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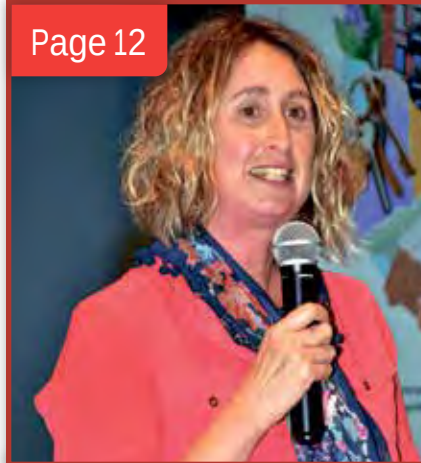
## Parents outraged by Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board proposals



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Anxious parents, students, and interested individuals from the community in great attendance for SWLB's consultation meeting at Laval Junior Academy on October 8.  
(Photo: Renata Isopo, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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## TCLCF launches women's housing and homelessness project

"Older women should be at the forefront of discussions surrounding the housing crisis in Laval," said Marie-Ève Surprenant, coordinator of the Table de concertation de Laval en condition féminine. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, The Laval News)

## DigiWomen's Day's return



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The BNP Paribas team welcomes attendees at its information booth during DigiWomen's Digital Women's Day, highlighting career opportunities in finance and technology. (Photo: Alessandro Commisso, The Laval News)



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# Laval city council carries on – despite Mayor Boyer’s absence

*Acting mayor Khalil hears complaints, congratulates Quebec election winners*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
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Laval city council’s monthly meeting on October 7 opened with a minute of silence in memory of Monique Thibault Poirier, a 77-year-old woman who was allegedly murdered in late September by her 78-year-old spouse at their condo on Jean-Béraud Ave. in Chomedey.

“[This is] a member of our community who left us under overwhelming circumstances,” said city council president Cecilia Macedo. “And behind this loss is a family, loved ones in mourning, friends. So, it is important for them to know that they are not alone and that all of Laval shares their grief.”

With Mayor Stéphane Boyer absent during the meeting and over the next few months as he recovers from surgery for the removal of a brain tumor, executive-committee vice-president Ray Khalil (city councillor for Sainte-Dorothée) stepped in as acting mayor and will be continuing in that capacity until Boyer’s return.

### Acting mayor while Boyer absent

“I would like to reassure the population,” said Khalil. “We have all the bases covered. We have a municipal council that works in the interests of Laval residents at heart, I have no doubt at all about that.”

“We have an administration, the executive-committee and elected officials sitting around the table who work in the interests of Laval residents,” he added. “And we will continue to do the work as always and up to the expectations of the mayor. We wish him a speedy recovery. We hope he will return quickly. I especially wish for him to return

quickly as do we all.”

As the meeting took place two days after the provincial elections, Khalil also took a moment to congratulate the winners, including newly-elected Parti Québécois Premier Paul St-Pierre Plamondon.

“We wish all the courage, strength and well-being for this new government that will be leading Quebec in the coming years,” said Khalil.

### Reaction to provincial elections

“Obviously we will collaborate – we will be a good partner – and in the coming days – as we know the stakes are high, we will be pushing for a regional minister who will work hard for Laval to accompany us as we pursue the interests of Laval residents.”

At the same time, he congratulated the six members of the National Assembly (Chomedey, Fabre, Laval-des-Rapides, Mille-Îles, Sainte-Rose and Vimont-Auteuil) elected in Laval in the October 5 elections.

“It may not always seem so, but doing an election campaign is a lot of stress and a lot of work,” said Khalil. “So, obviously I am taking a moment to congratulate everybody who ran. It’s a momentary sacrifice, but one that is very important for our democracy.”

During a segment of the meeting reserved for city councillors’ remarks and statements, Chomedey councillor Aglaia Revelakis noted that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

### Breast Cancer Awareness Month

“Breast cancers remain the most frequently diagnosed cancers among women in Canada,” she pointed out. “They also represent the second cause of death from cancer among women in

our country.”

In 2026, according to Revelakis, it is estimated that 32,400 women in Canada will receive a diagnosis of breast cancer and that 5,400 will die.

“Behind these numbers there are mothers, girls, sisters, spouses, friends, colleagues,” she said. “These are lives which are overwhelmed, families facing moments of great ordeal and communities that mobilize to offer support.”

“The month of October, the month for raising awareness of breast cancer, reminds us of the importance of talking about this disease, while promoting the screening, but mostly to be present for those who are affected.”

### Electric scooters at Pie-X Park

During the public question period, Christian Veilleux of Chomedey made a number of complaints related to Pie-X Park, which underwent an extensive refurbishment over several years ending last June.

Among the issues he raised were electric scooters being driven in the park as well as in other Laval parks, and soccer balls ending up in nearby residents’ back yards because of inadequate fencing.

After commenting on the electric scooters problem, Marc-Aurèle-Fortin councillor Louise Lortie (who currently leads the Parti Laval opposition party) noted that they would be tabling a motion later during the meeting to have the city undertake a safety and awareness-raising program on the use of electric scooters in Laval.

### Parti Laval wants scooter safety

“It’s our wish that the users be clearly reminded of the rules and that dangerous behaviors be taken care of, notably speeding, not wearing a helmet,

carrying passengers and non-respect for traffic regulations,” she said.

Regarding the scooters, Khalil said the city has more than one campaign already underway to address safety issues involving electric scooters as well as other types of personal mobility vehicles.

“In the past, we have made considerable efforts which are starting to pay off this year,” he said, noting that the Laval Police and officer cadets have been playing a role. As for the stray soccer balls at Pie-X Park, he said the city is currently studying whether to install a special net above the fencing to better protect private yards from intrusion.



**Laval city councillor for Sainte-Dorothée Ray Khalil (who is vice-president of the executive-committee) stepped into the role of acting mayor during the October 6 city council meeting as Mayor Stéphane Boyer is on leave for a few months while recovering from surgery. (Laval News file photo: Martin C. Barry)**



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# OPINION & Editorial



## Ottawa bet against fossil fuels and lost *Its anti-oil and gas obsession sacrificed Canada's economic growth for zero environmental gain*

"There will come a day, far off but inevitable at some point, when traditional energy sources will no longer be needed," said former prime minister Justin Trudeau in 2017.

Politicians across the Western Hemisphere, including Canada's leadership for at least the past decade or more, have bought into the notion that a massive transition away from fossil fuels is underway, and the end of their use is somehow preordained.

