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## ELECTIONS 2026



### Whose vision will win Quebec?

*The plans of the five parties seeking to lead the province*

See  
pages  
12-13

On August 27, 2026, the Lieutenant-Governor dissolved the Assemblée nationale. A general election will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026.

The call for an election ended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Legislature. At the time of dissolution, the seats were divided as follows:

**Coalition avenir Québec: 79 seats | Quebec Liberal Party: 18 seats | Québec solidaire: 11 seats**  
**Parti québécois: 7 seats | Independent Members: Parti conservateur du Québec: 1**

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**Sona Lakhoyan Olivier**  
running as an  
independant

**Liberal  
caucus  
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# Laval mayor and opposition agree: Fines for illicit tree cutting should be higher

*Bicycling enthusiasts complain to city about 'dangerous' bike paths along Saint-Martin*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Laval's mayor and the two opposition parties were in agreement during the September council meeting last week that the city should take action to raise fines for the illegal cutting of trees.

This was after the developer of a 156-unit residential project in Saint-Vincent-de-Paul reportedly cut as many as 100 trees without a permit from the city.

Located near the bottom of an escarpment on Rue du Barrage south of Lévesque Blvd., all work on the Eaux Vives sur le Parc project was ordered by the city to cease last spring after it was revealed that the developer had been carrying out some preliminary groundwork without a municipal construction permit.

## Concerned nearby residents

"Since the announcement of this project, there has been a lot of concern by the citizens who live in the vicinity of this project," Louise Valliquette, one of the affected residents, said during the council meeting's public question period.

Jonathan Tremblay, a spokesperson for the Laval Coalition for Mobilization of Citizen Environmental Action, said he was surprised to learn the project was being allowed by the city to continue, while the issue of a deforestation operation on the site had gone virtually unnoticed.

While noting that Mayor Stéphane Boyer reacted a while back to a mass tree-cutting in the west end of Laval by declaring that the fines imposed were inadequate, Tremblay said, "I'm asking myself whether a penalty of around \$1,000 really constitutes a just and dissuasive consequence for deforestation carried out on the site?"

(It should be noted that the fine in the City of Laval for illegal tree-cutting is up to \$1,000 per tree, although critics of the current system acknowledge that the full amount is rarely collected from offenders by the city.)



## \$1,000 not enough, says De Cotis

"Maybe a \$1,000 fine isn't enough," Action Laval opposition councillor for Saint-Bruno David De Cotis suggested, while adding, "Maybe we should make it ten times as expensive – maybe even \$10,000, \$10,000, \$50,000 to dissuade people from disrespecting the law."

"Because \$1,000 for a developer is really \$1 of his profit," he continued. "It's nothing to him because he wants to profit to get on with his project. So, I think your issue is legitimate and we can examine the amount and really make sure that the amount is important enough to discourage developers or anyone else from cutting trees without a permit."

Parti Laval opposition councillor for Marc-Aurèle-Fortin Louise Lortie agreed the city's system of fines for illegal tree cutting is inadequate. "I think there's something needing to be reviewed in the amounts for penalties for the developers – because there is nothing dissuasive when it costs \$1,000 to cut trees," she said.

At the same time, Lortie noted that the area in question had inadvertently become an improvised dumping ground over many decades. She suggested the developer may have needed to cut the trees as part of a process to decontaminate

the ground before building.

## Fine is on a per-tree basis

Speaking on behalf of the administration, Mayor Stéphane Boyer acknowledged that the current system of fines could be improved.

"I consider that we should be able to go further with regards to the type of fine we hand out, because the developers sometimes will say that financially they're not bothered by simply paying the fine," said Boyer.

He said the city has previously lobbied the Quebec government to have the provincial law changed.

"Because as it is now, there's a law at the level of the government of Quebec, and the City of Laval's charter limits the amounts for fines," said the mayor. "And we have been asking Quebec for at least the last three years to allow us to modify our charter and the law to have stronger fines in order to make sure there is respect for our by-laws."

## Saint-Martin bike path complaints

During the same meeting, bicycling enthusiasts complained to the council about the city's failure to properly secure bike paths along key arteries like Saint-Martin Blvd., where the bike paths are dangerously intersected by rapidly flowing traffic heading onto entrance ramps to get onto the autoroutes.

Replying, Laval-les-Îles city councillor Nicolas Borne, who is a member of the executive-committee with responsibility for infrastructures, apologized for delays in implementing new safety measures. But he hesitated to call the intersections in question "dangerous," saying instead that they contributed to a "discomfort" felt by cyclists who use them. He said the city is working with the Quebec Ministry of Transport to remedy the situation.



Mayor agreed during the September city council meeting last week that the City of Laval's system of fines for the illegal cutting of trees could be improved.

(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## Boyer diagnosed with brain tumor

(TLN) Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer announced Monday, Sept 7, that he has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, but says he will continue serving residents while reducing his public activities this fall. Boyer shared the news on social media, explaining that he had been dealing with headaches and vision problems for several months. An MRI revealed a meningioma, a type of tumor that is often benign. He is now waiting for upcoming appointments with a neurosurgeon to learn more about the next steps. Despite the diagnosis, Boyer emphasized that he feels well and remains fully capable of carrying out his responsibilities at City Hall.

"My energy levels are excellent, and I retain all my abilities," he wrote, adding that he plans to attend all work meetings while taking time to focus on his health. Boyer also expressed his continued commitment to the community: "I know one thing: I want to continue to be involved in my city," he said, noting that sharing daily life with residents brings him "great joy." He added that he is approaching the situation "with serenity."

He has also been living for several years with ankylosing spondylitis, a chronic inflammatory condition affecting the spine.

Elected in 2021 at age 33, Boyer became the youngest mayor in Laval's history and was re-elected in 2025 with 59 per cent of the vote.

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### Happy back-to-school season!

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all students, teachers, school staff, and families for a year filled with happiness, discovery, and success.

May this school year mark the beginning of an inspiring journey, rich in learning, new friendships and memorable moments.

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Remembering September 11: A day that changed the world and revealed Canada's compassion

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the world stopped. For millions of people across North America and around the globe, it began as an ordinary Tuesday. Workers commuted to their offices, students headed to school, and families followed their daily routines. Within hours, however, the unthinkable had happened. Terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing two into the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. A fourth aircraft, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers fought back against the hijackers.

Over 3,000 people lost their lives that day. Thousands more were injured. Families were shattered. Communities were forever changed. The attacks were the deadliest terrorist acts in modern history and marked a turning point that continues to shape international politics, security policies, and public consciousness a quarter century later.

As the world marks the anniversary of September 11, it is important not only to remember the victims and their families but also to reflect on the extraordinary acts of courage, unity, and compassion that emerged from tragedy. Among those stories is Canada's response, a chapter of history that continues to inspire people on both sides of the border.

### A Day of Shock and Sorrow

The collapse of the Twin Towers remains one of the defining images of the 21st century. Television viewers watched in disbelief as the towers burned and ultimately fell, sending clouds of dust and debris through the streets of Lower Manhattan.

For those who lived through that day, the memories are deeply personal. Many remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. Others recall the silence that followed as people struggled to comprehend the scale of what had happened.

The attacks were aimed at symbols of American economic, military, and political strength, but their impact extended far beyond the United States. Citizens from more than 90 countries lost their lives in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. The grief was international. Canadians watched the events unfold with the same shock and sadness felt by their American neighbours. The close relationship between the two countries ensured that the tragedy touched communities from coast to coast.

### Canada's Immediate Response

As the attacks unfolded, U.S. authorities made an unprecedented decision: all civilian aircraft were ordered to land immediately. For the first time in history, American airspace was effectively shut down. Hundreds of airplanes already in the sky needed safe places to land. Canada responded without hesitation.

Under a massive operation that became known as **Operation Yellow Ribbon**, airports across the country welcomed aircraft diverted from American airspace. More than 200 planes carrying tens of thousands of passengers were rerouted to Canadian cities and towns.

What followed became one of the most remarkable stories of kindness and generosity in modern Canadian history.

Communities opened schools, churches, recreation centres, and community halls to shelter stranded travellers. Local businesses donated food and supplies. Volunteers worked around the clock to assist passengers who suddenly found themselves far from home with little information and no clear timeline for returning to their destinations. The world witnessed the best of Canada in one of humanity's darkest moments.

### The Story of Gander

No Canadian community became more closely associated with the response to September 11 than Gander, Newfoundland.

At the time, Gander had a population of roughly 10,000 people. Yet within hours, 38 diverted aircraft landed at the town's airport, bringing nearly 7,000 stranded passengers. The numbers alone were staggering. The town's population effectively increased by nearly 70 percent overnight. Yet residents rose to the occasion.

They prepared meals, delivered blankets, organized transportation, donated clothing, and opened their homes. They comforted frightened travellers and reassured those unable to contact loved ones. Many passengers arrived as strangers but left as friends.

The generosity displayed in Gander became an international symbol of compassion. Years later, the story inspired books, documentaries, and the award-winning Broadway musical *Come From Away*, introducing millions of people around the world to the kindness shown by

Newfoundlanders during those difficult days.

### Canada and the War Against Terrorism

As Canadians reflect on the anniversary, it is fitting to recognize not only the heroes of 2001 but also the police officers, firefighters, military personnel, healthcare workers, and emergency volunteers who continue to serve communities today.

The consequences of September 11 extended far beyond the events of that single day.

