
24



## Quebec National Day history: a celebration of religion and identity

In the beginning, Saint-Jean festivities consisted of a banquet, a Mass, the distribution of consecrated bread and a parade. Members of Saint-Jean-Baptiste societies marched in the procession; over time, it expanded to include a variety of other cultural organizations (such as the Institut canadien), professional orders (members of the Québec Bar, physicians, etc.) and trade associations, and students. For the occasion, shops and homes displayed the symbols of Saint-Jean-Baptiste societies: the maple leaf and the beaver. The patriotic song "Ô Canada! mon pays! mes amours!", as well as the popular "Vive la Canadienne", served as national anthems for a long time. Additionally, "O Canada," which would officially become the national anthem of the country in 1980, was heard for the first time during Saint-Jean celebrations in Québec City in 1880.



MN3 Credit: Noodle-Prank Vector

Given the pervasiveness of the Roman Catholic Church in French Canadian society, the holiday had a marked association with St. John the Baptist from the beginning. St. John the Baptist was personified by a curly-haired child holding a sheep in the last float of the parade. However, it was not until 1908 that St. John the Baptist officially became the patron saint of French Canadians.

In 1947, the Saint-Jean-Baptiste societies of Québec formed a federation, which hastened to campaign in favour of adopting the fleur-de-lys as the province's flag. Consequently, on 21 January 1948, Québec adopted an official flag that soon became a rallying symbol in Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day celebrations.

During the 1960s and 1970s, which were turbulent years for Québec, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day became less about religion and more focused on culture, art and unity. The holiday also served as a platform for artists and politicians. Political leaders joined the parade, occasionally causing stirs in the crowd, and sovereigntists used it as an opportunity to champion their cause. In 1975, Gilles Vigneault

first performed his song "Gens du pays," an anthem to the people of Québec that has played a key role in the holiday and in Québécois culture ever since.

### FÊTE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC

On 24 June 1977, the government of René Lévesque renamed Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day the Fête nationale du Québec, definitively distancing it from religion. In the 1980s and 1990s, celebrations became highly politicized in the wake of the first and second referendums on Québec sovereignty. Over time, the Fête nationale has welcomed the various communities that make up Québec society and embraced their cultural and artistic contributions.

### RENÉ LÉVESQUE

To commemorate the religious holiday of long ago, Masses are still held the morning of 24 June and during the Solstice des Nations, a traditional ceremony held as part of National Aboriginal Day on 21 June. The embers from the Friendship Fire held during the event are then used to light a large bonfire on the Plains of Abraham, in Québec City, on the night of 23 June.

It is with renewed enthusiasm, year after year, that the people of Québec celebrate their national holiday with more than 750 celebrations held across the province on 23 and 24 June. Organized by nearly 20,000 volunteers, the festivities of the Fête nationale include more than 1,050 events and 360 bonfires, in addition to some of the largest public gatherings in Québec.

### OUTSIDE QUÉBEC

A number of francophone communities outside Québec also celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day. It plays a large part in the annual Franco-Ontarian Festival in Ottawa and is also celebrated in Eastern Ontario, in many towns in Northern Ontario (such as Hearst and Kapuskasing), in Acadia and in several Franco-Manitoban communities. A number of British Columbian francophone associations (including those of Kamloops, Vancouver, Maillardville, Nelson and Victoria) also organize Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day festivities. Outside of Canada, Québec's delegations in Paris, New York, London, Brussels, Mexico City and Tokyo hold celebrations as well.

*Bonne Fête nationale du Québec !  
Happy Fête nationale du Québec!*



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# Happy National Day of Quebec

June  
24



## Quebec culture: not to be missed

No matter where you are in Quebec, French influence is dominant and makes travelling in this province a unique adventure. A rich history, stunning landscapes and vibrant culture are all part of the joys of visiting La Belle Province.

### FESTIVALS



Quebec is well known for its *joie de vivre* and hosts some of the oldest, biggest and best festivals in the country. Among the most famous are the Just for Laughs comedy festival, the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Quebec City Winter Carnival, the Saint-Jean-Sur-Richelieu Hot Air Balloon Festival, and the International Fireworks Competition near Montmorency Falls.

### FRENCH-CANADIAN CUISINE

Poutine (french fries topped with cheese

curds and fresh gravy) may be the dish most people pledge to sample when they visit Quebec, but there are others to be tasted. Cretons is a traditional pork spread seasoned with cinnamon, savory and cloves that Quebecers enjoy on toast with their breakfast. Tourtière (a meat pie), pea soup, and pancakes doused with Quebec Maple Syrup are also local favourites.



### QUEBEC CITY

The only walled city in North America (outside of Mexico), Quebec City is a beacon for Canadian history lovers. The old town has quaint cobblestone streets and museums aplenty. The Plains of Abraham, where the British defeated the French

in 1759, deserve a visit, and touring the Citadel is a must. The Château Frontenac is said to be the most photographed hotel in the world and is also a National Historic Site of Canada.



### MONTREAL

Possibly the most cosmopolitan city in



Canada, Montreal is a thriving metropolis with a blend of North American charm and European sophistication. Traditional advice will steer you towards places like Old Montreal (the historic district), the Botanical Gardens (one of the world's largest and most splendid) and the top of Mount Royal for a view of the Montreal skyline. However, if you want to do it like the locals, consider sipping drinks on a terrasse (patio) in the Plateau district, shopping in the Mile End, and taking in a show downtown (comedy, music, theatre, etc.).

### BREATHTAKING VIEWS

Quebec has many scenic vistas and beautiful landscapes to explore. The Gaspé Peninsula, where sea cliffs hug the shore of the St. Lawrence River, lures many visitors every year, with the quintessential selfie including Percé Rock. Saguenay Fjord National Park is another spot of incredible beauty with acres of forests, rugged mountains and, of course, the fjord itself, to enjoy. For white sandy beaches, head to the Magdalen Islands, a Quebec archipelago specked with red cliffs and alluring coves in the Maritimes.



ASSEMBLÉE  
NATIONALE  
DU QUÉBEC

*Foyeuse  
Fête nationale  
du Québec!*

*Happy  
National Day  
of Quebec!*



**SONA LAKHOYAN OLIVIER**

Députée de / MNA for Chomedey

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## Un message de votre élue

**Bonne fête nationale du Québec!**

*Je vous souhaite une merveilleuse  
journée de célébration, de fierté et  
de bonheur.*

**Happy Quebec National Holiday!**

*May your celebrations be filled with  
laughter, pride, and memorable  
moments with loved ones.*

**Aglaia Revelakis**

Conseillère municipale - Chomedey

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# 'It could save my life'

## Laval Blues football alumnus Greg Bradic needs a donated kidney

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

A Chomedey Blues football club alumnus, who is also a dedicated martial arts instructor and lifelong Chomedey resident, is reaching out for help to the Laval community as he faces impending kidney failure from a hereditary medical condition.

Gregory Bradic, 53, suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), a condition that several other members of his family have had to struggle with for generations.

A former captain of Concordia University's football Stingers, in 2016 Gregory's 1993 Stingers team was inducted into the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame.