In fact, since the Chretien government signed on to the Kyoto Protocol, a significant portion of Canada's political class has insisted that fossil fuels are a relic of the past.

But a new study from the Fraser Institute says that argument never really held water. The main finding in the report is that fossil fuels accounted for 76.3 per cent of Canada's domestic energy consumption in 2024. Compare that to 76.8 per cent in 1995.

In other words, over the course of nearly 20 years, including a decade under the Trudeau government that pursued climate transition policies like a consumer carbon tax and spent hundreds of billions of dollars on so-called clean energy initiatives, the needle barely moved. Canada is just as reliant on fossil fuels today as the country was prior to signing on to the Kyoto Protocol.

Canada's largest energy-consuming sectors remain heavily reliant on fossil fuels, with nearly 75 per cent of industrial energy use and over

half of residential energy use still tied to those traditional energy sources.

And yet for decades, Canada sacrificed economic growth, all for the sake of climate goals.

Not only did Trudeau try to hold down domestic fossil fuel consumption, but he also claimed that there was "no business case" for exporting Canadian natural gas to countries like Germany and Japan in an effort to block the development of the domestic energy sector for export purposes.

Prime Minister Mark Carney seems to recognize that the Trudeau government's climate policies were a failure.

"The climate plan we inherited from the previous government was well-intentioned ... but as times have changed we must change our plan," said Carney earlier this summer.

"We can't afford to restrain the growth of an important part of our energy mix-oil and gas - to meet a short-term goal," Carney added.

The Carney government has also recently signed agreements with other countries to export Canadian natural gas abroad, a massive departure from Trudeau's "no business case" approach.

Of course, there always was a business case for exporting more Canadian oil and natural gas abroad.

India and China, for example, continue to build coal plants at a breakneck pace. If Canada's political class genuinely wants to see global

emissions go down, there is a clear case for producing and exporting more Canadian oil and natural gas, both of which have less of a negative impact on the environment than coal.

There is both an environmental and economic case for building more pipelines and increasing Canada's capacity to produce energy, both to meet the needs of domestic consumers and to meet the needs of countries that would otherwise have to turn to dirtier forms of energy.

Although Carney remains an improvement from Trudeau, his approach to unleashing Canadian energy is far from perfect. He continues to insist on tying any future pipeline development to expensive initiatives like carbon capture and storage (CCS) and talks constantly about the need to "decarbonize" Canada's energy sector.

As other countries, like the United States, unleash their energy sectors, the Carney government seems to still want to have Canada's energy sector operate with one hand tied behind its back. While superior to the Trudeau approach of trying to stymie the growth of the sector completely, the Carney approach to energy could still use some improvement.

For the sake of Canada's economy, the diversification of our trade, and even for getting global emissions down, it's time for the federal government to embrace the full-throated development of Canada's oil and gas sector.

Jay Goldberg

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## Laval hires new Deputy Director General

*Bastien Morin also responsible for  
Citizen and Institutional Relations*

The City of Laval has announced the appointment of Bastien Morin as Deputy Director General, with additional responsibilities for Citizen and Institutional Relations. He will assume his duties on November 30.

Previously Deputy Director General of the City of Saint-Eustache, Morin has over 35 years of experience in the municipal sector, according to the City of Laval, including nearly 20 years as a member of senior management.

"We are proud to welcome to Laval a highly experienced municipal manager," said Benoit Collette, the City of Laval's director-general.

"His appointment is fully aligned with our commitment to providing a consistent and accessible citizen experience, to continuing the modernization of our practices and services and to strengthening the ties between the municipal administration, Laval residents, our partners and elected officials," Collette added.

"His experience, leadership, and people-centered approach will be significant assets to our organization."

### Big slate of responsibilities

In his new role, Bastien Morin will be responsible for the Citizen Experience Department, the Communications and Marketing Department, the Clerk's Office, the Government Affairs Office and the Judges' Office. He will also be responsible for coordinating and overseeing the city's commissions and advisory committees.

It should be noted that the Deputy Director General/Citizen

and Institutional Relations position is new.

According to the city, it was created through the merger of the offices of the Deputy Director General – Public Safety and Community Services and the Associate Director General. Following two retirements, a reorganization resulted in a new distribution of responsibilities within the city's senior management, says the city.

For the past two decades, Bastien Morin served as Deputy Director General for the City of Saint-Eustache, where he led a grouping of nine municipal departments. While there, he participated in the creation of Saint-Eustache Multiservice (SEM), an initiative aimed at simplifying access to Saint-Eustache's municipal services while improving the citizen experience.

### A solid track record

While with Saint-Eustache, he also contributed to the establishment of numerous institutional partnerships with organizations at various levels of government, and to the implementation of several major projects, including the Saint-Eustache Nature Park, the Paul-Sauvé Promenade, the Saint-Eustache multisport complex and the Saint-Eustache aquatic complex.

Morin holds a master's degree in urban analysis and management from the Quebec City-based École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), as well as a bachelor's degree in business administration (with a specialization in finance) and a certificate in municipal services management from the Université du Québec à Montréal.



The City of Laval has announced the appointment of Bastien Morin as Deputy Director General, with additional responsibilities for Citizen and Institutional Relations. (Photo: City of Laval)

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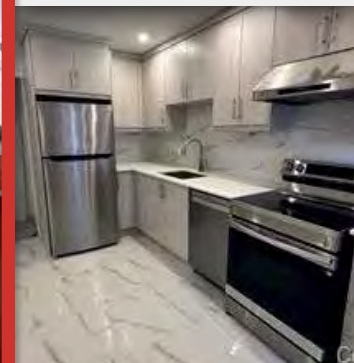
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# Action Laval laments acting mayor Khalil's refusal to back move to greater transparency

*'Very worrying, especially in a city with a history of corruption,' says opposition's De Cotis*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

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The Action Laval opposition at city hall is drawing on the controversial record of a past Laval mayor to claim the current administration suffers from a disquieting and potentially risky lack of transparency.

Party leader Achille Cifelli and David De Cotis, the AL councillor for Saint-Bruno, are unhappy that deputy mayor Ray Khalil voted with council colleagues against an AL proposal to ask the Quebec government to repeal section 114.1.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (CTA).

The section is an exceptional provision that applies only to Laval and limits elected officials' access to certain types of municipal information.

Submitted by De Cotis, the proposal asked the city administration to contact Quebec to end the exception, which dates back to 1996 when Gilles Vaillancourt was mayor.