In the weeks following the attacks, the United States launched a global campaign against terrorism. Canada joined its allies in confronting new security challenges.

Canadian Armed Forces members served in Afghanistan as part of international efforts aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and stabilizing the region.

### The mission came at a significant cost.

Over the course of Canada's involvement, 158 Canadian military personnel lost their lives. Hundreds more returned home carrying physical and emotional scars.

Regardless of differing views regarding military operations, the sacrifice of those who served deserves recognition and respect. They answered their nation's call during a difficult chapter in world history and paid a heavy price for that service.

Their names and stories form an important part of Canada's post-9/11 legacy.

### The Lasting Impact

Twenty-five years later, the legacy of September 11 remains visible. Airport security procedures changed dramatically. Governments introduced new legislation addressing national security and intelligence gathering. International cooperation in combating terrorism expanded. Public awareness of extremist threats increased.

Perhaps most significantly, a generation grew up in a world shaped by the aftermath of September 11.

Young adults entering the workforce today have no memory of a time before enhanced airport screening, heightened security measures, and the political realities that followed the attacks.

For them, September 11 belongs to history.

For those who lived through it, however, it remains deeply personal. This is why remembrance matters.

When societies remember tragedy, they honour those who were lost and preserve lessons that future generations must not forget.

### A Lesson in Humanity

While September 11 is remembered primarily as a day of horror and loss, it is also remembered as a day that revealed humanity at its best. In New York, ordinary citizens helped trapped strangers escape danger.

In Pennsylvania, passengers aboard Flight 93 sacrificed their lives to prevent further destruction.

Across North America, communities gathered to support one another. And in Canada, people opened their hearts to thousands of stranded travellers whom they had never met.

These acts remind us that compassion is stronger than hatred. Terrorism seeks to divide societies through fear. The response to September 11 demonstrated the opposite. People chose unity over division, courage over panic, and kindness over suspicion.

Those choices remain relevant today.

### Never forget

Twenty-five years after the attacks, grief still remains. So does gratitude. So does respect.

September 11, 2001, was one of the darkest days in modern history. Yet even amid unimaginable tragedy, people discovered reservoirs of courage, generosity, and hope.

Canada's response stands as a powerful reminder that in moments of crisis, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. The actions of communities across this country demonstrated that national borders matter far less than our shared humanity.

As we remember the victims of September 11 and honour the heroes who emerged from that day, let us also remember the enduring lesson that followed: when confronted with fear and hatred, compassion remains one of the most powerful forces in the world.

That is a lesson worth preserving, a history worth teaching, and a legacy that deserves to be remembered for generations to come.



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# CITYWATCH

By Martin C. Barry

## Thousands took in the late summer sun at annual 'Fête de la famille'

Favorable weather on Sunday Labor Day weekend seems to have encouraged thousands of moms, dads and kids to get on out and enjoy the remainder of the summer's sunshine at Laval's Centre de la nature in the city's Duvernay district during the annual Fête de la famille.

Among the many fun things to do were "zip lines" (a big and little one, depending on your age and size), a climbing wall, sports challenges, an exhibition of municipal public works heavy equipment, a delegation from the Laval Rocket hockey team, and officers from the Laval Police as well as firefighters from the city's fire department.

If that wasn't enough, there were also science workshops, nature talks and exhibits, a mobile library, giant games, a mobile animal petting zoo, inflatable games, food trucks and just plain relaxing with family members with a picnic lunch enjoyed on the lawns of the Centre de la nature.



A powerful enchantress kept this magically-animated beast from another era in line and away from the large crowds attending the 2026 Fête de la famille at Laval's Centre la nature in Duvernay. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Favorable weather on Labor Day weekend Sunday encouraged thousands of moms, dads and kids to get on out and enjoy the annual Fête de la famille at Laval's Centre de la nature. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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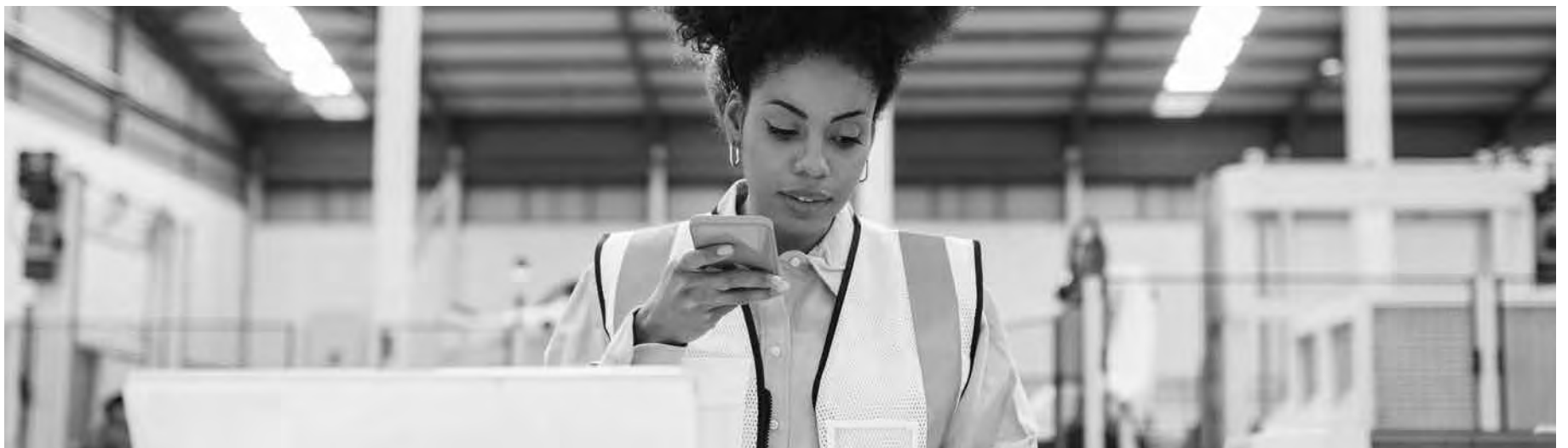
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# Enthusiastic Caquistes welcome Christine Fréchette in Laval's Vieux Sainte-Rose

*'We will not be like the PQ who only want to argue,' incumbent CAQ Premier tells supporters*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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Coalition Avenir Québec MNA for Sainte-Rose Christopher Skeete, who is seeking a third term in the upcoming provincial election, says the people of Laval will have an important choice to make on October 5.

"Do they want someone we can hardly find – Où est Charles?" – he declared sarcastically last week in an interview with The Laval News, referring to Quebec Liberal Party leader Charles Milliard, who has been lagging second to last in decided voter intentions in recent polls.



**A confident Premier Christine Fréchette stepped off her campaign bus in Laval's Vieux Sainte-Rose neighbourhood last week just before meeting local CAQ supporters for a campaign rally.**  
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

## The choice is clear, claims Skeete

"Or do they want to have some predictability and stability?" Skeete added. "I think our government is the one offering stability and the predictability that Quebecers are looking for."



**From the left, CAQ Laval candidates Lucie Létourneau (Fabre), Cattiouceca Ambroise (Chomedey), incumbent MNA Valérie Schmaltz (Vimont-Auteuil), incumbent Premier Christine Fréchette (Trois Rivières), incumbent MNA Christopher Skeete (Sainte-Rose), Sonia Amedome (Mille-Îles) and Vincent Bolduc (Laval-des-Rapides). (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)**

Skeete, who holds a number of portfolios in the CAQ cabinet including International Relations and Francophonie, made the comments during a pre-election gathering of CAQ supporters held in Laval's Vieux Sainte-Rose neighbourhood.

They were marking the beginning of the election campaign with a visit by incumbent Quebec Premier and CAQ leader Christine Fréchette at a rally and BBQ event.

Skeete and incumbent CAQ candidate in Vimont-Auteuil Valérie Schmaltz are the party's only current MNAs from Laval in the Quebec National Assembly vying for re-election. (Alice Abou-Khalil [Fabre] and Céline Haytayan [Laval-des-Rapides] decided not to seek second terms.)

## Laval as electoral battleground

While Skeete acknowledged that Laval's six provincial ridings are almost always hotly contested and have changed allegiances numerous times over the past decades, Schmaltz suggested that Laval is no more an electoral battleground than anywhere else in Quebec.

"It's the same thing everywhere," she said. "When you're in the midst of an election campaign, everybody has their own ideas. That being said, everybody is working towards the target date of October 5 when the results will be known. But as for me in my riding up to now, I have received nothing but a positive response."

For her part, Fréchette defended her party's

record in the past four years, despite the fact the CAQ was overseen for a large part of that time by another leader – namely former Premier François Legault.

Among other things, she pointed out during a vivid address to more than 50 party loyalists that the CAQ government had a quick response to the first wave of tariffs imposed a year-and-a-half ago by U.S. president Donald Trump.

## Quick response to tariffs, said Fréchette

"We were among the fastest in Canada to implement aid programs," she said. "And now we're learning about the new wave of tariffs from around a week ago and there again our response is rapid."

"We are going to have to remain very focused, because we want to help businesses build and get through this," she added. "And I am confident that we will be able to do this without help from the federal government. Our own assistance will not only help them get through this crisis, but also come out stronger than ever."

Fréchette also talked about the needs of the province's families and parents, especially in the context of the impact the second wave of Trump tariffs stands to have on them.

Leading into the election, the incumbent CAQ government is proposing modifications to the Régime québécois d'assurance parentale (Quebec Parental Insurance Plan), which

delivers benefits to eligible workers during pregnancy or childbirth, during the adoption of a child or during a parental surrogacy.