**Martial arts instructor Gregory Bradic, a Chomedey Blues alumnus and lifelong resident of Chomedey, needs a donated kidney and is reaching out to the community for help.**

A few weeks ago, Bradic decided to turn to the community to which he had given so much, saying that he was seeking a living kidney donor while also hoping to raise awareness about kidney disease and the life-saving impact of organ donation.

### Devoted to the martial arts

Born and raised in Chomedey, for over 20 years Greg has devoted his life to teaching martial arts to teenagers and adults at a martial arts dojo called Club Budo de Montréal in the Borough of Saint-Laurent.

A fourth-degree black belt, Gregory is known not only for his discipline and skill, but for the positive impact he has had on so many people over the years.

According to Greg's girlfriend, Sonia D'Elia, his students see him "as a mentor, role model and source of encouragement both inside and outside the dojo," she said in an e-mail to The Laval News.

However, according to Sonia, Gregory's PKD has progressed to the point where he will soon need to be placed on the kidney transplant list. While waiting for a deceased donor kidney can take many years, a living donor transplant offers the best chance for a healthier and longer life.

They are hoping that by sharing Gregory's story, it may help raise awareness about living organ donation and possibly inspire someone to come forward as a potential donor – not

just for Gregory, but to help educate the public about how life-changing and life-saving living donation can be for so many people and families.

### His PKD has reached the crisis point

In a recent social media post, Gregory wrote that his PKD "has now progressed to the point where my kidneys are no longer functioning well enough to keep me healthy.

"My options are limited. Dialysis can keep me alive by doing some of the work my kidneys can no longer do – but it is not a long-term solution. A kidney transplant, on the other hand, would give me a real chance at a longer, healthier and more normal life. It would give me time – time to live, to experience the things I love, and to be present for the people who matter most.

"But finding a kidney is incredibly difficult. Thousands of people are waiting right now for a deceased donor, and the reality is harsh: the wait can be 3 - 5 years or longer. Many people don't make it that long."

However, according to Gregory, there is another path – receiving a kidney from a living donor – and it could happen much sooner. "It could save my life," he said.

"Asking anyone to donate a kidney to me is difficult, but it greatly improves my chances of getting a transplant. A living kidney donation typically lasts longer and has better function."

### What you need to know

While most people might not know a lot about living kidney donation (and Gregory himself admits he didn't until it started to affect his life), he offered the following information on living-donor kidney transplants:

- You only need one kidney to live a healthy, long life.
- Most donor surgery is done laparoscopically, meaning through tiny incisions.
- The recuperation period is usually fairly quick, generally two weeks.
- The cost of your evaluation and surgery will be covered by Gregory's insurance. The hospital can give you extensive information on this.



**Over the years, Gregory has given extensively of his time as an instructor in the martial arts.**



- You will have a separate team of healthcare professionals to evaluate you as a living donor. Their job is to help you understand the risks and benefits and look out for your best interests.

### Now he needs your help

Outside of his work, Gregory spends a lot of his time teaching martial arts at a non-profit. "It's something that means a lot to help others grow, build confidence and stay strong both mentally and physically," he says. "Now, I'm in a position where I need that same kind of support."

If donating a kidney to Gregory is something you would like to consider, please think of

sending him a message and he would be happy to tell you more about his story and explore the process of determining if you are a match.

However, he says he realizes that living donation may not be right for everyone – but you may still be able to help. You may want to consider being an organ donor after death, and also help by sharing Gregory's story with others.

At the very least, he says, he wants to raise awareness of kidney disease and living donation. "I am hopeful my efforts will help me receive a kidney sooner and encourage others to consider helping the many people on the wait list," Gregory says. You can reach out to Greg Bradic at [gregbradic@gmail.com](mailto:gregbradic@gmail.com)

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# Quebec National Assembly passes Bill 4, creating an added measure against domestic violence

*Legislation inspired by 'Clare's Law,' which was first implemented in the United Kingdom*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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The head of a Montreal-based family services agency that operates a women's shelter in Laval is giving a thumbs-up to the CAQ government's recently-adopted Bill 4, which allows criminal and police record information to be shared in order to prevent intimate partner violence and femicide.

## Based on a UK law

In a June 11 statement, Premier Christine Fréchet's government said they were proud to confirm the adoption by the National Assembly of Bill 4, inspired by Clare's Law, "taking a significant step to prevent intimate partner violence and femicides and to combat these scourges."

First implemented in the United Kingdom in 2014, Clare's Law is named after Clare Wood, a woman murdered in England by a former domestic partner who police knew to be dangerous. Variations on the legislation, implemented in different areas of the world, provide several ways for police officers to disclose a person's history of abusive behaviour to those who may be at risk.

Quebec's Bill 4 amends various legislative provisions in order to allow the disclosure, to a person who fears for their safety or that of their child, of information concerning the history of domestic violence of a current or former intimate partner.

## SQ and local police checks

Following a background check by the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), in collaboration with municipal and Indigenous police forces, disclosure will be made through a designated organization with expertise in domestic violence "to ensure

compassionate and tailored support," according to the government's statement.

The person at risk can also be referred to appropriate resources if needed. The goal, says the government, is to provide the person at risk with as many tools as possible "to make an informed decision about their relationship, without imposing a decision."

The law grants a victim the right to be informed of the conditions of any supervision imposed as part of a release order, a probation order with supervision, or a suspended sentence. It also grants the victim the right to be informed of the area where the person will be residing.

The government says significant collaborative work will continue in the coming months to develop tools with the partners involved who have expertise in this area, particularly as regards the use of the online application forms.

## Some of the new law's measures

The new law adds an additional mechanism to existing measures implemented in Quebec to combat femicide and intimate partner violence. These measures include:

- The addition of specialized domestic and sexual violence units within police forces;
- The deployment of electronic monitoring bracelets for perpetrators of domestic violence;
- The establishment and strengthening of rapid intervention units for domestic violence in all regions of Quebec;
- Emergency financial assistance to quickly relocate victims of sexual or domestic violence who wish to leave a dangerous environment;
- The creation of a dedicated phone line, which offers four hours of free legal consultation to

all victims of domestic or sexual violence;

- And the creation and implementation of specialized courts for sexual and domestic violence cases.

## A tool for domestic violence victims

Melpa Kamateros, executive-director of Shield of Athena Family Services, cited some examples of how the new law might be applied on a day-by-day basis.

"If you suspect something about someone your daughter is going out with, you will have the right under this law to go to the police station and ask if this guy has had any previous situations of conjugal violence, criminal arrests, complaints, if they've been tried," she said.

While acknowledging she was aware that some critics have objected that disclosing personal information potentially violates individual privacy rights, Kamateros said, "As a person who works in the domain, this information could be a reliable source and an additional point of security for domestic violence victims."

## A right to feel safe

"Everyone should be able to feel safe with their intimate partner," said Quebec Public Security Minister Ian Lafrenière. "I am particularly proud of the collaborative work with all my colleagues in the National Assembly. We don't play partisan politics when it comes to violence against women."

"The adoption of this important bill is the concrete result of collaborative work among parliamentarians, united by the desire to do even more to combat femicide and intimate partner violence," he continued. "The work is far from over, but the adoption of this bill is a strong step that strengthens our safety net. This measure complements a range of other measures already



**Melpa Kamateros, executive-director of Shield of Athena, says Bill 4 creates another level of security for domestic violence victims. (Newsfirst Multimedia file photo: Martin C. Barry)**

implemented by our government."