"The deputy mayor had the opportunity to speak in favour of greater transparency, but he chose to vote against it," said De Cotis.

## 'A history of corruption'

"This is very worrying, especially in a city with a history of corruption like Laval," he added. "Elected officials have the right to access all available information to make the best decisions."

For nearly 30 years, section 114.1.1 has exempted Laval from certain rules established by the Cities and Towns Act (CTA) to ensure the flow of information between the municipal administration and elected officials.

In a recent radio interview, Serge Lamontagne, who was appointed by Quebec to oversee Laval's trusteeship 13 years ago, recalled that the flow of information out of Laval city

hall was essentially controlled by the mayor and his director general.

Action Laval maintains that section 114.1.1 of the CTA maintains this system. The party points out that sharing information is crucial in a democratic system as it allows the opposition to play its role as a check on power. Action Laval's leader maintains that the vote by the deputy mayor and his team demonstrated that the issue of transparency remains critical in Laval and an unresolved issue.

## 'From the Vaillancourt era'

"In 2026, it's difficult to justify a provision inherited from the Vaillancourt era continuing to limit elected officials' access to information," said De Cotis.

"The municipal administration should have nothing to hide. Transparency and information sharing allow the opposition to fully play its role as a counterweight." Action Laval also points out that Article 3 of the Cities and Towns Act allows the Quebec government to repeal the exception by decree.

The party is calling on the newly-elected Parti Québécois government to put an end to the situation and ensure that the Laval administration is subject to the same transparency rules as municipal counterparts across Quebec.

"For Action Laval, transparency is not a privilege of the executive committee; it is an essential condition for the proper functioning of municipal democracy," the party said in a statement.

## Full text of Action Laval's proposal to repeal section 114.1.1 of the Cities and Towns Act by decree

WHEREAS sections 112 to 114.1 of the Cities and Towns Act (CTA) apply to every municipality governed by that Act, even if a provision of its charter that came into force before

December 19, 1968, repeals, replaces, or amends, directly or indirectly, one or more of these sections;

WHEREAS section 114.1.1 of the CTA contains an exception that derogates from these sections and that applies only to the City of Laval;

WHEREAS this exception hinders the transparency of the City of Laval's management by preventing the application of section 114.1;

WHEREAS this exception was introduced into the Cities and Towns Act (CTA) in 1996 solely for the cities of Laval and Hull, when Gilles Vaillancourt was mayor of Laval;

WHEREAS this exception has, without apparent justification, allowed for the centralization of city information in the hands of the mayor and his executive committee throughout the various terms of the municipal council since its enactment in 1996;

WHEREAS this exception can create an anti-democratic barrier to the management and dissemination of information to municipal councillors, and hinder their ability to make free and informed decisions.

WHEREAS the Charter of the City of Laval, adopted by the Municipal Council in 2019, does not include any provisions regarding this exception and does not incorporate the 2017 amendments to sections 319 and 474.2 of the CTA.

WHEREAS section 3 of the Cities and Towns Act (CTA) allows for the repeal of section 114.1.1 of the same Act by simple government decree.

## David De Cotis proposes:

THAT the Executive Committee mandates the Director General to take steps with the Government of Quebec to have section 114.1.1 of the Cities and Towns Act repealed as soon as possible.

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The Canadian Federation of Independent Business wants Ottawa to relax federal business tax regulations so that small and medium-size enterprises have a chance to expand.

#### MARTIN C. BARRY

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Only seven per cent of small businesses in Canada plan to grow or diversify significantly over the next 12 months, according to some of the latest research compiled by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

The Toronto-based SME lobby group says a third of small businesses (31 per cent) indicate they aren't growing because of cost and economic pressures, and of those over half (59 per cent) cite the tax burden as the biggest barrier preventing their business from expanding.

#### 'Time to listen'

"When small business owners are telling you they're stuck in neutral and it's taxes that are the number one thing standing between them and growth, it's time to listen," said Corinne Pohlmann, the CFIB's executive vice-president of advocacy.

"Small firms have been crystal clear that they would rather see government reduce taxes than announce programs and grants that only target a small pool of applicants," she added. "The best way to invest in Canada's small businesses is for government to get out of the way. Cutting the small business tax rate should be government's number one priority in the upcoming fall budget."

# Tax and cost pressures curtailing small business expansion, CFIB claims

*A third of Canada's SMEs say they aren't growing, national lobby group maintains*

#### Pre-budget recommendations

CFIB is making 13 tax recommendations to the federal government for its upcoming annual budget. They include:

- Reducing the small business tax rate from 9 per cent to 6 per cent, increasing the deduction threshold from \$500,000 to at least \$700,000 and indexing it to inflation moving forward;
- Increasing the GST/HST threshold (unchanged since 1991) from \$30,000 to at least \$60,000 and indexing it to inflation moving forward;
- Exempting taxes from gains following the sale of a business (shares and assets) when the proceeds are reinvested in a Canadian CCPC within the next three years;
- Introducing a lower capital gains inclusion rate for all small firms of 33 per cent on the next \$2 million of gains beyond the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption;
- And providing the self-employed with some type of standard business deduction or refundable tax credit of up to \$20,000 similar to the Qualified Business Income (QBI) Deduction recently made permanent in the U.S.

#### Impact of federal policies

The CFIB's latest Fiscal Policy Survey was a special exercise designed to capture small business perspectives on government spending, taxation and fiscal policy. It explored the impact of current policies on business competitiveness and operations, while identifying key challenges and opportunities for improvement and helping to inform the CFIB's advocacy priorities.

According to the CFIB, nearly two-thirds of survey respondents (62 per cent) said their top priority would be for Ottawa to cut the small business tax rate.

While three in five (58 per cent) of small businesses said they'd use tax savings to increase employee wages, nearly half (48 per cent) said they would pay down debt, while 47 per cent said they would expand their business.

"Every dollar Ottawa takes in small business taxes is a dollar that doesn't go toward an employee raise, a new hire or new equipment," said Jasmin Guénette, CFIB's vice-president of

national affairs.

#### Opening Canada to investment

"Entrepreneurs know where the money will do the most good, and time and time again they tell us it goes straight back into their people and their businesses," he continued.

"The upcoming budget is an opportunity for the government to be bold and send a clear message to Main Street that Canada is the best place to start, run and grow a business. That starts with fixing our tax system so that it works for small businesses."