## Proposed parental insurance changes

According to Fréchette, the changes would allow accumulated hours to be used not only in the months immediately after the birth of a child, but for up to five years. "And so, parents will be able to use as they see fit these banked hours over the course of years," said Fréchette, adding that parents might even be able to use part of the benefits to compensate grandparents or other caregivers who provide assistance to parents.

Fréchette also took shots at some of the leading contenders in the 2026 electoral race. Regarding the Quebec Liberals, she said: "We know them don't we. They are unable to defend the language; they are unable to defend our culture. They give in to the federal. As for us, we will continue standing up, we will be respected for our jurisdictions. But at the same time, when something is good for Quebec, we will sign onto partnerships."

"We will not be like the PQ who only want to argue," she continued. "For whatever it's worth, we always seek out what's best in Ottawa. The PQ they're always looking for trouble." She dismissed the Quebec Liberals as not even knowing what to look for.

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Ahuntsic-Cartierville Liberal MP Mélanie Joly, the Minister responsible for the Canada Economic Development Ministry in Quebec, said the federal Liberal government intends to pursue the policy it adopted during the first wave of tariffs, which is to increase Canada's reliance on its own means and resources. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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

The impending impact on the average person by tariffs imposed on Canada by U.S. president Donald Trump was front and centre as a topic of concern during a three-day meeting of the Liberal Party of Canada's caucus of 44 sitting MPs from Quebec held on Montreal's North Shore and in the Lower Laurentians regions last week.

"Your Quebec MPs are gathered in caucus ahead of the parliamentary return, in the

wonderful riding of @lindalapointeplc, Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, to talk about what truly matters to Quebecers," the caucus members said in a message posted on social media. "Now more than ever, our team is ready and determined to stand up for your interests in Ottawa!" they added.

#### In touch with the regions

"To represent Quebec well and keep in contact with what's going on in our regions, we talked a lot about this these last few days, about what's going on in the regions everywhere in Quebec," Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Liberal MP

# Federal Liberal Quebec MPs focus on tariffs at three-day caucus meeting

*'All about the economy, how to make Canada strong and how to face the tariffs,' says El-Khoury*

Linda Lapointe, who hosted the gathering, said during a press conference outside the Town of Rosemère's community centre at the conclusion.

"We spoke a lot about the regions of Quebec

► **Continued on page 11**



Quebec caucus, Jean-Yves Duclos, the MP for the riding of Québec Centre. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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◀ Continued from page 10

over the last few days, and of course the Lower Laurentians region in particular,” said chairman of the LPC’s Quebec caucus, Jean-Yves Duclos, the MP for the riding of Québec Centre.

**Canada’s response to tariffs**

“And, of course, we talked a lot about the government of Canada’s response following the actions of the American government’s unfair

and unjustifiable tariffs, the tariff response by the Canadian government with ministers and parliamentary secretaries and key secretaries of state.”

He said the caucus members discussed at length about the impact not only on businesses affected by the tariffs, but also on the workers.

Ahuntsic-Cartierville Liberal MP Mélanie Joly, the Minister responsible for the Canada Economic Development Ministry in Quebec, said the federal Liberal government intends to

pursue the policy it adopted during the first wave of tariffs, which is to increase Canada’s reliance on its own means and resources.

**How to deal with tariffs**

For businesses struggling with the new tariffs, she suggested getting in contact with the local Member of Parliament who can provide precise information on available federal programs providing interest-free loans as well as non-reimbursable subsidies to assist employees.

In an interview following the press briefing, Laval-les-Îles Liberal MP Fayçal El-Khoury said the federal government remains tightly focused on the tariffs issue.

“These last three days, it was all about the economy, how to make Canada strong, and how to face the tariffs,” said El-Khoury. “And as you heard the minister say, we are ready to support businesses and people who are affected, be they small and medium-size businesses or larger enterprises.”



Liberal Party of Canada Quebec caucus chair Jean-Yves Duclos, the MP for Québec Centre, is seen here with the 44 members of the caucus in Rosemère last week following their three-day meeting. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

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# ELECTIONS 2026



## What the parties are promising in Quebec's 2026 election campaign as of September 4<sup>th</sup>

*A comprehensive guide to where Quebec's major political parties stand on the issues shaping the 2026 election*

**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
info@newsfirst.ca

With the election campaign now underway, Quebec's major political parties are unveiling new promises aimed at addressing affordability, healthcare, housing, transportation, taxation, education and immigration.

Several proposals announced in recent weeks signal important shifts in campaign priorities. Québec Solidaire is focusing heavily on wealth redistribution through a proposed tax on large fortunes. The CAQ is promoting new transportation infrastructure and healthcare initiatives. The Conservatives are emphasizing parental choice through direct childcare payments. The PQ continues to highlight

Quebec identity and culture while stressing government accountability, and the Liberals are positioning themselves as a centrist option focused on economic growth and improved public services.

For voters, the campaign increasingly presents a choice between competing visions of government's role in the economy, public services and Quebec society.

### CAQ: transit infrastructure and service delivery

Under leader Christine Fréchette, the Coalition Avenir Québec continues to focus on economic growth, infrastructure development and improving public services.

A major new campaign commitment is the proposal to revive a REM-style rail project linking Montreal's eastern end with Repentigny. The proposed transit corridor would connect eastern Montreal with growing North Shore communities that have long faced transportation challenges.

The CAQ argues that transportation investments are necessary to reduce congestion, strengthen economic development and

improve mobility for commuters. The proposal has become one of the party's most visible infrastructure promises during the campaign.

#### Economy

The CAQ continues to promote a business-friendly environment, support major infrastructure projects and encourage investment in strategic sectors.

The party argues that strong economic growth remains the best way to finance healthcare, education and social programs

while maintaining Quebec's competitiveness.

#### Healthcare

The CAQ has made healthcare modernization a major campaign priority. The party highlights efforts to reduce wait times, improve access to family doctors and increase efficiency throughout the healthcare network.

The CAQ is also promoting greater use of telemedicine and digital health tools to improve access to healthcare services in both urban and regional communities.

### Quebec Liberals: modern services and economic competitiveness

Led by Charles Milliard, the Quebec Liberal Party continues to position itself as a centrist alternative focused on economic growth, public services and the protection of minority rights.

#### Healthcare modernization

Healthcare has become one of the party's major campaign priorities. Liberals are promoting expanded telehealth services and greater use of technology to improve access to care, particularly in underserved regions where recruiting healthcare professionals remains challenging.

The party argues that modernization can help reduce wait times while providing patients with faster and more convenient

access to healthcare services.

#### Economy

The Liberals continue emphasizing investment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The party argues that sustained economic growth is necessary to generate the revenues required to improve healthcare, education and public infrastructure while maintaining Quebec's competitiveness within Canada and internationally.

#### Housing

The party supports increasing housing supply through partner-

ships with municipalities and private-sector builders.

Liberals argue that addressing housing affordability requires both government action and private-sector participation.

#### Language and minority rights

The Liberal Party continues to advocate protection of the French language while emphasizing the importance of protecting the rights and institutions of Quebec's English-speaking minority communities.

The party argues that language protection and minority rights can coexist and should not be treated as competing objectives.

### Québec Solidaire: wealth tax becomes signature proposal

The biggest new commitment unveiled by Québec Solidaire is a proposed tax on Quebec's wealthiest households. Leader Ruba Ghazal says a QS government would introduce an annual 1 per cent tax on fortunes worth more than \$25 million and a 2 per cent tax on fortunes exceeding \$100 million.

Québec Solidaire estimates the measure would generate approximately \$5 billion in additional government revenue.

The party argues that a small number of wealthy individuals have accumulated enormous assets while many Quebecers struggle with rising housing costs, affordability pressures, overcrowded classrooms and shortages in public services. QS says a significant portion of the new revenue would be directed toward education, healthcare, affordable housing and other public programs.

The proposal reinforces the party's central election message that growing economic inequality requires more direct government intervention and redistribution of wealth. Supporters view the proposal as a way to finance improved public services without increasing taxes on middle-income families, while critics argue it could discourage investment or encourage wealthy taxpayers to move assets elsewhere.

#### Healthcare and public services

Québec Solidaire continues to advocate major investments in public healthcare, education and social services. The party argues that improved public services are essential to addressing inequality and improving quality of life.

The party supports hiring more healthcare professionals, expanding access to frontline services and strengthening publicly delivered healthcare rather than increasing reliance on private providers.

#### Housing

Housing remains one of QS's top priorities. The party proposes significantly expanding affordable and social housing construction and increasing government intervention in the housing market to improve affordability for renters and first-time homebuyers.

#### Environment

Climate policy remains central to the QS platform. The party supports accelerated investments in public transit, renewable energy, green technologies and infrastructure projects designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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# ELECTIONS 2026



## Parti Québécois: culture, identity and accountability

The Parti Québécois under Paul St-Pierre Plamondon continues to focus on government accountability, Quebec identity and support for Quebec-owned businesses.

A notable new proposal would require students to read a selection of Quebec literary classics throughout their education. The PQ argues that young Quebecers should develop a stronger understanding of Quebec's cultural heritage, history and identity.

Supporters say the measure would strengthen cultural literacy, while critics question whether governments should mandate specific reading selections.