## 'We owe it to the women'

"Every time a femicide is committed, all of Quebec is in shock," said Quebec Minister of Justice Simon Jolin-Barrette. "In recent years, we have worked tirelessly to better support victims throughout their healing process. If we can offer an additional tool that is more likely to prevent another tragedy, we must try."

"We owe it to the women of Quebec," added Jolin Barrette. "If the measures included in the new law allow us to prevent even one case of domestic violence, all of society benefits. Once again, we are sending a clear message to victims: you are not alone."

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# Mayor and councillors cut ribbons after Pie-X Park makeover in Chomedey

*Laval plans to carry out similar renewals at parks and facilities all over the city*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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There was something new and exciting last week at Pie-X Park in Chomedey. Elected officials from the City of Laval were on hand to mark the official completion of several new facilities in the park following several years of redevelopment.

Among them are a swimming pool, a wading pool and splash pads (with universal access), a new chalet, a skate ramp and teen area, a synthetic soccer field, a refrigerated ice rink (winter use), a basketball and pickleball court (summer), children's game modules (with universal access), new playground equipment and table tennis platforms.

## Cost split between city and Quebec

As well, it will be possible to borrow sports equipment at no charge for activities including pickleball, soccer, hockey, skating, table tennis and basketball. In all, the overall cost of the project was more than \$20 million, split between the City of Laval and the provincial government. As the work comes to an end, the facilities will be fully opened gradually beginning on June 29.



Mayor Stéphane Boyer and (from left) city councillors Nicholas Borne (Laval-Les Îles), Sandra El Helou (Souvenir-Labelle) Christine Poirier (Pont-Viau) and Mohamed Bâ (Le Carrefour) cut the ribbon for new playground equipment last week at Chomedey's Pie-X Park. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## City claimed right to property

Additional notices were sent to the residents, informing them that land survey posts were going to be installed to establish the exact property limits. Fences and hedges belonging to property owners, but encroaching on municipal property, would also have to be demolished, according to the notices.

The city claimed it needed to enlarge the walkways in order to make them more secure and accessible for the population in general, but especially for those who may be physically-challenged or who suffer from limited mobility.

In so doing, the city expected to enlarge the walkways (which varied in width from 6 to 10 feet) to 30 feet, while enhancing the grounds with additional lawn and trees.

In addition to these claims, the city served notice that it was placing a "reserve" status on several houses located near the north and south entrances to Pie-X Park as an option for an eventual purchase in order to possibly add space in the park. This was done under a revised provincial law ("Right of pre-emption") for municipalities.

## City overlooked problem

Mayor Boyer told The Laval News last week that the issue dated back decades when some property owners had unwittingly encroached on land that legally belonged to the city with fences, trees, driveways and hedges – although the city overlooked it.

"And so, when we decided to do Pie-X Park, we decided to use all the lands which were available to us to make access wider, and this unfortunately came with changes for those residents," he said. He said the city met with the residents and negotiated flexibly. "And I believe today everybody is happy with the outcome," he added.



Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer and Laval city councillor for Souvenir-Labelle Sandra El-Helou prepare last week to cut the ribbon marking the official opening of the new chalet in Chomedey's Pie-X Park. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

According to the city, the work is part of a major redevelopment not only in the Chomedey neighbourhood, but also planned in other districts of Laval to breathe renewal into them.

Among other things, the refrigerated outdoor rink (inaugurated in March during spring break) is the first of its kind in Laval.

"Over the course of the coming years, we

want to invest more to renovate what already exists," Mayor Stéphane Boyer said last week in an address prior to an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at the park.

## Renewing disadvantaged areas

While noting that a good number of Laval's facilities were built during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, he said the city hopes to continue the redevelopment process started in Pie-X Park, beginning in some of Laval's more disadvantaged neighborhoods.

"For me, it's important to be able to offer a quality of life to our citizens in general," said Boyer. "But even more so to our youths who may sometimes live in conditions that are difficult."

In an interview with The Laval News, the mayor said "it was important for us to carry off a good project in this neighborhood that has big needs." But at the same time, he acknowledged that two years ago some residents living in the area had raised objections about certain aspects of the redevelopment.

A group of up to 400 residents signed a petition opposing a significant part of the plan. They wanted the city to at least postpone the project so that some of the impact could be reconsidered. Up to 16 residents received legal notices the year before from the city, advising them to vacate 12-foot spaces on their property next to several fenced pedestrian walkways leading from the street into the park.



"For me, it's important to be able to offer a quality of life to our citizens in general," Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer said last week while officially dedicating new infrastructure and facilities at Pie-X Park in Chomedey. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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# CCILaval launches 'Laval Net Zero 2040' campaign for a lower-carbon economy

*'Hat's off to the chamber of commerce for taking the lead,' says executive-committee VP Khalil*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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The Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILaval) last week unveiled Laval Net Zero 2040, an ambitious initiative to encourage Laval businesses to take part in a concrete, measurable and profitable transition to a lower-carbon, more circular and more resilient economy.

Unveiled at the Laval Evolution Summit 2026, the initiative builds on efforts undertaken for several years by the CCILaval and its sustainable development team to support businesses in improving their practices, operations and environmental performance.

## Turning words into actions

Laval Net Zero 2040's ultimate goal is to support 50 Laval businesses over a 24-month period, from 2026 to 2027, in identifying, planning and implementing measurable environmental projects.

According to the CCIL, the initiative will generate 60 to 75 concrete projects, for an estimated total of 1,800 to 2,000 hours of support for participating businesses.

"With Laval Net Zero 2040, we want to demonstrate that the sustainable transition is not an abstract or theoretical exercise," Caroline De Guire, CEO of the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said during an official launch at the Grand Times Hotel Laval Centropolis.

"It is a lever for competitiveness, productivity and resilience for businesses," she added. "Our role, as the Chamber of Commerce, is to make this transition accessible, structured and visible for Laval businesses."

## Making less of an impact

Laval Net Zero 2040 represents an investment of approximately \$850,000 (including \$120,000 from the City of Laval). Financial contributions are also being made by the Government of Quebec, Desjardins, Filgo, Matrec, Montoni and Hydro-Québec, with additional support from numerous private and implementation partners.

Laval city councillor for Sainte-Dorothée Ray Khalil, who is vice-president of the city's executive-committee, along with Laval-des-Rapides MNA Céline Haytayan, were among the guests for the campaign launch.

"Most businesses right now realize something



Members of the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as elected officials from the City of Laval and the Quebec government, are seen here following the unfurling of a banner to mark the official start of the CCIL's Laval Net Zero 2024 campaign to create a lower-carbon and more resilient local economy. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

like this is a must," Khalil said in an interview with The Laval News. "We all want to make less of negative environmental impact and more of a positive impact. So my hat's off to the chamber of commerce for taking the lead after listening to their members and putting into place this project."

Laval Net Zero 2040 is based on a four-step approach: diagnosis, selection of a concrete objective, project implementation and measurement of results. Participating businesses will be able to work on areas such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, electrification, eco-design, decarbonization, greenhouse gas management and resource optimization.