The CFIB says its petition urging the federal government to cut the small business tax rate has nearly 10,000 signatures. According to a controlled-access online CFIB survey conducted between August 6 and September 3, most Canadian small businesses are focused on stability rather than expansion.

#### Most want to stay the course

More than half of those responding to the survey (56 per cent) intended to maintain their current course, including 31 per cent doing so because of cost pressures and economic uncertainty, and 25 per cent because their business is stable and performing as desired. About 30 per cent were planning to grow or diversify.

Other key findings:

- Business owners strongly prefer broad-based competitiveness measures over targeted supports. Four in five (80 per cent) believed that fostering a competitive business environment would be a better way to promote economic growth than providing targeted support to specific sectors or industries.
- Capital gains tax changes would encourage investment and business growth. Overall, 65 per cent said a lower capital gains inclusion rate on gains exceeding the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption (LCGE) would be a moderate or strong incentive to invest, while 59 per cent said the same about increasing the LCGE to \$2 million and keeping it indexed to inflation.

The survey results were based on responses from 1,694 CFIB members who are owners of Canadian independent businesses from all sectors and regions of the country.

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# Parents outraged by Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board proposals

*The plan for changes in school attendance zones and building use in Laval would have also had significant impact on Souvenir Elementary School, Crestview, Phoenix Alternative High School and CDC Vimont adult ed-center*

**RENATA ISOPO**  
info@newsfirst.ca

Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB) has postponed its proposed closure of Our Lady



Council of Commissioners demonstrating on power point the financial impacts of Our Lady of Peace and Crestview (General Education) merged with Souvenir Elementary School. (Photo: Renata Isopo, Newsfirst Multimedia)

of Peace Elementary School, following two public consultations at Laval Junior Academy. The decision was confirmed at the October 13, 2026 special meeting of the Council of Commissioners, giving the Board additional time to consider community concerns and the educational, financial and operational implications of its restructuring plans.

"No school closures or changes to school attendance zones arising from the current consultation process will be considered for implementation in the 2027-2028 school year" reads the motion in the minutes of the special meeting, copy forwarded to TLN by the Board.

The restructuring proposals also included measures that would have directly impacted the board's adult-ed center - CDC Vimont, and Phoenix Alternative High School.

The controversy, however, extended well beyond declining enrolment and mounting deficits. Approximately 700 people attended the October 6 and 8 public consultations, where parents and community members questioned whether the proposed restructuring was supported by transparent financial evidence, sound educational planning and meaningful public consultation. Central to those concerns was the Board's financial justification for the proposed changes, and whether the projected savings would ultimately outweigh their impact on students and school communities.

The Board's presentations disclosed a \$7.5-million deficit for 2024-2025, projecting an \$8.3-million shortfall for 2025-2026. These figures relate to separate fiscal years and should not automatically be perceived as a single accumulated deficit. TLN requested the SWLSB Communications Department to give a response to the following question, "Can the Board provide a detailed breakdown of the deficit, distinguish audited results from projections, and explain precisely how much each proposed closure would save after all transition and operating costs?" The Communications Department informed TLN that it will receive the response as soon as it's ready.

## Parents concerns

Parents, including Michael Addona, called on the Board to provide a clearer accounting of its financial position, and particularly the actual net savings expected from the proposed restructuring.

Under the plan, Our Lady of Peace would have closed and its students transferred, while Crestview Elementary's general-edu-

cation students would have been relocated to Souvenir Elementary. The Board projected annual savings of approximately \$1.085 million. Families, however, questioned whether those savings justified the potential impact on class sizes, specialized services, transportation and students' sense of belonging.

Addona, a CPA with extensive professional experience in accounting, auditing, commercial banking, finance and operations management, has a daughter attending Our Lady of Peace. He described the proposal as poorly considered, pointing to the school's 98 per cent enrolment and highly engaged community, as well as an approximately 35-minute increase in travel time associated with the proposed transfer to Souvenir.

"This move wasn't well thought out," Addona said. "I asked for the financials and I want to see all the numbers, and I will put in a proposal of my own."

Jennifer Arruda, a Crestview parent, raised concerns about the proposed transfer of her son, who has specialized learning needs.

She said she had previously been told Souvenir could not adequately accommodate him, prompting her to enroll him at Crestview. "Now they want to send him back to Souvenir," she said. "I will be here fighting until my son gets everything he needs!" She also questioned why Crestview's Governing Board had not been consulted about the proposed changes, including the possibility of the school becoming a specialized centre.

Another Our Lady of Peace parent, Melanie Sachs, argued that the Board should reconsider its proposed attendance zones and explore Twin Oaks as an alternative. She warned that closures alone would not address declining enrollment without a broader strategy to strengthen English-language education and make better use of existing facilities. "My main concern is uprooting my son's existing school out of his community," she said, describing Our Lady of Peace as "his little family."

Crestview parent Anwar Khan acknowledged that he was less directly affected than some families and did not oppose the move to Souvenir, given its proximity to his home. Nevertheless, he expressed concern that larger classes could reduce the individual attention available to students. "I believe that the school board is acting in good faith, but it's all based on their finances," he told TLN.

▶ Continued on page 11

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## Reaction to concerns of teachers

Stéphane Ethier, president of the Laurier Teachers' Union (LTU), underscored to the commissioners the need for sustainable, evidence-based decisions when considering administrative restructuring. He cautioned that decisions driven primarily by financial or organizational considerations risk overlooking their consequences for students and educators, including increased disengagement, absenteeism and school dropout.

"Relocating students without guaranteeing the specialized resources, personnel and support services they require could further compromise their educational progress and well-being," Ethier stated, also stressing that restructuring must respect the Teachers' Collective Agreement, ensuring that administrative changes do not come at the expense of teachers' contractual rights or the quality and continuity of educational services.

James Di Sano responded to Ethier that the Teachers' Collective Agreement will be adhered to. Moreover, Di Sano stated that a Steering Committee is being organized to address and review the input received from participants during the public consultations. He indicated that he would inform TLN of the committee's composition and mandate once further details become available.

## Of students who rise from the ashes

Phoenix Alternative presents a particularly sensitive challenge. The Board has considered relocating the school to a dedicated space at Laval Senior Academy in a separate designated wing, still to be determined. Phoenix provides psycho-social support, established staff relationships and a sense of belonging for students who

may struggle in conventional educational settings.

A former administrator, speaking anonymously to TLN, warned that relocating students into a shared school environment could intensify social comparison, teasing and withdrawal, particularly for those already experiencing educational difficulties.