### Environment and industry

The party has also attracted attention for its approach to the Fonderie Horne environmental file. While previously advocating stronger environmental measures, the PQ now says it does not want to disrupt agreements already negotiated to reduce arsenic emissions and improve environmental performance. The party argues that environmental protection must be balanced with economic realities and the protection of regional jobs.

### Economy and regional development

The PQ continues to emphasize Quebec ownership of strategic

industries, regional economic development, innovation and support for small and medium-sized businesses. The party maintains that economic decisions should prioritize long-term provincial interests and strengthen Quebec's economic autonomy.

### Government accountability

Transparency and accountability remain central themes of the PQ campaign. The party promises stronger oversight of public spending and reforms designed to improve confidence in government institutions.

## Conservative Party of Quebec: direct support for families

One of the most widely discussed promises announced during the campaign comes from Éric Duhaime's Conservative Party of Quebec. The party would provide parents with \$100 per week for every child kept at home rather than placed in Quebec's subsidized daycare system.

Conservatives argue that many parents cannot obtain daycare spaces despite years-long waiting lists. The proposal is designed to offer greater flexibility for families while providing financial support to parents who choose home-based childcare.

The initiative is expected to cost approximately \$1.4 billion over five years.

### Affordability and taxes

Lower taxes and greater purchasing power remain central elements of the Conservative platform.

The party argues that government spending has expanded too rapidly and that Quebecers should be allowed to keep more of their income during a period of rising living costs.

### Healthcare

The Conservatives advocate reforms intended to introduce more flexibility and efficiency into the healthcare system. The party generally supports increasing patient choice and reducing bureaucracy.

### Economy

The PCQ believes economic growth is best achieved through lower taxes, reduced regulation, support for entrepreneurs and a smaller role for government in the economy.

## Key new campaign promises

### CAQ

- Proposed REM-style transit link connecting eastern Montreal and Repentigny.
- Expanded emphasis on telehealth and healthcare modernization.

### Liberals

- Expanded telehealth and healthcare modernization initiatives.
- Continued focus on economic growth and minority rights.

### Québec Solidaire

- 1% wealth tax on fortunes above \$25 million.
- 2% wealth tax on fortunes above \$100 million.
- Estimated \$5 billion in new annual government revenue.
- Increased spending on education and public services.

### Parti Québécois

- Mandatory reading of Quebec literary classics in schools.
- More pragmatic position on the Fonderie Horne emissions issue.

### Conservatives

- \$100 per week per child for parents who choose home-based childcare.
- Greater focus on affordability and parental choice.

This version reads more like an up-to-date 2026 election guide because it highlights the major promises being made during the current campaign rather than simply describing each party's traditional positions.

## The issues that may decide the election

### Housing

Rising rents and soaring home prices have transformed housing into one of the defining issues of the election. Every major party agrees more housing is needed, but they differ significantly on how to achieve that goal.

### Healthcare

Long wait times, shortages of family physicians, and pressure on emergency rooms continue to dominate voter concerns. Healthcare may ultimately become the single most important issue influencing election results.

### Cost of living

Food prices, utilities, insurance costs, and housing expenses

remain top concerns for families and seniors throughout Quebec.

### Language and minority rights

Questions surrounding the protection of French, access to English-language services, and the future of minority-language institutions remain highly significant, particularly in Montreal, Laval, and other diverse communities.

### Immigration

Parties differ sharply on immigration levels and integration policies. The debate centres on balancing economic needs, labour shortages, housing pressures, cultural integration, and protection of the French language.

## What voters will decide

The 2026 election is ultimately about competing visions of Quebec's future.

Should government play a larger role in solving social and economic problems, or should private enterprise lead the way? How should Quebec balance immigration with integration? How can the province protect French while respecting minority rights? What is the best way to address housing shortages, healthcare challenges, and affordability concerns?

The answers to those questions will help shape Quebec's future for years to come.



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# ELECTIONS 2026



## Ex-PLQ Lakhoyan Olivier seeks re-election as independent in Chomedey Says an independent can do so much more for Chomedey's constituents

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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For those who may not already have heard it through the grapevine, incumbent Member of the National Assembly for Chomedey Sona Lakhoyan Olivier has made it official.

Yes, she is running for a second term, albeit as an independent candidate, rather than as a Liberal Party of Quebec candidate, as she might have preferred.

After leaving the question of her candidacy for a new mandate open these last few months, Lakhoyan Olivier made waves in the past few weeks when it was revealed that her campaign posters for the October 5 election drew the ire of Quebec Liberal Party officials.

### Stylized 'L' upset the PLQ

The posters, according to the PLQ, made use of a stylized L that resembled a character in the Liberal Party of Quebec logo so much, they claimed, it would confuse voters.

In an interview earlier this week with *The Laval News*, Lakhoyan Olivier said that since becoming an independent MNA last December when she was expelled from the PLQ, she had become aware of the advantages conferred on independent MNAs, compared to sitting as a member of an organized party.

"With a party where there is a party line to be followed, having projects that are close to the

people of Chomedey, sometimes they were not a priority because it was always the party that gets priority," she said.

### Perks of an independent MNA

"And when I became independent, I found out that there was so much more that I could do," she continued, noting that her privileges in the National Assembly as an independent were almost like those of a full-fledged party organization.

While maintaining that as an independent she could table motions or declarations without first having to seek approval from the PLQ, Lakhoyan said, "I was able to represent the people as they should be right away without waiting for the right moment. So, it gave me a lot more liberty."

On that basis, she said she will be asking the voters of Chomedey to support her at the ballot box, "so I can continue to serve and complete what I started representing the citizens of Chomedey. I'm asking for a second mandate, as an independent this time. Let's show that Chomedey is independent and cannot be muzzled."

### Chomedey's unresolved issues

Among the shortcomings in Chomedey that Lakhoyan Olivier said have never been addressed and she would like to bring forward are the riding's lack of a large sports staging venue, as well as better resources to deal with immigration issues for Chomedey's highly



Photo: Incumbent independent MNA for Chomedey Sona Lakhoyan Olivier, who has decided to seek a second term is seen here with some of her campaign volunteers.

multicultural population.

"Let's make history in Chomedey," she added, noting that the last time Chomedey had an independent provincial representative for any length of time was back in the mid-1960s. "Our politics are becoming so partisan. What has become of democracy? Why are we going only with a party?"

As for the controversial campaign posters, Lakhoyan Olivier said she and her team had fewer than a dozen printed, and they agreed, after receiving a legal notice from the PLQ, to cover the offending L with a sticker to conceal it. A new batch of campaign posters eliminated the problem, she added.



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# Canada and Quebec labour markets face new pressures in 2026

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Canada's labour market continues to show resilience in 2026, but economists and employers are navigating a period of slower growth, changing workforce demographics, and ongoing labour shortages in several key industries. While employment levels remain relatively strong compared with historical standards, businesses across the country are facing challenges related to productivity, an aging workforce, and economic uncertainty.

Nationally, Canada's unemployment rate stood at approximately 6.4 per cent in July 2026. Although this is higher than the exceptionally tight labour market experienced in the years immediately following the pandemic, it remains within a range that many economists consider manageable. Employment growth has moderated as businesses contend with higher costs, slower economic expansion, and concerns over international trade conditions.

One of the most significant issues facing the Canadian labour market is demographics. The retirement of large numbers of Baby Boomers continues to reduce the pool of available workers. As a result, employers in sectors such as healthcare, construction, skilled trades, transportation, and technology continue to struggle to fill positions. Even in regions where unemployment has increased slightly, many employers report difficulties finding workers with the required skills and experience.

In Quebec, the labour market remains among the strongest in Canada, despite signs of softening during the first half of 2026. According to recent labour market data, Quebec's unemployment rate reached 5.6 per cent in July, still well below the national average. Employment remained essentially unchanged from the previous month, reflecting a labour market that is stabilizing after several years of rapid growth. However, beneath the surface, notable shifts are taking place.

Full-time employment increased significantly in July, while part-time employment declined. At the same time, job losses were recorded in both the private and public sectors, with gains among self-employed workers helping to offset those declines. These trends suggest that Quebec's labour market is adjusting to changing economic conditions rather than experiencing widespread deterioration.

Quebec continues to face severe demographic challenges. The province's aging population and slower labour force growth are limiting its ability to expand employment. In many regions, particularly outside major urban centres, businesses report difficulty recruiting workers. The construction industry, healthcare sector, and information technology field remain among the areas most affected by labour shortages.

The construction sector has faced particular challenges in recent months. Employment in the industry declined significantly during the summer, partly due to labour disruptions and project delays. Nevertheless, demand for construction workers remains high because of ongoing infrastructure investments, housing needs, and public works projects throughout the province.

Healthcare remains another critical concern. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health organizations continue to compete aggressively for qualified staff. Quebec's government has implemented various recruitment and retention initiatives in an effort to address staffing shortages, particularly among nurses, personal support workers, and specialized medical professionals.

Technology and professional services continue to represent bright spots in the Quebec economy. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services reached record levels earlier this year, reflecting ongoing demand for expertise in software development, artificial intelligence, engineering, and business consulting. The Greater Metropolitan area including Laval, remains an important hub for innovation and technology investment.



Looking ahead, labour market experts expect both Canada and Quebec to experience moderate employment growth rather than the rapid expansion seen during previous years. Economic uncertainty, global trade pressures, and demographic constraints are expected to limit growth. However, the sustained demand for skilled workers is likely to keep unemployment rates relatively low by historical standards.