## Moving from intention to action

The projects will be supported by the CCILaval team, in collaboration with local experts and specialized partners, to help businesses move from intention to action. The objective is to achieve measurable gains, both environmental and economic, particularly in terms of cost reduction, GHG emission reduction, operational efficiency and better resource use.

"Since 2008, the chamber and its board of directors have championed a sustainable and ambitious vision of the circular economy in Laval. This vision has been structured over the years, with the Symbiose Laval initiative, the Zero Waste 2040 Vision, and concrete support for businesses," said Daniel L'Écuyer, chairman of the board of directors of the CCIL. "With Laval Net Zero 2040, we are now shifting into

a new gear: that of a broader, visible and measurable mobilization of businesses."

Beyond technical support, Laval Net Zero 2040 will also take the form of a vast campaign of recognition and regional mobilization, inspired by the spirit of the major ISO 9001 campaigns that enabled many companies to proudly display their commitments and certifications in industrial districts.

Participating Laval companies will be able to make their efforts visible through signage on their building facades, a presence in the media, on digital platforms and partner networks, as well as an annual recognition event.

## 'A large collective movement'

The joint undertaking also aims to highlight efforts already made, inspire other businesses and mobilize not only management, but also employees, suppliers, customers and business partners, says CCILaval. "Deployed prominently throughout the region, it will contribute to creating a large collective movement from which the entire Laval community can benefit," they say.

"In businesses, the desire to act is often present, but taking action requires time, tools and tailored support," said Jean-Sébastien Trudel, director of sustainable development at CCILaval. "Our role is to help leaders identify the right levers, prioritize the most promising projects and concretely measure the results. Laval Net Zero 2040 precisely bridges this gap between ambition and implementation."



"My hat's off to the chamber of commerce for taking the lead after listening to their members and putting into place this project," said Laval executive-committee vice-president Ray Khalil. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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# CANADA DAY

## The first Canada Day

Most historians agree that two key events precipitated the creation of the Canadian Confederation. First of all, America was in the middle of a civil war, with the British Crown taking the side of the southern slave states. Confronted with this situation, the United States threatened to annexe Canada. From the American point of view, the unification of all the British North American colonies would give them greater military and financial striking power against England, the mother country.

Another key event was the end of the preferential tariff given by London to its



The last time that Canada underwent a geopolitical change was in 1999, with the creation of a new territory, Nunavut.



colonies. In 1846, faced with the loss of this reciprocity treaty, Canada was forced to turn towards the United States for trade. A new reciprocity treaty was signed in 1854, this time with our neighbours to the south. It expired a short time later, in 1866, and was never renewed.

Following the loss of these two major trade markets, plans were made to unite the six independent colonies that formed British North America. On March 29, 1867, Queen Victoria approved the British North America Act, and the Dominion of Canada came into effect on July 1 of the same year.

## A salute to the national flag

Canada Day celebrations usually involve fun activities for the whole family, such as dance and musical performances, children's shows, and face-painting. Many larger Canadian towns also organize a flag-raising event, an important ceremony that brings a moment of gravity to the festivities.



Here are some interesting tidbits about our flag:

- Some vexillologists (flag specialists) say that the Canadian flag is one of the most beautiful in the world because of its simplicity in colour and design.
- The red and white flag featuring the stylized maple leaf was raised for the first time over Parliament Hill in Ottawa, in 1965.
- Red and white were designated as Canada's official colours during the proclamation of the Royal Arms of Canada by King George V in 1921.
- The Canadian flag was first planted on the summit of Mount Everest in 1982 and appeared in space for the first time in 1984, on the uniform of Canadian astronaut Marc Garneau.



The red and white flag featuring a stylized maple leaf was raised for the first time over Parliament Hill in Ottawa, in 1965.



## Let's Celebrate Our Shared History

**Stéphane Boyer**  
Mayor of Laval

Canada Day is a special time to celebrate together what we have built, but also to look toward the future. It is an opportunity to celebrate the values that unite us: inclusion, respect and freedom.

We embrace these values in Laval every day: they define our identity. We can proudly say that we are a shining example of our country. Our city is a mosaic of cultures, languages, traditions and life stories that enrich each other.

Dear Laval residents, I wish you a very happy Canada Day. And I invite you to come celebrate on July 1 at the Centre de la Nature during our traditional and festive family day.

Happy Canada Day!



# CANADA DAY



Canadian values also include sustainable development and the promotion of culture and education.

July 1 is a day of celebration across the country, as Canada Day parties take over backyards and city parks. This date corresponds with the creation of the Canadian confederation through the British North America Act, which took effect on July 1, 1867. It is a moment in time stamped with the values we hold dear.

We often hear that Canadians believe strongly in the importance of defending their values on the international scene. But what are Canadian values, exactly? Let's zoom in on a few of those that seem to be embodied in the works of our artists, scientists, athletes, governments, and great minds.

## Celebrating Canadian values

The main value we see reflected there is respect of universal human rights. Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was issued, and right up to the more recent Convention on the Rights of the Child, Canada has been on the front lines in the fight to win an international consensus on the freedom and dignity of the individual. It follows that Canadians are seen as staunch supporters of women's and children's rights.

Democratic traditions are also very important to Canadians. The development of a pluralist and participative civil society is strongly encouraged in Canada—that means we are serious about allowing the expression of diverse opinions and offering all citizens the possibility and means of participating in the life of their community and their country.

In economics, Canada is among the great defenders of the rule of law. Canadians want their governments and corporations to play by the rules in the business world, and generally support clear and transparent regulations along with both fiscal and environmental responsibility.



## Symbols of our identity

There is much about Canada to inspire our rich collection of national symbols: we are a country with welcomed cultural diversity, we have four distinct seasons, and we are blessed with stunning landscapes of prairies, forests, mountains, rivers, and lakes. Historical events and our natural heritage have inspired the most famous of our symbols.

Perhaps the most recognizable symbol today is the maple leaf, just like the one that adorns the Canadian flag. The maple leaf image was adopted widely in the eighteenth century and has appeared on the uniforms and insignias of the Canadian military since 1850. All the grave stones of soldiers who have died in combat and are buried overseas or in Canada are engraved with a maple leaf.

Another important symbol is the beaver. This animal's image was closely linked with the Hudson's Bay Company many centuries ago, when Europeans first made their way inland. The beaver was later adopted as the logo of the Canadian

Pacific Railway and is used today by many other groups and associations across Canada. The image of the beaver is engraved on the five-cent coin, and it appears on the coats of arms of Saskatchewan and Alberta as well as some cities, including Toronto.

The Canadian identity is also partly defined by our history with the British monarchy, highlighted by the image of Queen Elizabeth II on our twenty-dollar bills. Indeed, symbols of the British monarchy make our Canadian identity very distinctive when compared with that of the United States. Other distinguishing traits are the RCMP and bilingualism.



Canadian symbols capture the spirit of this country.



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### Bonne fête du Canada!

*Je vous souhaite une merveilleuse  
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et de beaux moments en famille et  
entre amis.*

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# CANADA DAY



The highlight of many Canada Day celebrations around the country is a giant fireworks display.

Canada Day is an event of exceptional

## Festivities from sea to sea to sea

importance to millions of Canadians. It reminds of us of our unique history and cultural diversity, and it is a time to feel great pride in our vast natural environment — after all, we live in the second largest country in the world, in terms of surface area!