The Board's wider review also involves CDC Vimont Adult Education Centre, whose relocation to the Phoenix building has been presented as a means of addressing lease costs and building deficiencies while generating estimated annual savings of approximately \$400,000. These proposals underline the complexity of balancing facility management with the distinct needs of elementary pupils, students requiring specialized education and adult learners.

The Board has acknowledged significant community concerns and indicated that further consideration will precede its final decisions. However, the Board indicated that the proposed relocation of CDC Vimont and Phoenix Alternative School continue in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Education Act. For now, says the board, "Phoenix Alternative School will continue to operate as a distinct school during the 2027-2028 school year, with its potential relocation to be determined."

Although the postponement provides additional time for more reflection on the school board's part concerning its proposals, the consensus among the parents who spoke at the public consultations and to TLN afterwards, is that the issues remain unresolved as to whether the Board can demonstrate that the eventual restructuring will deliver verifiable financial benefits without compromising educational continuity, specialized support and the stability of the school communities that would be impacted by the proposed changes.



Council of Commissioners preparing for question period at the October 6 Public Assembly. (Photo: Renata Isopo, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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# TCLCF launches women's housing and homelessness project

*Towards a better understanding of aging aging women's needs*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

The Table de concertation de Laval en condition féminine (Laval Women's Issues Roundtable) launched the Women, Housing, Precariousness and Aging project at the Simonne-Monet Chartrand Community Centre

in Chomedey on October 1, bringing together around fifty stakeholders from community and institutional sectors.

The TCLCF is a regional feminist collective advocacy group representing over 30,000 women in Laval through its member groups. For over 35 years, it has been working to improve the quality of life and living conditions for women.

## Aging women's needs

Led by the TCLCF, the Women, Housing, Precariousness and Aging project draws its strength from a partnership uniting four Laval organizations, each with respective expertise in housing, seniors, homelessness and combating violence.

The project aims to come to a better understanding of the realities and needs of aging women in Laval with regards to housing and accommodation in order to identify concrete solutions to increase their residential safety.

As Marie-Ève Surprenant, coordinator of the TCLCF, pointed out during the presentation of the project last week, "Older women should be at the forefront of discussions surrounding the housing crisis in Laval, as they are disproportionately affected, which exacerbates their economic insecurity, their risk of homelessness and their vulnerability to violence."

## Understanding women's homelessness

The launch was accompanied by an immersive community education workshop led by the PARRFAITES collective, a group created by and for women experiencing homelessness. The interactive activity, combined with an element of game-play, provided some first-hand explanations about the especially traumatic impact homelessness can have on aging women.

The conference participants were invited to take part in a type of board-game similar to Snakes and Ladders that illustrated some of the obstacles women facing homelessness must contend with, including constant insecurity and potential violence – not unlike the pitfalls involved in Snakes and Ladders where the snakes outnumber ladders.

According to the organizers, the encounter illustrated and created context for situations that are too often overlooked. As Annie, one of the presenters, testified: "We're all one step away from this happening to us," while adding that they believe it is imperative to take preventative action to ensure women's housing safety.

## Proactive action needed

"Acting proactively would prevent years lost for far too many women and the permanent consequences that generate immense social and human costs," said the TCLCF's Surprenant.

"In this regard, the TCLCF reaffirms the importance of mobilizing to provide housing for all," she continued. "A woman on the street is a woman who has been abandoned."

The project was carried out with the financial participation of the City of Laval and the provincial Secretariat for the Status of Women as part of the 2024-2028 Sectoral Agreement for Development on Equality Between Women and Men in the Laval Region.

## Help available as needed

In Laval, several community resources and organizations offer support, listening services and housing solutions to persons experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity (although their services may not necessarily be specifically for women). They include:

The Centre des femmes de Laval, which bills itself as "a place of belonging, socialization and advocacy to combat isolation." Phone: 450-629-1991. Address: 69, 8th Street, Laval.

Travail de rue de l'Île de Laval (TRÎL): Direct intervention in the field with vulnerable individuals. Phone: 450-662-6444.

There are also these emergency housing resources:

- L'Aviron / Refuge de Laval: Emergency and transitional shelter services for homeless individuals in Laval.
- Relais communautaire de Laval: Day centre, food assistance and social intervention. Telephone: 450-668-8727.
- And there are these contacts for emergencies and referrals:
- 2-1-1: Free hotline service to find community and social resources in Quebec (24/7 or during business hours).
- Social Emergency Police / CISSS de Laval: 450-662-4595.



The launch was accompanied by an immersive community education workshop led by the PARRFAITES collective, a group by and for women experiencing homelessness. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, The Laval News)



## PSYCHOLOGY FOR ALL

**EMMANUEL ALIATAS, MA, PSYCHOLOGIST**  
emmanuelaliatas@gmail.com

## When technology leaves our elders behind

Our society has changed dramatically, and while technology has made many things easier, it has also left many people behind—especially our elderly.

These are the people who helped build this country with their hands, their backs, and their hard work. Yet today, some of them struggle to do something as simple as paying a bill because they are expected to download an app, remember a password, enter a code, and navigate a complicated system.

I find this deeply troubling.

Even more concerning is healthcare. Elderly people may now be expected to use an app or website to book a doctor's appointment at a time in their lives when medical care may be more important than ever. Many must depend on a son, daughter, grandchild, or friend to help them—if someone is available.

I have experienced this frustration myself. I recently had difficulty dealing with my television provider. I was given confusing and, ultimately, incorrect information and was told to download an app and navigate it myself. It left me asking: Am I considered illiterate in today's society because I need help adjusting a channel on my television?

I believe many people feel this way.

The problem is not that people are incapable.

The problem is that technology has become so deeply embedded in everyday life that there are often no simple alternatives for those who struggle with it.

For some elderly people, this creates real anxiety. They may be afraid to book a doctor's appointment, pay a bill online, or even call a hospital because they don't know what to expect. They may successfully pay their Hydro or Videotron bill but still worry about whether they will remember how to do it next month.

This is not simply about technology. It is about dignity, independence, and self-esteem.

We need more compassion. We need community groups, volunteers, and perhaps even a hotline where people can call and simply say, "I don't understand this. Can someone help me?"

If you are a caregiver, family member, or friend of someone struggling with technology, please be patient. Try to put yourself in their shoes. What may seem simple to you may feel overwhelming to them.

Our elders deserve to feel respected and independent. They should never feel forgotten or useless because they cannot keep up with technology.