For employers, the challenge will increasingly be attracting, training, and retaining talent. For workers, opportunities remain abundant in sectors facing chronic shortages. As Canada and Quebec adapt to demographic realities and evolving economic conditions, the labour market is expected to remain resilient, though increasingly shaped by the need for productivity improvements, skills development, and workforce modernization.



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# Canadians worried about public health care, majority oppose Alberta's Bill 11

DAVID COLETTO  
ABACUS DATA

A new national survey conducted by Abacus Data and commissioned by the Canadian Health Coalition finds Canadians are deeply concerned about the state of public health care but have not given up on the system or the principle that access to medically necessary care should be based on need rather than ability to pay.

Ninety-one percent are concerned about the future of public health care. Fifty-five percent believe the system has become worse over the past five years, while 63% describe health care in their province as being in a state of crisis.

Those concerns cross political lines. A majority of Conservative and NDP supporters believe the system has become worse, as do nearly half of Liberal supporters.

But frustration with the system does not translate into broad support for private payment.

Eighty-five percent say universal health care based on need rather than income is a core Canadian value, while 80% believe the public system can meet Canadians' needs if govern-

ments invest more in it (graph shown below).

This is the context in which Canadians are responding to Alberta's Bill 11, a new law passed at the end of 2025.

## Health care is becoming part of the affordability crisis

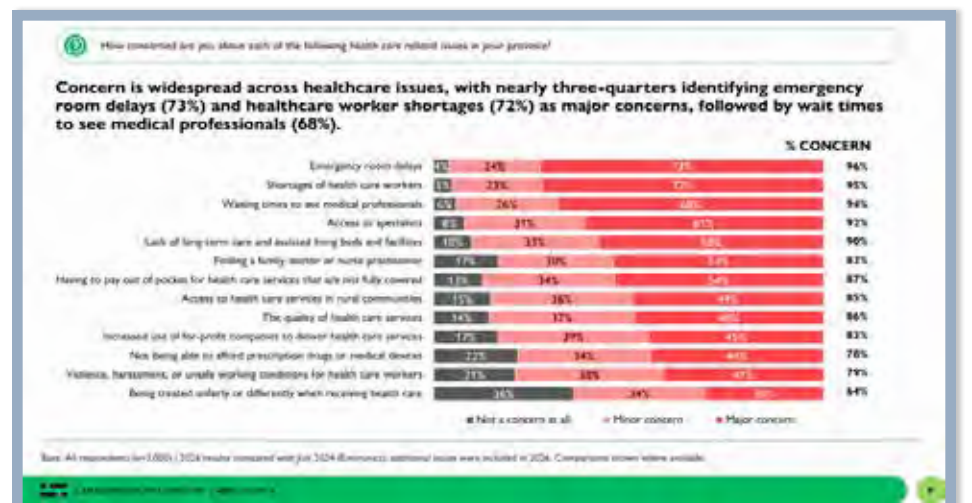
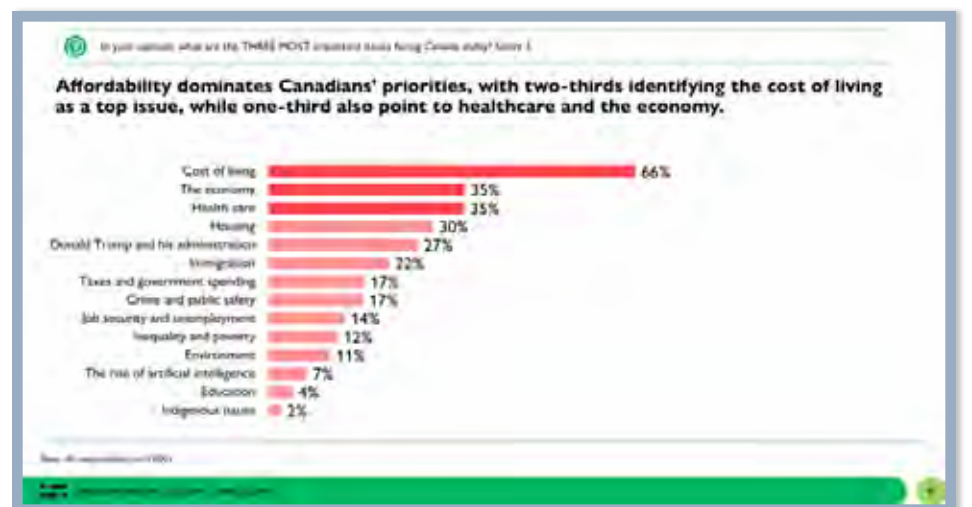
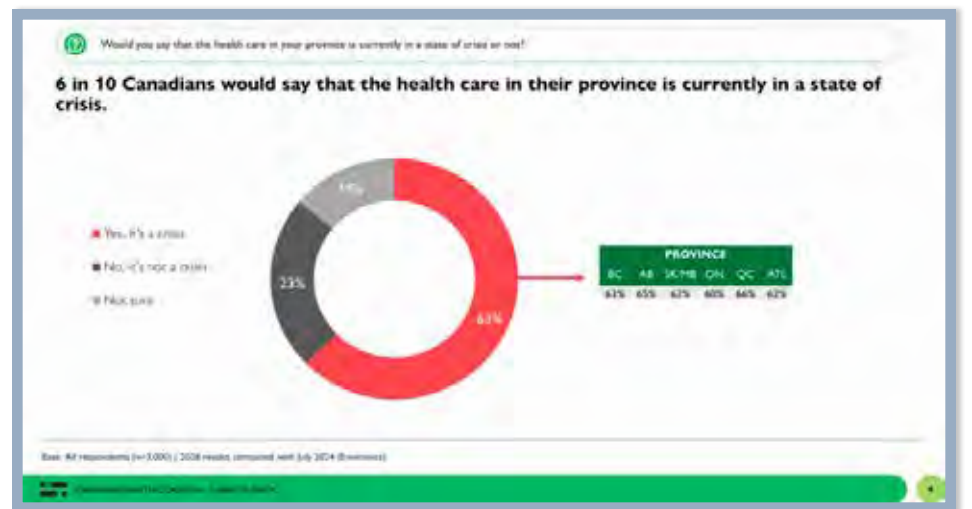
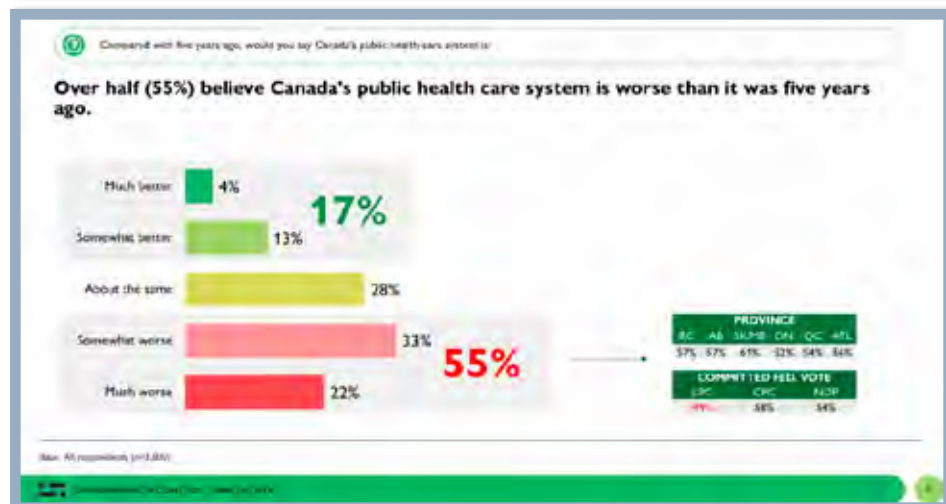
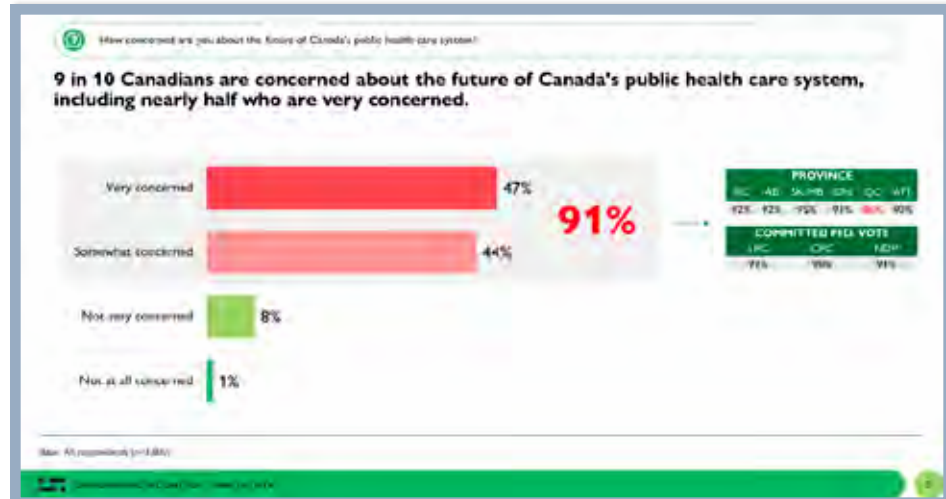
One of the clearest findings is how closely health care is becoming connected to broader affordability pressures.

Two-thirds of Canadians identify the cost of living as one of the three most important issues facing the country. Health care is tied with the economy as the second-most important issue, at 35%.

And 87% are concerned about having to pay out of pocket for health care services.