For many, Canada was a Promised Land right from the start. The First Nations successfully lived off the land for centuries before Europeans arrived. And newly arrived pioneers eventually merged with aboriginal peoples to create a vibrant society based on human rights for all. That

is why Canada Day is the perfect occasion to unite and strengthen communities with festivals all across this great country.

### O CANADA

Did you know that O Canada was proclaimed our national anthem on July 1, 1980, a century after it was sung for the first time, on June 24, 1880? The music was composed by Calixa Lavallée to accompany French lyrics written by Adolphe-Basile Routhier. The song had been commissioned by the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, Théodore Robitaille, for the Con-

grès National des Canadiens-Français in 1880. English lyrics were later written by Judge Robert Stanley Weir, in 1908. Changes to the English version were made in 1968 by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons.



Contact your local Canadian Heritage office or town hall in order to find out more about Canada Day activities to be held in your area. You could also call 1-866-811-0055 or visit [www.pch.gc.ca](http://www.pch.gc.ca).

## The land of our ancestors

Every year, on the first day of July, Canada celebrates its birthday with many festivities across the country.

This occasion was first commemorated in 1868, at which time Canadians were invited to mark the first anniversary of the Confederation. This event became an official holiday on July 1, 1879, when Dominion Day was officially proclaimed.

This proclamation was initially received with little enthusiasm, as many Canadians were still very much attached to the British Empire. However, by the

fiftieth anniversary of Confederation, in 1917, Canadians had become rather more delighted with the occasion, and the first Dominion Day celebrations were held on Parliament Hill. Ten years later, the nation celebrated the diamond jubilee of the Confederation.

In 1980, Canadian patriotism was proclaimed loud and clear as the song O Canada, written a century earlier, was adopted as the national anthem. Two years later, the Constitution Act was passed and Canada became a wholly

independent nation. This was the ideal moment to rename the annual celebration of Confederation, which is now known as Canada Day.

Since then the event has become a great Canadian tradition, and every year, in any kind of weather, hundreds of thousands of Canadians come together to celebrate their history and their rich cultural and natural heritage. Dressed in red and white, they congregate together at parks, homes, and city centres to observe the day with pride and joy.



Every year Canadians get together at all kinds of festivities to celebrate their heritage.

*Bonne  
Fête du Canada !*

*Happy  
Canada Day!*



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# CANADA DAY



Canada Day, which takes place every year on July 1, invites Canadians to come together from coast to coast to

## How to celebrate Canada Day

coast and celebrate the nation. Communities across the country organize a wide range of activities to mark the occasion. Here are a few ideas to help you plan an unforgettable day with family or friends.

### MUST-SEES

Canada Day wouldn't be complete without these two key events:

- **National noon ceremony.** This large

gathering officially kicks off the festivities. Featuring inspiring tributes and Canadian icons and artists, the event takes place in Ottawa and is broadcast across the country.

- **National evening show.** Like the noon ceremony, this must-see concert also takes place in the nation's capital and is broadcast live on multiple channels. It also includes segments filmed in other regions.

### REGIONAL OPTIONS

Want to get out and have some fun between the two events? To find activities near you, check your local newspaper or visit the Government of Canada website (canada.ca), which offers a dedicated Canada Day section with a useful search tool. Parades, fairs, food tastings and more take place in communities across the country. There's something for everybody.

Finally, don't forget to show your national pride by downloading official graphics to share on social media. Let the party begin!

## Canadian history quiz

A lot has happened since Canada officially became a country in 1867. Do you know as much about Canadian history as you think you do? Test your knowledge by answering these questions that explore the nation's past.

1. Why was the O Canada anthem originally created in 1880?
  - a) To officially mark the renaming of "Confederation Day" to "Dominion Day" on July 1
  - b) To commemorate the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day festivities held in

- Quebec City that year
  - c) To commemorate soldiers who died during the War of 1812, who would be honoured during a royal visit
2. Who originally designated July 1 as Canada Day?
    - a) Queen Victoria
    - b) Prime Minister John A. Macdonald
    - c) Governor General Charles Stanley Monck
  3. Which symbol, now official, appeared on Canada's first postage stamp in 1851?
    - a) The beaver

- b) The maple leaf
  - c) The woodland caribou
4. In what year was the current Canadian flag adopted?
    - a) In 1867
    - b) In 1914
    - c) In 1965
  5. What was the original name of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1873?
    - a) Her Majesty's Mounted Guard
    - b) The Loyalist Mounted Police of the North
    - c) The North-West Mounted Police
  6. In what year was the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) founded?

- a) 1949
- b) 1936
- c) 1954



Answers: 1. b), 2. c), 3. a), 4. c), 5. c), 6. b)

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# Thirtieth annual Sainte-Rose Art Symposium takes place from July 23 - 26

*Spotlight falls on works of 80 artists in Laval's historic Vieux Sainte-Rose*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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While the dates may change a little from year to year, and the weather can vary from warm sunshine to sudden downpours of rain, there's one thing about the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium you can always count on.

This popular summertime artists' gathering – held in a setting as romantic as it is historic – is always a guarantee of four days of appreciation for sculpting, photography and other visual arts by the thousands of patrons who drop by every year.

## Symposium's 30th anniversary

This year, the Corporation Rose-Art's annual show is taking place from Thursday July 23 to Sunday July 26. Those with discerning taste for fine sculpture and inspiring visual creations – or who simply know what they like – will be arriving from all over Québec, as well as other parts of eastern Canada, for this year's celebration of the three successful decades of the Symposium de Ste-Rose.

In addition to the symposium's 30th anniversary, the Corporation Rose-Art is celebrating its 35th year of activity promoting the work of Laval's artists.

As part of this, the organizers will be holding a special silent auction during the symposium, featuring 33 canvases by Rose-Art members, with the goal of raising \$5,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.



Corporation Rose-Art members, Québec chanteuse Shirley Thérour (second from right), Laval city councillors and representatives of Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete were on hand at the Vieille Caserne in downtown Sainte-Rose last week for a preview of the 2026 Symposium de Sainte-Rose. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

In an homage to Corporation Rose-Art's well-founded roots, a group of "original six" artists (Yolande Lapalice Daneau, Diane Lafond, Monique Lafond, Lise Dupuis, Maxime Lacourse and Carole Laurence), who were in at the beginning, will be exhibiting in a special segment of the symposium.

## Legendary Québec chanteuse Shirley Thérour

This year, the organizers from Corporation Rose-Art have again persuaded legendary Quebec singer Shirley Thérour to be the official spokesperson for the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium. Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher has also again agreed to serve as the event's honorary president.

Thérour had a string of song hits in Québec during the 1960s and 1970s and was also a highly popular late-afternoon program host on French-language television.

An accomplished painter in addition to her musical talents, Thérour will be offering a range of art works, with potential collectible value, in a special segment of the show.

## 'The beginning of a dream'

In an address last week to guests attending a special preview of the 2026 symposium, Corporation Rose-Art president Oprina-Felicia Dolea set the tone for this year's event.