Technology should serve people—not leave them behind.



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# PQ pitched 7 measures to help Quebecers cope with rising costs



**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
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With affordability dominating the 2026 election campaign, the Parti Québécois (PQ) put forward a series of proposals aimed at easing pressure on household budgets. Party leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon argued that the measures would reduce taxes, lower transportation costs, help first-time homebuyers and provide greater support for young families.

## Scrapping the QST on used goods

Among the PQ's flagship promises was the elimination of the Quebec Sales Tax (QST) on used goods. The proposal would have applied to purchases such as used vehicles, household appliances, bicycles, sporting equipment and clothing.

The party argued that removing the tax would

put money back into consumers' pockets while encouraging the reuse of goods and reducing waste.

## Cutting the QST on gasoline in half

The PQ also promised to reduce by 50 per cent the provincial sales tax applied to gasoline for at least one year. The party said the measure would also eliminate what it described as "double taxation," where the sales tax is calculated on top of another provincial fuel tax.

According to PQ estimates, motorists could have saved roughly seven cents per litre at the pump.

A \$125 rebate for lower-income Quebecers To offset the impact of higher fuel and grocery prices, the party pledged an annual \$125 rebate for Quebecers earning less than \$40,000 a year.

The measure was presented as targeted assistance for those hardest hit by the rising cost of living.

## A universal \$95 transit pass

Public transit was another key element of the PQ platform. The party proposed a province-wide transit pass costing \$95 per month that could be used across Quebec's public transportation networks.

The plan also included discounts for inter-city bus travel. The PQ estimated that up to 2.5 million Quebecers could benefit from the initiative.

## Tax refund on a first newly built home

In an effort to make homeownership more accessible, the PQ promised to refund the Quebec Sales Tax on the purchase or

construction of a first newly built home, up to a maximum of \$45,000.

Bigger tax credit for first-time homebuyers The party also proposed increasing the tax credit for first-time homebuyers from \$1,400 to \$3,000.

The enhanced credit would have applied not only to newly built homes but also to existing properties and condominium purchases.

## Enhanced parental benefits

The PQ further pledged to strengthen Quebec's Parental Insurance Plan (RQAP).

Under the proposal, eligible parents would have received a minimum benefit of \$300 per week, while income replacement rates would have been increased. The party said the changes could translate into thousands of dollars in additional annual support for many families.

# Every vote counts... especially for Party Funding

**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
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When we say that every vote counts, it is true in more ways than one. On the one hand, the electoral system is designed so that the party that elects the most members to the legislature is best positioned to form the government. On the other hand, the percentage of votes received by each political party also determines the amount of annual public funding it will receive.

For the October 5 election, each voter registered on the electoral roll is worth \$1.99, based on the funding rate in effect for 2026. In the most recent election, 6,495,984 Quebecers were registered to vote.

The government then distributes the total funding pool according to the share of valid votes obtained by each political party.

Based on the latest election results, the five leading parties will divide \$12,927,008 in annual public funding as follows:

- Parti Québécois (PQ): \$3,622,148 for

28.02% of the vote

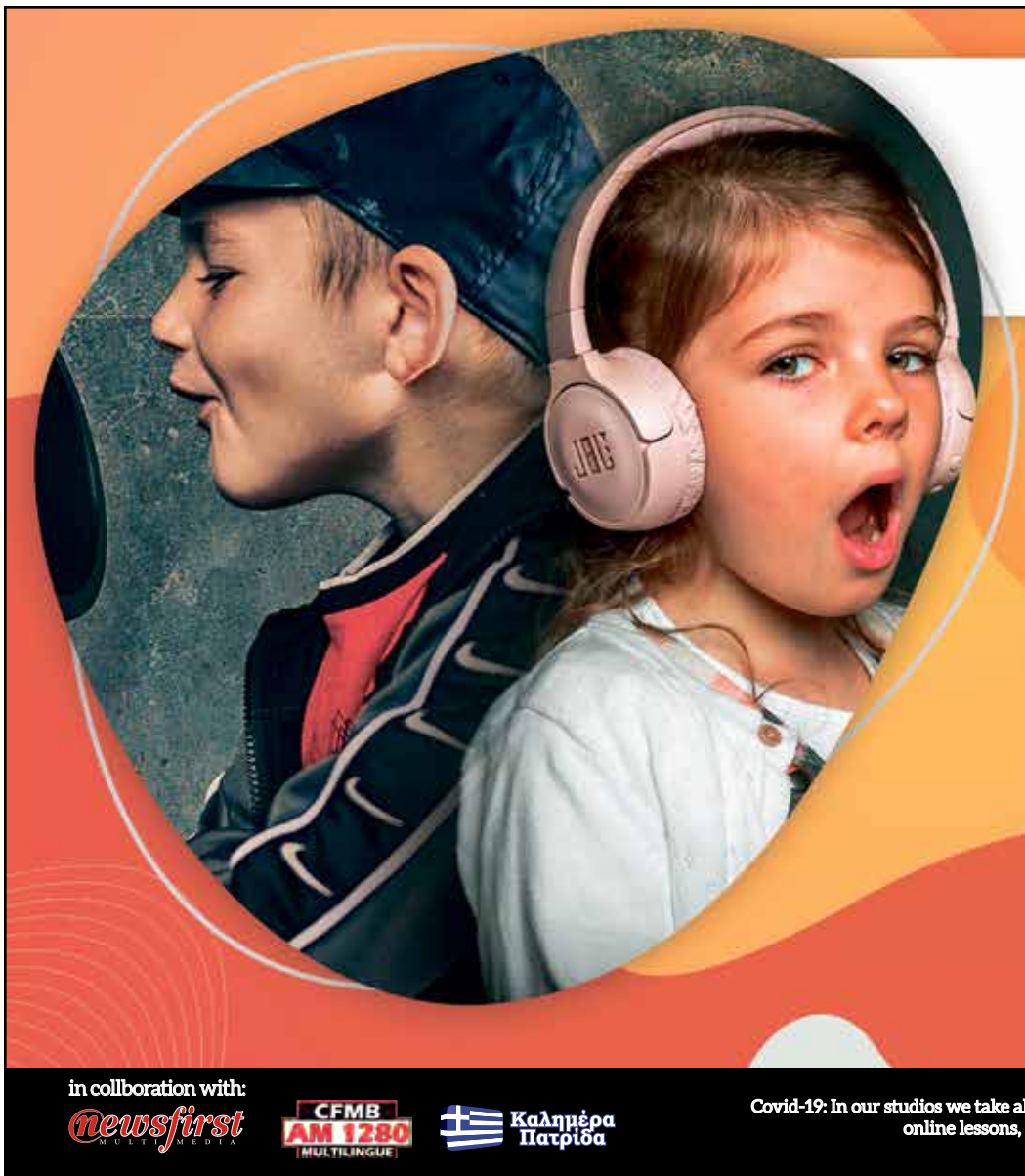
- Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ): \$3,132,214 for 24.23% of the vote
- Conservative Party of Quebec (PCQ): \$2,670,720 for 20.66% of the vote
- Québec Solidaire: \$1,605,534 for 12.42% of the vote
- Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ): \$1,725,756 for 13.35% of the vote

However, the annual allocation is only one of several ways political parties are financed. Other sources of funding include individual

contributions from voters, matching funds provided by the state based on those contributions, party membership fees, and loans.