For many Canadians, the concern goes beyond another bill. Private payment raises a broader question about whether financial security could increasingly determine the speed or quality of someone's access to care.

The public remains clear about the principle it wants the system to uphold. Eighty-five percent say universal health care based on need rather



than income is a core Canadian value, and 80% believe the public system can meet Canadians' needs if governments invest more in it.

When asked to choose among different approaches, 49% say medically necessary health care should remain publicly funded and available based on need at no cost to the patient.

Only 11% favour allowing Canadians to

purchase private insurance to access medically necessary services outside the public system.

The findings suggest Canadians have lost confidence in how well the system is performing but have not lost faith in the basic model itself.

► Continued on page 17

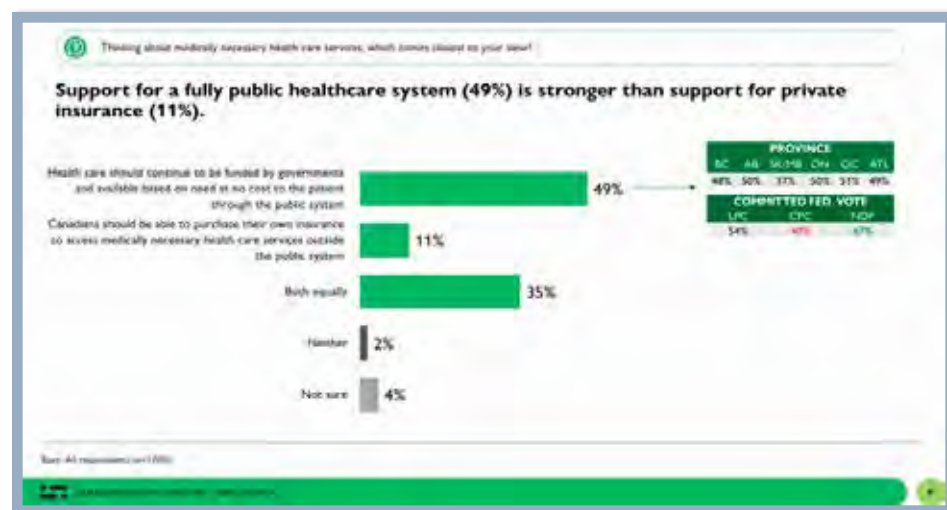
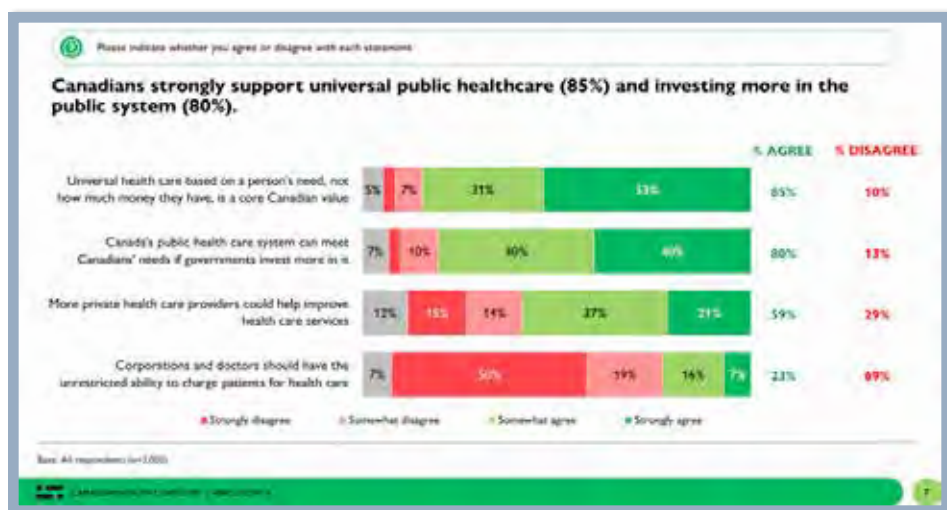
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## ◀ Continued from page 16

### Low awareness of Bill 11 does not mean public acceptance

Awareness of Bill 11 remains relatively limited outside Alberta. Seventy-one percent of Canadians outside the province had not heard about the legislation before participating in the survey. But once respondents are told what it would do, opinion becomes clearer.

Fifty-three percent oppose Bill 11, compared with one-third who support it. Those who strongly oppose the legislation outnumber those who strongly support it by four to one.

Canadians are also more likely to believe Bill 11 will make Alberta's health care system worse rather than better, by 40% to 26%.

And that concern is not confined to people outside Alberta. Within the province, 47% expect Bill 11 to make the system worse.

Opposition is strongest among NDP supporters, at 71%, followed by Liberal supporters at 59%. Conservative supporters are more divided: 41% oppose the legislation, while 33% expect it to improve health care in Alberta.

### Concerns about cost and unequal access drive opposition

The reasons Canadians are concerned about Bill 11 are perhaps more revealing than overall support or opposition.

Eighty-five percent are concerned about higher health care costs for patients. Eighty-three percent are concerned about unequal access based on income, and the same proportion worry about the additional cost of private insurance.

More than eight in ten are also concerned about longer public-system wait times, weaker public services, and for-profit companies making money from health care.

These concerns extend well beyond Liberal and NDP voters.

Among Conservative supporters, 81% are concerned about higher patient costs, 80% about private insurance costs, 79% about longer public wait times, and 76% about unequal access based on income.

Conservative voters remain more open to Bill 11 overall. But the results suggest many are still uneasy about its practical consequences. That creates a political vulnerability for advocates of the legislation.

### Public health care remains a defining Canadian value

The language used to describe health care reform matters. Reactions shift when health care is described in more explicitly commercial terms.

Seventy percent say "U.S.-style health care" sounds like a concern. Sixty-one percent react negatively to "for-profit health care," while 59% say the same about "private-pay health care."

Older Canadians are especially concerned.

Among those aged 60 and older, 84% react negatively to U.S.-style health care, 77% to for-profit care, and 71% to private-pay care.

The political differences are also smaller than might be expected. U.S.-style health care concerns 77% of NDP supporters, 76% of Liberal supporters, and 62% of Conservative supporters.

Voters may disagree about the role of the private sector, but there remains broad resistance to a system associated with private insurance, direct payment, and unequal access.

### Affordability is the most persuasive argument

When Canadians are presented with different arguments about Bill 11, affordability stands out. Ninety-one percent find the argument that health care could become another expense for households already struggling with housing, groceries and other everyday costs convincing.

That includes 95% of Liberal supporters, 96% of NDP supporters, and 86% of Conservative supporters.

Arguments based on equal access are nearly as persuasive. Eighty-nine percent find it convincing that health care should be based on need rather than income, and the same proportion respond positively to the idea that Canadians should need a health card, rather than a credit card, to receive medically necessary care.

The findings reinforce how closely this debate

is tied to affordability. For Canadians, the question is whether they create another household expense and make income more important in determining access to care.

### Canadians expect Ottawa to play a role

Although provinces deliver health care, most Canadians do not believe the federal government should stay on the sidelines when the principles of the public system are at stake.

Half say federal and provincial governments should share responsibility for protecting the health care system. Another 27% believe Ottawa should play an active role even though provinces are responsible for delivery.

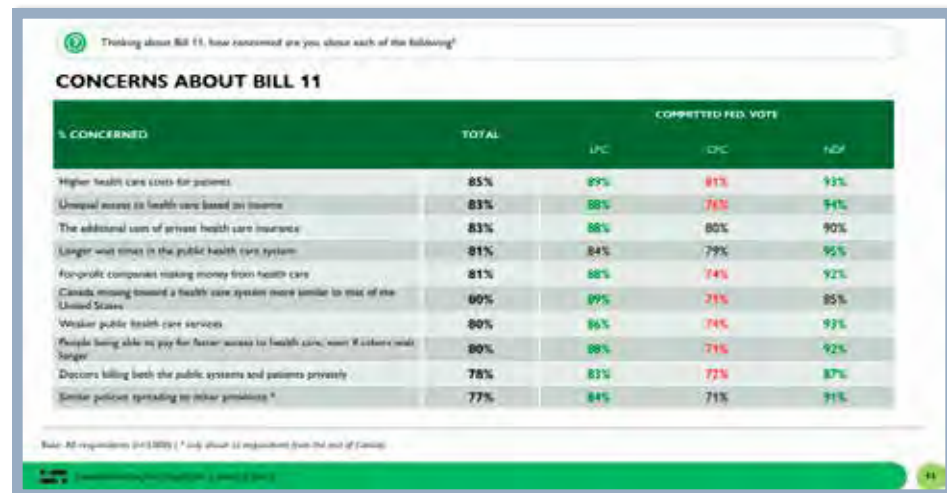
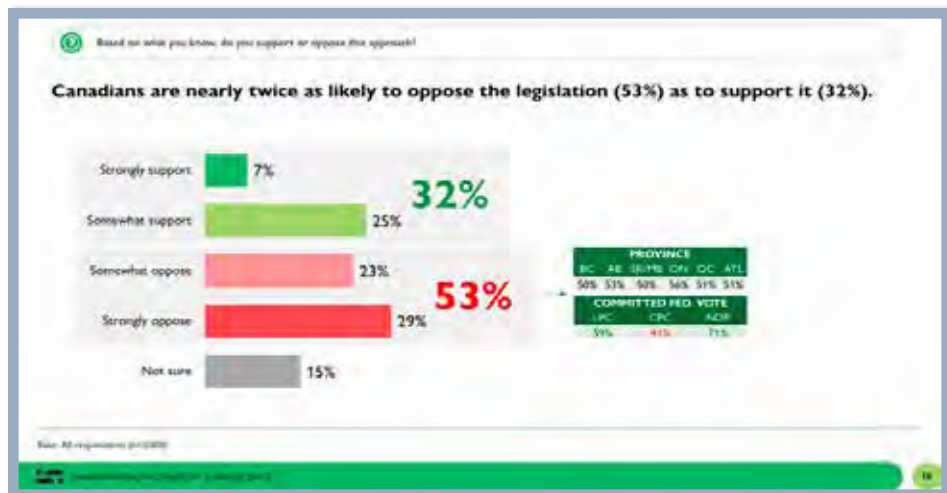
Only 13% say the federal government should generally stay out of provincial health care decisions.