"Thirty years ago, it was the beginning of a dream in these enchanting surroundings of Vieux Sainte-Rose – the creation of a bridge

linking the artist and the public directly, between feeling and artwork," said Dolea.

"For three decades, our historic neighborhood is transformed over the course of a summer into a gallery open to the sky where creativity has no limits," she added.

"What was only a dream by artists in the beginning has become a highly-respected cultural gathering, shining a spotlight on Vieux Sainte-Rose far beyond the limits of Laval."

## Eighty artists taking part

Many visitors will be purchasing works produced by the 80 participating artists, who express themselves in styles ranging from traditional and impressionistic to modern and abstract.

As always, the symposium will be taking place alongside the Rivière des Mille-Îles in the charming and historic Laval neighbourhood known as Vieux Sainte-Rose.

The village is renowned as the birthplace of internationally-acclaimed Québécois painter Marc-Aurèle Fortin. Sainte-Rose was also at one time the home of landscape painter Clarence Gagnon. Both influenced generations of artists here and around the world.

After winning a range of awards for excellence over nearly three decades, the organizing committee continues to uphold the standards that have established the Sainte-Rose Art Symposium's reputation for excellence in art circles across eastern Canada.

## Rose-Art's award-winning efforts

The organizers have received some significant recognitions for their efforts. In 2019, the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented them with a Dunamis award for helping to promote tourism in Laval. They were also a finalist for a second Dunamis in 2020 and 2022, as a sustainable organization or enterprise.

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend. Although most are usually from the Laval and greater Montreal regions, the busy vacation season is also known to bring in visitors from Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as from the U.S. states of Vermont, New Hampshire and New York.

Tourism has been growing by leaps and bounds in Laval over the past few years, as travellers from all over Canada and the U.S. begin to rediscover hidden treasures such as the Symposium de Sainte-Rose.

## Some of the best times to go

The Symposium will be taking place along a stretch of the main street in downtown Sainte-Rose, next to La Vieille Caserne (216 Ste-Rose Blvd.), a stone's throw from Sainte-Rose-de-Lima Church, between Filion and Deslaurier-Hotte streets.

All the events are free. The hours are as follows: Thursday July 23, 10 am to 6 pm; Friday, July 24, 11 am to 6 pm; Saturday July 25, 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday July 26, 10 am to 5 pm. Additional information is available on the website [roseart.ca](http://roseart.ca) | [roseart@videotron.ca](mailto:roseart@videotron.ca) | (450) 625-7925



"What was only a dream by artists in the beginning has become a highly-respected cultural gathering," according to Corporation Rose-Art president Oprina-Felicia Dolea. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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# Canada Revenue Agency ombudsman investigating delays in complex T1 adjustments

*They 'touch on several rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights,' says CRA ombudsman Boileau*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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The Canada Revenue Agency's ombudsman says his office has opened an investigation into delays involving the processing of complex T1 adjustments after receiving numerous complaints from taxpayers from across the country.

In a statement issued last week, CRA ombudsman François Boileau said the examination was started because they had been receiving a consistently high level of complaints about the delays.

The T1 General (or simply T1) is the tax form issued by the Canada Revenue Agency which is used by individuals living in Canada to file personal federal income tax returns.

According to the CRA's own reporting, taxpayers have been facing undue delays. Although the CRA's service standard for complex requests is 20 weeks, as of May 14 the CRA was taking up to 47 weeks to complete complex T1 requests.

"We understand that the CRA is under tremendous pressure to deliver its services to the public," Boileau said in a statement issued by his office. "But T1 adjustments affect many taxpayers, and delays can cause real issues for those who are seeking redress," he added.

## Possible Bill of Rights violations

"The delays we have been seeing with complex T1 adjustment requests touch on several rights



under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. With a systemic examination, we are hoping to get to the root causes of why the CRA is not currently meeting its service standard."

In Laval, Tom Laios, a professional tax accountant, said he was mostly unaware of the processing delays described by the CRA ombudsman.

While saying that none of his clients had run into this particular problem, he added, "I know from what I've heard from other people, usually it takes them [the CRA] a couple of months to do it."

In their statement, the ombudsman's office noted that if a taxpayer wants to change an income tax and benefit return, there are different options to do so.

The CRA's service standard for routine adjustments requested through "Change my return" in CRA taxpayer accounts or through tax software is to issue a notice of reassessment or a letter of explanation within two weeks of receiving the request. For routine adjustment requests made by phone or mail, the service standard is eight weeks.

## 20 weeks for complex requests

However, according to the ombudsman's office, the CRA can determine that a request is complex. This happens when the CRA needs more information or has to review the request. In these cases, the service standard is 20 weeks, which is much longer than the service standard for routine requests, according to the CRA.

In addition to opening a systemic examination, the ombudsman's office said they sent a service improvement request to the CRA.

"We asked it to change the T1-ADJ T1 Adjustment Request web page to encourage taxpayers to file their T1 adjustment requests online, rather than by printing and mailing the webform as suggested on its website, so that the requests can be processed more quickly," reads the OTO's statement, while adding that "our office is committed to carrying out this examination fairly and impartially."

"With this examination, we are looking to better understand current processes, the root causes of service issues, and what the CRA is doing so that it can meet its service standards," they continue. Based on the examination's findings, they say the ombudsman may make recommendations on solutions "to lessen delays so that taxpayers can receive more timely service from the CRA."

## Mandate to improve service

The Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsperson (which is the OTO's official name) describes its role as being to help improve service that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) provides to taxpayers.

It says it does so by reviewing complaints about the quality of service as well as by identifying and reviewing "systemic and emerging issues that can affect more than one person or a part of the population."

The ombudsman can also make recommendations directly to the federal Minister of Finance and National Revenue or to the Minister and the Chair of the CRA's Board of Management to address systemic issues and improve the service the CRA provides to taxpayers. The OTO says it also works to raise awareness of the OTO's role and the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

## Canada's Taxpayer Bill of Rights

There are 16 rights that describe the treatment you are entitled to when you deal with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Additionally, there are 5 small business commitments.

1. You have the right to receive entitlements and to pay no more and no less than what is required by law.
2. You have the right to service in both official languages.
3. You have the right to privacy and confidentiality.
4. You have the right to a formal review and a subsequent appeal.
5. You have the right to be treated professionally, courteously, and fairly.
6. You have the right to complete, accurate, clear, and timely information.
7. You have the right, unless otherwise provided by law, not to pay income tax amounts in dispute before you have had an impartial review.
8. You have the right to have the law applied consistently.
9. You have the right to lodge a service complaint and to be provided with an explanation of our findings.
10. You have the right to have the costs of compliance taken into account when administering tax legislation.
11. You have the right to expect the CRA to be accountable.
12. You have the right to relief from penalties and interest under tax legislation because of extraordinary circumstances.
13. You have the right to expect the CRA to publish its service standards and report annually.
14. You have the right to expect the CRA to warn you about questionable tax schemes in a timely manner.
15. You have the right to be represented by a person of your choice.
16. You have the right to lodge a service complaint and request a formal review without fear of reprisal.

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## Laval Police link violent incidents to Marketplace transactions

The Laval Police say there has been an increase in criminal activity within its territory related to the Pokémon card phenomenon, and that this rapidly growing market is attracting the attention of malicious actors.