During a general election campaign, the Chief Electoral Officer also provides an additional allocation to political parties. This supplementary funding is paid ten days after the election is officially called.

The system ensures that public financing reflects both voter participation and electoral support, reinforcing the principle that every ballot cast has an impact beyond election day.





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# Things to do **UPCOMING**

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>THE HOUSE OF THRILLS</b><br><i>Halloween</i><br><br><b>October 25</b><br><b>Maison André-Benjamin-Papineau</b><br>5475 Saint-Martin Blvd. West, H7T 2X7<br>Games, challenges, activities, and enigmatic characters await you for a day inspired by Halloween traditions past and present. Participate in the chocolate investigation of 1842, give free rein to your creativity and immortalize your visit in an atmosphere that is as festive as it is intriguing!<br><a href="http://maisonabp.ca/activites/la-maison-aux-petits-frissons">maisonabp.ca/activites/la-maison-aux-petits-frissons</a> | <b>MIX FILM FESTIVAL</b><br><i>Culture</i><br><br><b>Until October 27</b><br><b>Salle Claude-Potvin</b><br>216 Marc-Aurèle-Fortin Blvd., H7L 1Z5<br>Initiative of ESCALAR, a Laval-based nonprofit organization that supports artistic creation and the representation of Latino-Arab communities. This year, the festival features more than 30 films—feature-length and short fiction films and documentaries—from Quebec, Canada, Algeria, Lebanon, Martinique, Tunisia, France, and elsewhere.<br><a href="http://mixfilmfestival.ca">mixfilmfestival.ca</a> | <b>GARDEN STOPS</b><br><i>Display</i><br><br><b>Until October 28</b><br><b>Carrefour Laval</b><br>3003 Le Carrefour Blvd., H7T 1C7<br>Stroll through an immersive world filled with giant monarch butterflies, lulled by the soothing sounds of a forest walk. Let yourself be transported to a magical setting, where majestic illuminated branches, twinkling antique lanterns, and dancing fireflies create a warm and spellbinding atmosphere.<br><a href="http://shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-carrefour-laval">shops.cadillacfairview.com/property/cf-carrefour-laval</a> | <b>NATURE JOURNAL</b><br><i>Outdoors</i><br><br><b>Until October 29</b><br><b>Bois de l'Orée-des-Bois (CANOPÉE)</b><br>37 <sup>th</sup> Avenue & Jean Bart Street, H7R 4V7<br>Discover the nature journal, an observation method scientists have used for hundreds of years to explore the diversity of the natural world, through words, sketches, and diagrams. No artistic talent is required! Just bring a bottle of water, mosquito repellent, sunscreen, and walking shoes or boots. You can borrow sketchbooks and pencils, but feel free to bring your own!<br><a href="http://www.reseaucanopee.org/fr/journal-nature/">www.reseaucanopee.org/fr/journal-nature/</a> |
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# Laval man to serve jail time for federal tax fraud

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) announced on Monday that Michel-Ange Bonny of Laval pleaded guilty to one count of fraud under the Criminal Code on October 5 at the Laval courthouse.

Bonny was sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment followed by a three-year probation order for the tax fraud offence investigated by the CRA.

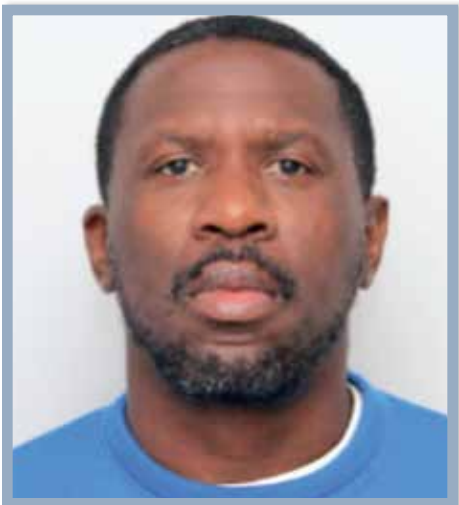
Bonny was also facing other charges arising from a separate investigation conducted by the Laval Police, for which a concurrent two-year prison sentence was imposed on him. As a result, Bonny will serve a total sentence of two years in prison for both offences.

A CRA investigation revealed that Bonny orchestrated an identity-based tax fraud scheme designed to fraudulently obtain tax refunds by using the personal information of other taxpayers to file false income tax returns and benefit returns (T1 returns) on their behalf.

Between March and April 2019, according to the CRA, 24 such returns for the 2018 tax year were filed without the knowledge or consent of the taxpayers involved. The returns included fictitious employment income and ineligible deductions to generate refunds to which the

taxpayers were not entitled.

The CRA confirmed that the filings were not authorized by the taxpayers in question, and that changes had been made to several of their CRA accounts without their knowledge, including mailing addresses and direct deposit information.



# Defective batteries spark fire

The Laval Fire Dept. responded to a call for a fire on the afternoon of Tuesday October 6 near des Mille-Îles Blvd. in Auteuil that appears to have broken out because of defective batteries.

The first of six units dispatched by the LFD arrived on the scene at 2:27 p.m., when flames were clearly visible coming from the

garage of a two-story residence near the edge of the Rivière des Mille-Îles.

At around 2:44 p.m., the firefighters declared the blaze to finally be under control, although it caused damage estimated at around \$20,000 to the building's structure and \$5,000 for its furnishings and other contents.

# More recent fires in Laval

OCTOBER 5 | 4:44 PM // Building fire on Boulevard Sainte-Rose in the Sainte-Rose sector. Abandoned residential building. Flames visible. Code 10-07, intervention required.