When asked specifically about changes such as Bill 11, 53% say the federal government should do more to protect public health care. Just 12% believe provinces should be allowed to make these decisions without federal involvement.

There is also concern Bill 11 could become a precedent elsewhere.

Among Canadians outside Alberta, 74% are concerned similar policies could be adopted in their province. That rises to 81% in Ontario and 81% among Canadians aged 60 and older.

Within Alberta, 76% are concerned Bill 11 could remain in place and expand over time.



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# Things to do



# UPCOMING

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><b>MOMO CULTURAL CENTER</b></div> <div></div> <div><p>Until September 13</p><p><b>Espace Montmorency</b><br/>1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 0E4</p><p>Downtown Laval is hosting the 4th edition of the Momo Cultural Hub, a unique project that transforms the Montmorency neighbourhood into a vibrant, green, artistic space.</p><p><a href="http://laval.ca/culture/activites-culturelles/evenements-festivals/station-culturelle-momo">laval.ca/culture/activites-culturelles/evenements-festivals/station-culturelle-momo</a></p></div> | <div><b>KONPA IN SYMPHONY</b></div> <div></div> <div><p>September 20<br/>8 PM</p><p><b>Place Bell</b><br/>1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 0E4</p><p>Known for their captivating sound and irresistible energy, The Haitian group Konpa en Symphony, featuring Arly Larivière, is coming to Laval to treat you to an unforgettable musical experience.</p><p><a href="http://evenko.ca/en/evenements/place-bell/konpa-en-symphony?code=e008137">evenko.ca/en/evenements/place-bell/konpa-en-symphony?code=e008137</a></p></div> | <div><b>CHATEAU COCKTAIL PARTIES</b></div> <div></div> <div><p>Thursdays, until September 24<br/>5 - 7 PM</p><p><b>Château Taillefer Lafon</b><br/>1500 Mnt Champagne, H7X 4H9</p><p>Discover a whole new way to enjoy your Thursdays in September with Les Apéros du Château. Enjoy a selection of wines from the vineyard paired with delicious appetizers prepared especially for the occasion.</p><p><a href="http://chateautailleferlafon.ca">chateautailleferlafon.ca</a></p></div> | <div><b>SHABOOZEY</b></div> <div></div> <div><p>September 24<br/>7 PM</p><p><b>Place Bell</b><br/>1950 Rue Claude-Gagné, H7N 0E4</p><p>Shaboozey, American singer and rapper known for his unique blend of country, hip-hop, and folk, is back after winning over the crowd during his performance at Osheaga last year, presenting his new album *Outlaws Never Die*.</p><p><a href="http://evenko.ca/en/evenements/place-bell/shaboozey?code=e008181">evenko.ca/en/evenements/place-bell/shaboozey?code=e008181</a></p></div> |
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# Police dismantle two networks in theft and resale of stolen tools



down, obeying traffic signs and being patient, everyone can help protect children during their daily commutes," she said.

The ‘Drop Me Off Safely!’ campaign will be rolled out in four phases. Each phase will be launched at a strategic point in the school year to raise awareness among road users about the specific challenges of each period.

- Phase 1: ‘Back to School,’ from August 31 to September 25, 2026.
- Phase 2: ‘Darkness Arrives,’ from November 2 to 13, 2026.
- Phase 3: ‘During Winter,’ from January 18 to February 5, 2027.
- Phase 4: ‘Spring Arrives,’ from April 12 to 23, 2027.

According to a statement issued by the Montreal Police (SPVM), two major criminal networks allegedly stole nearly \$800,000 worth of new tools from Montreal area retailers. In both cases, it is alleged the suspected receivers of the stolen goods used online classified ad platforms to resell the stolen items.

In total, investigators seized newly acquired stolen tools valued at approximately \$500,000, as well as \$325,000 in cash and other evidence. A judge also authorized the seizure of the Laval residence, valued at \$500,000.

They appeared in custody at the Montreal courthouse on April 2, and faced several theft charges. A fourth suspect and alleged receiver of stolen goods, aged 45, was released on a promise



"Behind every shoplifting incident lies a cost not only for the merchants involved, but also for all consumers, as product prices eventually rise to compensate," said Commander Éric Lafontaine, head of the SPVM's ACCESS and Proceeds of Crime Section. "It is therefore important to fight this type of crime collectively."

**August 29 | 3:07 PM** // Building fire on Lévesque Boulevard East in the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul area. Residential building. Smoke visible. Code 10-07, meaning intervention was required.



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# Kids' corner

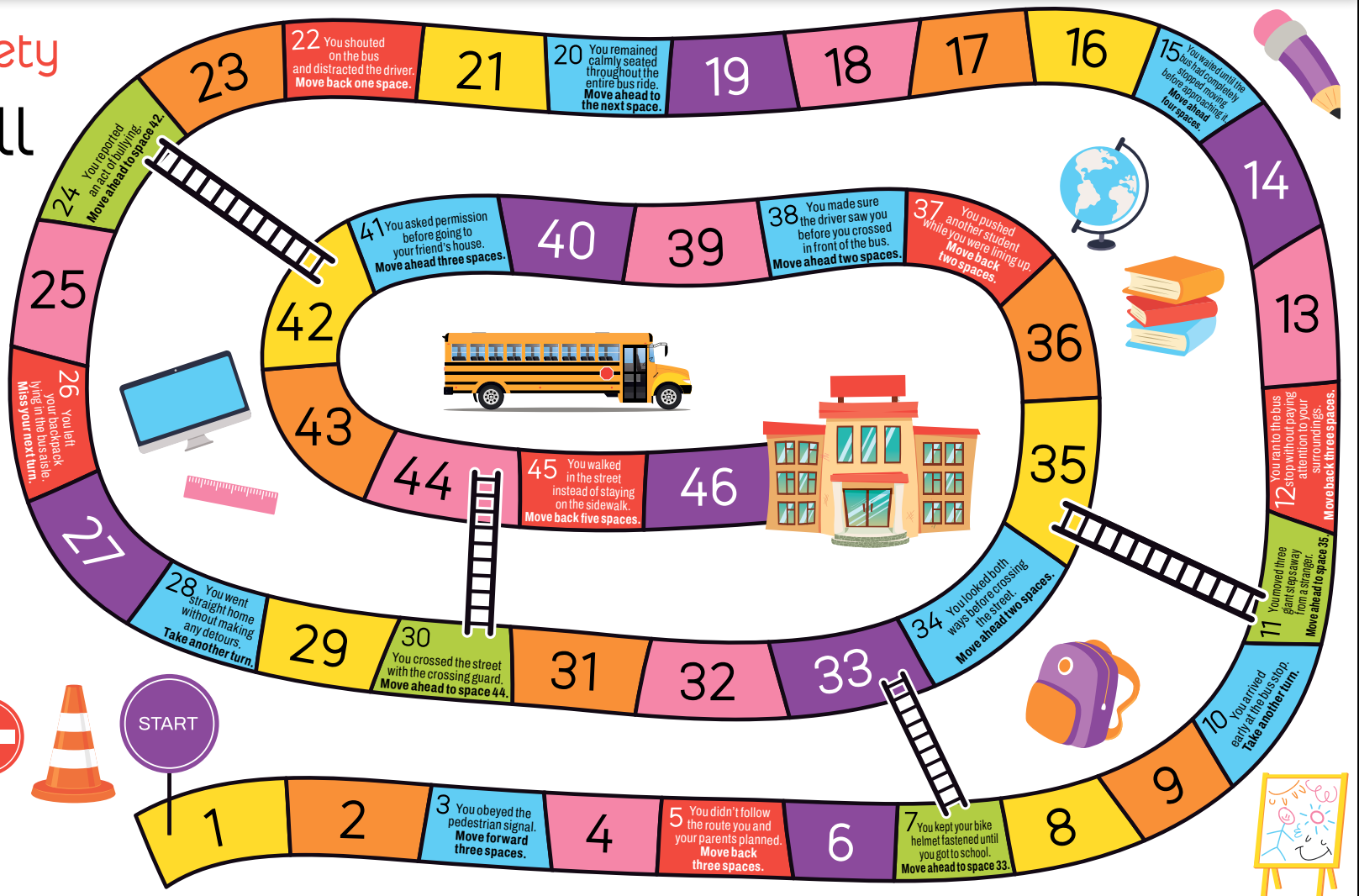


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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## OPEN HEART

**Q** Although I am not usually an indecisive person, I am having a difficult time making a financial decision and would like your thoughts on the matter.

I have belonged to a church for 25 years. I have supported it with increasingly larger amounts as my circumstances improved, although not with tithes as they would like. Over the years religion has come to make less and less sense to me, but I still believe "as you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto me."