Investigators from the LPD's Crimes Against Persons Unit recently arrested ten suspects in connection with several armed robberies – four of which involved the sale of Pokémon cards.

Three of these incidents were publicly shared by the LPD “to raise awareness of the speed and intensity of these crimes and, above all, to educate citizens about safety precautions,” the LPD said in a statement.

The suspects allegedly contacted victims through the Facebook Marketplace transaction platform to arrange the sale of Pokémon cards or MacBooks.

The victims would then go to a public place with the item for sale. At the time of the transaction, the suspects allegedly used violence to force the victims to hand over the stolen item

and flee without paying.

Since January 1 last year, the LPD recorded 30 incidents related to Pokémon cards. Of these, eleven occurred since March 1 this year, indicating a recent increase. Seven of the incidents involved acts of violence, said the LPD, including pepper spraying.

A total of 13 searches were also conducted to gather evidence for the charges, as well as for other cases related to the wave of MacBook thefts. The operation required the involvement of several dozen investigators, the LPD's Azimut Brigade, regular patrol officers and the LPD's Tactical Intervention Group.

On June 9 and 11, investigators arrested ten young men aged 16 to 18. According to the LPD, some were released on a promise to appear in court with conditions, while two remained in custody. They face charges including armed robbery, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, assault and possession and trafficking of property obtained by crime.

## Laval man arrested in Ontario on suspicion of organized car theft

A man from Laval is one of five suspects arrested in the Ontario regional municipality of Halton on suspicion of organized car theft and other criminal offenses.

Ahmad Fares, 33, of Laval faces charges on various counts ranging from auto theft to identity fraud and possessing break-in tools. A vehicle theft investigation in nearby Milton in March led investigators

to a residence in Brampton in Ontario.

Further information obtained in April connected the suspects to 13 auto thefts and attempted thefts in the Halton region as well as an act of auto larceny in the Waterloo Ontario area. Police charged four Quebec residents and one Mississauga man on a number of theft and break-in charges.

## Recent fires in Laval

June 15 | 10:41 PM // Building fire on Curé-Labelle Boulevard in the Chomedey sector. Commercial building. Fire contained in a

restaurant kitchen and spread to the roof. The code was 10-12, necessitating a second alarm.



## Laval man arrested for alleged arson in Ontario

A Laval man has been charged with arson after multiple unoccupied homes were set alight in the Adjala-Tosorontio region north of Toronto two years ago.

The Ontario Provincial Police say OPP officers executed a search warrant on June 10 at a residence in Laval.

The OPP's major crimes unit, with assistance from the Laval Police and OPP officers

in Hawkesbury in Ontario, conducted a search at the suspect's Laval home where he was arrested.

Ramin Lazar, 34, of Laval, has been charged with arson and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence. Lazar, who is the seventh suspect facing charges related to the incidents, was released with a July 2 court date with the Ontario Court of Justice in Ontario.

## 17-year-old recovering after impalement in car accident

A 17-year-old boy was considered to be out of danger earlier this month after being impaled by a fence post during a serious car crash in Laval.

The collision happened shortly before 3 a.m. on des Oiseaux Blvd. near Héron in Laval's Sainte-Rose district. Four young people between the ages of 15 and 19 were inside a Honda Civic that was travelling at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control.

The vehicle struck a lamppost, crashed through a cedar hedge and a fence, and came to rest in the backyard of a residence, stopping just short of an in-ground swimming pool.

Police say a 17-year-old passenger seated in the back of the vehicle was impaled by a fence post during the crash. He was taken to hospital in critical condition and underwent surgery. The three other occupants of the vehicle did not suffer serious injuries.



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# Things to do **UPCOMING**

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

## REOPENING OF THE ANDRÉ-BENJAMIN-PAPINEAU HOUSE

*History*



Until July 1

Wednesday – Sunday, 11AM – 5PM

**André-Benjamin-Papineau House**  
5475 Blvd. Saint-Martin O, H7T 2X7

Following extensive renovations, this Laval heritage gem was once the home of a proud local patriot who contributed to the development of French Canada in the 19th century.

[maisonabp.ca](http://maisonabp.ca)

## WINE AND SPIRITS

*Festival*



July 2 – 4

**Centropolis**

1799 Av. Pierre-Péladeau, H7T 2Y5

With nearly 70 exhibitors and a choice of over 150 products to taste, this year's edition promises to be even bigger than the first. Take part in a multitude of activities, including wine and spirits tastings, food and wine tasting workshops, and mixology classes.

[festivaldesvins.com](http://festivaldesvins.com)

## 2026 KATA WORLD SERIES

*Sports*



July 4

8AM – 4PM

**Collège Montmorency**  
475 Bd de l'Avenir, H7N 5H9

For its very first edition, the Kata World Series will take place in Laval. Come witness an impressive display featuring several judo athletes who will compete against each other in this tournament.

[ijf.org/competition/3219](http://ijf.org/competition/3219)

## HEALTHY EATING

*Festival*



July 9 – 11

3PM – 9PM

**Centropolis**

1799 Av. Pierre-Péladeau, H7T 2Y5

The first edition of this festival brings together local businesses and culinary creators who will introduce you to healthier food choices, alternative ingredients, and unique culinary traditions.

[festivalmangersante.com](http://festivalmangersante.com)

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

**Q** About a year ago, I started to suspect my husband was having at least an emotional affair. Something was changing the familiar pattern of our relationship. I also found notes from a woman on his Facebook page and odd numbers on the phone bill.

At first I attributed the change in our level of intimacy to a combination of his age and a medication he was taking for stress. However, when I looked up the medication, there was no indication the drug affected the sex drive. When I asked my husband if he was interested in having an affair, I got a predictable answer.

Then last weekend we were at a pub. He drank too much and told me he would call his younger "friend" to keep him company unless I agreed to stay with him and drink. I was not drinking. I got up and went home, and he followed.

When I asked him about it the next day, he could not give me an explanation. I am an investigator by profession, and part of me wants to follow up. I will be devastated if it turns out he is having an affair--emotional or physical. We have two teenage children. Should I start to dig, or should I live with a suspicious mind?

Rochelle

**A** Rochelle, unchecked, the worm of doubt will eat you up. That's the first

reason to consider digging. If your husband is involved with another woman, there is a high degree of risk in your marriage. That's the second reason.

Whenever we have risk in our lives, it is best to try to manage it. That's true whether we are talking about flooding rivers, other drivers, or a potentially unfaithful spouse. But before you can manage risk, you have to identify its presence.

Ignorance prevents you from knowing the hazard and calculating the risk. You may think your marriage will last no matter what, but that is a little like people who believe they are good drivers even when they are drunk. The point is, our beliefs have little to do with the actual level of risk in our lives.

Something has altered your relationship with your husband. You've spoken to him. No resolution came from that. Now you have to step up and do more. It is no different than if a member of your family had a medical problem. Would you forget about it?

You heard a bump in the basement. You're an investigator, so investigate. And hold to the rules of investigation. Document, gather evidence, get all your ducks in a row before you interview the "suspect." Documentation will help should it become necessary to verify things to your children or to others.

Wayne & Tamara

## THE WRONG FOOT

**Q** My boyfriend and I were friends for four years and recently started dating.

During our friendship we fell deeply in love and now want to be married. During our months together we have noticed his dad doesn't like me, so we have come up with a way to get married without his father objecting.

I will get pregnant. We want our families at the wedding, and we don't want to elope. What do you think?

Suki

**A** Suki, you can't change anyone

else. You can be a good person and respectful. You can be a great mom and a great wife and perhaps win him over. But that is not your purpose in life. Your purpose in life is to be a good person for its own sake.

Let your actions speak for you, let your character shine, let people know you for who you are. Be worthy of respect, and if there are others who don't respect you, never give them a second thought. Some people can't be won over.

Part of being worthy of respect is not using ploys to force from others what is not freely given.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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# HOROSCOPE

Week of **JUNE 28 TO JULY 4, 2026**

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



## ARIES

You'll embark on a spiritual journey that broadens your horizons and nurtures personal growth. Reconnecting with your values and beliefs will bring a sense of inner peace. This period of transformation will be resonant and raise your consciousness.



## TAURUS

Asking for help isn't a sign of weakness. A qualified professional may provide support through emotional or personal healing. You deserve to find well-being, serenity and fulfillment.



## GEMINI

Your relationship may feel fragile due to your partner's lack of finesse. A little extra tenderness may be needed. At work, pay attention to the small details during a negotiation because they could completely change the outcome.



## CANCER

Your physical health is often influenced by your mental health, so you'll need to explore your feelings and subconscious thoughts to understand what's causing your discomfort. If you have a chronic illness, this introspection could reveal new paths to healing.



## LEO

Bolstered self-confidence is essential to your success. Boosting your ego in a healthy way will set you apart. Your irresistible charisma will attract respect, admiration and compliments, reinforcing your presence in your personal and professional circles.



## VIRGO

You'll juggle a move and a project close to your heart. Your romantic partner's support will be invaluable. Order in your living space will bring mental clarity, promoting serenity, motivation and a sense of balance. These qualities will help you maintain your priorities.



## LIBRA

You'll express your opinions boldly, even if they're not always popular. Your charm and eloquence will inspire others to embrace your ideas. Art will be a powerful channel for self-expression, touching the hearts and minds of others.



## SCORPIO

Financial concerns may cause stress, so hold things in perspective. Money is important, but love, health and happiness should be your priorities. Regaining this insight will bring calm and help you return to what matters most.



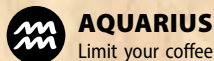
## SAGITTARIUS

You are driven by enthusiasm and ambition. You welcome stimulating challenges. Professional or personal success is on the horizon. You'll take a step toward realizing a big dream.



## CAPRICORN

A difficult situation—a hard-to-keep secret, perhaps—may weigh on your mind. Think carefully before acting and trust your intuition. Your guardian angels will lead you toward the right decision.



## AQUARIUS

Limit your coffee intake to better manage stress and agitation. When faced with difficult situations, practice releasing control. Focus on your priorities. This will help you handle unexpected situations and professional challenges more calmly.



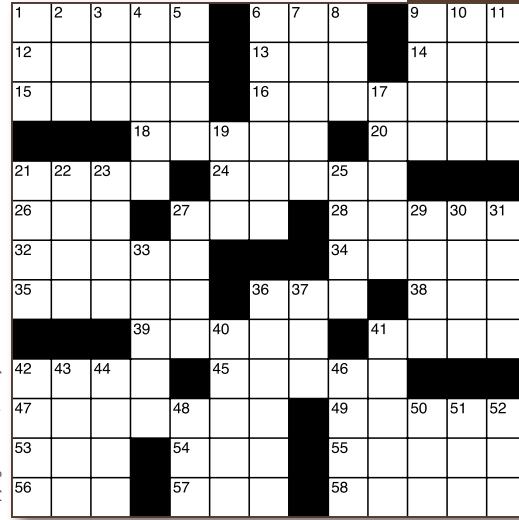
## PISCES

New professional opportunities are on the horizon, which will showcase your skills and experience. If you can adapt, you'll persevere to achieve your goals. The process will enhance both your achievements and your financial stability.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORD

GRID N° 307



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### ACROSS

1. Dock
6. Portray
9. Word of inquiry
12. Knowing
13. Baseball's Gehrig
14. Chopping tool
15. Fasten again
16. Designated
18. Punches
20. Great deal
21. Similar
24. Bring
26. Electrified particle
27. Fore's opposite
28. Sound systems: hyph.
32. Pilfer
34. Severe
35. Some chess pieces
36. Patrolman
38. "When Harry \_\_\_\_\_ Sally..."
39. Squash

### DOWN

41. Adjusts in length
42. On the cutting \_\_\_\_\_
45. Poor
47. Grasp clearly
49. Resolve a debt
53. Heidi's mountain
54. End
55. Weld
56. Brother's sib
57. Observe secretly
58. Shipboard buddies
1. Obstacle
2. Pasture mom
3. Informer
4. Clan
5. Back of the foot
6. In error: 2 wds.
7. Glide
8. Bath basin
9. Crown of light
10. Yoke of \_\_\_\_\_
11. Ties the knot
17. Moral precept
19. Not at work
21. Mispronounce
22. Pinch
23. Recognized
25. Gent
27. Additionally
29. Seethe
30. Newsy bit
31. Collections
33. Guardian \_\_\_\_\_
36. Eerie
37. "\_\_\_\_\_ on Melancholy"
40. Open a jacket, maybe
41. Laughing \_\_\_\_\_
42. Divisions of time
43. Cold-cut shop
44. Openings
46. Bongo, e.g.
48. \_\_\_\_\_ a boy!
50. Cherry center
51. Finished lunch
52. Okey-doke

# Sudoku

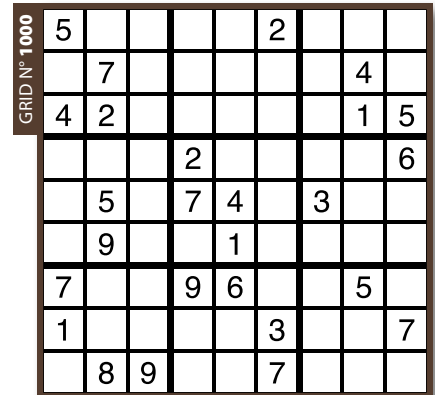
## HOW TO PLAY

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

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line.

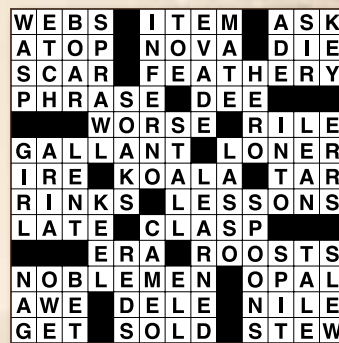
You already have a few numbers to get you started.

Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

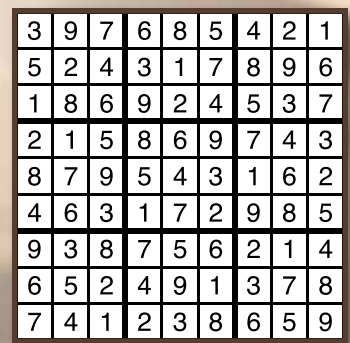


## LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD



### Sudoku



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