Over the last few years, though, I have been disappointed at how little of the church budget actually goes to charitable causes, and I began to feel as if my money could be better spent going to secular organizations like our local food bank. Our church does raise a lot of money for charity, but that is in addition to our monthly pledges.

Since I attend the church, I thought it only fair that I contribute my monthly pledge to keep the church going, no matter what the state of my beliefs. This year I did not make a pledge of financial support, but I intended to keep giving the same amount I had been giving.

However, recently we received a newsletter from our church stating there has been such a good response to the recent pledge drive they adopted a new budget almost 20 percent higher than the previous one. A week after that, disaster struck overseas. Again I began to feel that my money can be better spent going to aid that country, as well as going to local charities that are dealing with this poor economy with less success than my church is.

But, as I said, I am having a hard time making the decision. Part of me feels guilty for participating without paying, and part of me feels if I still believed in Jesus, I'd be doing his wishes best by giving to the less fortunate. I decided to pay this month's pledge to an organization providing medical aid abroad.

After that, I do not know. I don't expect you to

tell me what to do, but I would like whatever insights you can give me.

Tonya

**A** Tonya, people are born into your church, even as other people die. People move into your area and join the church, even as others move away. Some people simply move on. That's part of the normal life cycle of a church. There is nothing in that to regret.

Aside from advancing what they consider true beliefs, churches are also organizations. Every organization does what it can to perpetuate itself. That is an organization's main goal, whether it is a business, a charity, or a church.

When Jesus drove the money changers from the temple, he said his house is a house of prayer. But, of necessity, there is always an uneasy tension between money and religion. When you donate, it feels like settling a bill. Shaking your pastor's hand, you wonder if he's totaling your monthly contributions in his head.

You may be having a crisis of faith, but in part it's triggered by your church's financial structure and budget. You object to how the money is spent.

Meister Eckhart said whether we know it or not, our nature seeks to "ferret out the track in which God may be found." That is what you are doing. You are trying to come to terms with the ultimate. There is no danger a higher power will misunderstand your motives, for as Eckhart said, "The eye with which I see God is the same eye with which God sees me."

We hear the compassion in your letter. To whomever you give, give in a way that makes you feel good. Once you feel good about giving again, you will give more and with a gladder heart.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: [GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com](mailto:GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com)

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## AVIS PUBLIC - Présentation du budget 2026-2027 de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que, conformément à l'article 278 de la Loi sur l'instruction publique, le budget de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier pour l'année scolaire 2026-2027 sera présenté à la séance ordinaire du Conseil des commissaires le **30 septembre 2026, à 19 h 30** dans la salle 52A du centre administratif situé au 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec). Cette séance sera également diffusée en ligne et pourra être visionnée à distance en cliquant sur le lien suivant : <http://bit.ly/swlsbcouncil>. Les procédures pour soumettre des questions pour cette séance se trouvent sur le site Web de la commission scolaire : [www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/fr/](http://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/fr/).

Fait à Rosemère (Québec)

Le 24 août 2026

M<sup>re</sup> Anna Sollazzo, secrétaire générale

## PUBLIC NOTICE - Presentation of the 2026-2027 Budget of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, in accordance with section 278 of the Education Act, the budget of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board for the 2026-2027 school year will be presented at the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners on **September 30, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.**, which will be held in room 52A of the Administration Centre, located at 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec). This meeting will also be broadcast online and may be viewed remotely by clicking on the following link: <http://bit.ly/swlsbcouncil>. The procedures for submitting questions for this meeting can be found on the school board's website at [www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/en/](http://www.swlauriersb.qc.ca/en/).

Given at Rosemère (Québec)

August 24, 2026

M<sup>re</sup> Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

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# HOROSCOPE

Week of **SEPTEMBER 13 TO 19, 2026**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES**



## ARIES

An invitation sparks your appetite for action. The week picks up your pace, sharpens your instincts and fills your days with stimulating challenges. By taking a step off the beaten path, you'll refresh your spirit of initiative and rekindle your trademark courage.



## TAURUS

You'll assert your convictions with confidence this week. Your strength will impress others and earn you the recognition of those in authority. Don't doubt your worth: you're taking a critical step toward a leadership role.



## GEMINI

You'll crave novelty and feel inspired to develop your own style. Elegant clothing that could redefine your image will catch your eye. This fresh look will align with your professional advancement. Your appearance reflects your confidence.



## CANCER

The moon supports family reconciliations. By expressing your feelings candidly, you'll ease tensions at home. A gentler atmosphere settles in, restoring harmony. You'll notice a restoration of balance and warmth in your home.



## LEO

You'll doublecheck every detail. Vigilant care for your tools and equipment will help you avoid hassles and delays. Such heightened caution will free your thoughts, giving you the presence of mind you value. Serenity and efficiency go hand in hand.



## VIRGO

Your natural clarity is sharpening. You'll organize your spending and set priorities for your budget. This disciplined approach won't feel restrictive; rather, it'll promote inner peace as clarity brings security.



## LIBRA

The week begins with a series of demanding tasks. The universe supports your efforts, and you find the strength to persevere without losing momentum. Your endurance will pay off: recognition and personal satisfaction offer the sweetest rewards.



## SCORPIO

Troubled by restless thoughts at night? Regular exercise will help clear your mind and convert your struggles into constructive energy. Your body will become your ally in restoring a sense of inner peace.



## SAGITTARIUS

Jupiter, your cosmic guide, will shed light on your relationships. You sense it's time to set boundaries with unbalanced friendships. By protecting your energy, you'll regain joy and enthusiasm. No more compromises: it's time to lead with authenticity.



## CAPRICORN

Structure and discipline are making a strong comeback, especially at home. Remain firm and diplomatic when children test your limits. Despite your fatigue, your guidance will leave lasting lessons in balance and respect.



## AQUARIUS

The call of travel is compelling. Whether the trip is physical, intellectual or spiritual, far horizons will broaden your perspective. Every encounter outside your usual circle becomes a source of growth and opportunity.



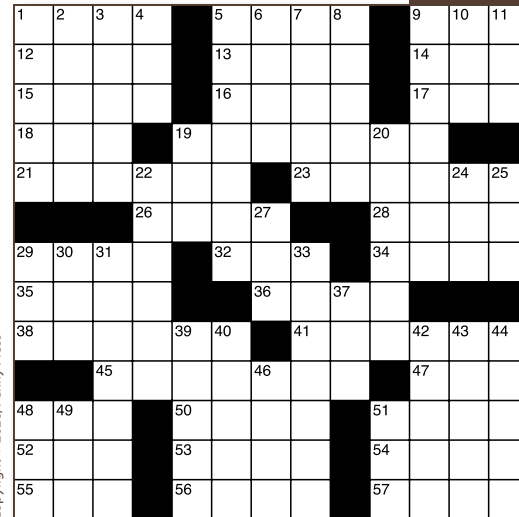
## PISCES

A balanced diet and consistent exercise are finally paying off. Your body responds, and your spirits rise. Through discipline, you regain control of an essential rhythm. Harmony returns, and confidence settles in.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORD

GRID N° 311



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### ACROSS

- Study for a test
- Frosted
- Stylish
- Maui dance
- Within close range
- "Bells \_\_\_\_\_ Ringing"
- Send out
- Superman, e.g.
- Alter a skirt
- Lincoln or Vigoda
- Takes umbrage at
- Oil boat
- Leave the track
- Sinful
- Peer
- Off yonder
- Drag
- Rawhide
- Eroded
- Bathe

- Excluding
- Most festive
- Forewarned
- Dispute
- Gave lunch to
- Like lemon juice
- Silver or glass follower
- Dark bread
- Carry along
- On a cruise
- Certainly!
- Potato
- Secretary's need

- Rubdown
- Metal-bearing rock
- Morning mist
- Race in neutral
- Victor's memento
- Grain of corn
- Not well
- Rent
- Deep
- Admiration
- Crafty person
- Game rooms
- Bet
- Unhappy
- Mosquitoes, e.g.
- TV's "F \_\_\_\_\_"
- Cleanse
- Tender spots
- Pinch
- Ballet skirt
- Saute
- Lens opening
- Money roll

### DOWN

- Play unfairly
- Latin dance
- UFO pilot
- Small carpet
- Acquire
- Average grades
- Having handles
- Monotone

# Sudoku

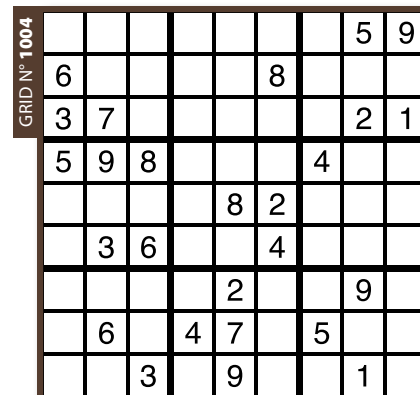
## HOW TO PLAY

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

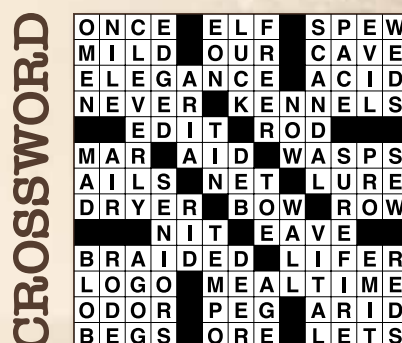
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line.

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



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