Sainte-Rose Boulevard fire.

OCTOBER 10 | 12:46 AM // Fire on Lennox Street in the Chomedey area. Residential building. Flames visible. The code was 10-12, second alarm.



Lennox Street fire.

# Gunshots target men in Laval's Sainte-Rose sector

Two men narrowly escaped serious harm on Wednesday evening last week when they were targeted by multiple gunshots fired at them in Laval's Sainte-Rose neighbourhood.

Operators at Laval's 911 emergency service received several calls around 10:45 p.m. reporting gunshots heard in the area.

Upon arrival, police found two gunshot victims near the intersection of Je-Me-Souviens Blvd. and Lancelot St.

The two men, aged 28 and 34, were transported to hospital for treatment of serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators and forensic identification technicians collected evidence at the scene.

# Two injured in major car crash along A-15 in Laval

A highway maintenance truck securing a road construction site along Autoroute 15 in Laval was involved in a major accident involving two other vehicles on the evening of Saturday October 17.

The incident occurred after nightfall around 9:55 p.m. and required the intervention of rescue units from the Laval Fire Dept.

To get some of the accident victims out of damaged cars, the rescuers had to use specialized hydraulic extrication equipment, referred to by some as the "jaws of life".

Just after 10 p.m. on the southbound lane of the A-15 near Cartier Blvd, the first firefighters found that in addition to the maintenance truck, a Mazda 3 and a Ford F-150 pickup truck were also involved.

One of three people who were aboard the Mazda was trapped inside and had to be extricated.

Two injured people, suffering from neck and back pain as a result of the high-speed collision, were taken to hospital by Urgences-santé for medical evaluation.

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# DigiWomen's Day returns to Laval

ALESSANDRO COMMISSO

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
alessandro@newsfirst.ca

On October 1, DigiWomen hosted the second edition of Digital Women's Day (Journée de la Femme Numérique, or JFN) at TERRO X in Laval, bringing together professionals from across Quebec's technology sector for a full day dedicated to learning, networking, and career development.

DigiWomen is a non-profit organization focused on increasing the participation of women and girls in technology through training programs, mentorship opportunities, networking events, and career support. Its mission is to make the technology sector more inclusive and accessible while helping participants develop digital skills, build confidence, and connect.

Building on the success of its inaugural event last year, the second edition attracted hundreds of attendees, including students, job seekers, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and technology professionals. Throughout the day, participants attended presentations, workshops, and panel discussions covering topics such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and leadership.

The event ran from 11:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., with regular breaks designed to encourage networking between speakers, employers, and attendees. The atmosphere was notably collaborative and welcoming, featuring rooms covered in motivational affirmations, designated selfie stations, and a beverage bar stocked with seasonal drinks and soft drinks. Adding to the unique experience was a foot-tall robot that roamed the venue, delivering chocolates and sweets to guests as they listened to presentations.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., the event transitioned into a networking cocktail reception, allowing guests to continue conversations in a more relaxed setting.

## Building community through technology

In her opening remarks, DigiWomen founder Elsa Tannous emphasized the importance of building strong professional networks and supporting one another throughout the various

stages of a technology career. She thanked attendees, partners, sponsors, and speakers for their support and highlighted the value of creating spaces where people can learn from each other and grow together.

"We're all here to help you. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out," said Tannous. "I hope every single one of you has an amazing day."

Her message resonated with one of the event's central themes: diversity and inclusion in technology. While significant progress has been made in recent years, women remain underrepresented in many areas of the industry, particularly in technical and leadership positions. Events such as Digital Women's Day aim to help bridge that gap by creating opportunities for mentorship, visibility, and professional development.

## The human side of cybersecurity

The day's first keynote speaker was Emeline Manson, founder and president of CY-Clic, a company specializing in cybersecurity awareness and fraud prevention training. Manson is widely recognized for her expertise in the human side of cybersecurity, helping organizations understand how employee behaviour can either strengthen or weaken digital security. In addition to leading CY-Clic, she also teaches cyber investigation at Polytechnique Montréal.

Manson opened her presentation with a simple but powerful question: How many people here have been contacted by a fraudster through a text message, phone call, or email?

To little surprise, nearly every hand in the room went up.

"Whenever these kinds of messages appear on my phone, I immediately feel a sense of anxiety," said Manson. "My first thoughts are: Did I do something wrong? How did they get my number? It's unsettling, and it always leaves me feeling uneasy."

The response immediately underscored the relevance of her presentation. Cyber fraud is no longer a problem affecting only large corporations or government agencies; it has become part of everyday life. Whether through phishing emails, fake text messages, fraudulent phone calls, or social media scams, cybercriminals are constantly finding new ways to target individuals and organizations alike.



An attendee connects with staff at the MentoReady booth during a networking session at Digital Women's Day in Laval. (Photo: Alessandro Commisso, The Laval News)

## Staying one step ahead of cybercriminals

One of the most important discussions of the day focused on helping people protect themselves from cybercrime and online fraud.

"Whenever I get a text from an unknown number, I automatically assume the worst," said Manson. "Even if the sender claims to be a family member, I ask them to tell me something about myself that only they would know. I even do the same thing when my mother sends me links, and she can't stand it."

Manson warned that fraudsters will say almost anything to gain a victim's trust and convince them to hand over personal information or money. She stressed that it is important to remember that legitimate organizations rarely send urgent requests for sensitive information through text messages or unsolicited emails.

She also noted that scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Some are now able to spoof phone numbers, making it appear as though a trusted institution, such as Desjardins Bank, is calling. In reality, the fraudster is masking their true number to deceive potential victims into believing the call is legitimate.

## Strong passwords are your first line of defence

Manson also stressed the importance of strong password security, pointing to reputable password-generation tools that can help users create unique, complex passwords for each of their online accounts. She said people can no longer afford to use the same password across multiple platforms, as a single data breach could potentially expose several accounts at once.

While she supports the use of password managers and password generators, Manson cautioned that people should be selective about which services they trust.

"There's an old saying: 'If it's free, it's because you are the product,'" she said.

However, she noted that many established password-management services employ multiple layers of encryption and security measures designed to prevent even the company itself from seeing users' passwords or knowing exactly where they are being used. As a result, she encouraged people to do their research and choose trusted providers that are transparent about how they protect customer data.

"It's a great strategy to try if you've ever been affected," said Manson.

Judging by the number of hands that went up when she asked about fraudulent texts and suspicious phone calls, her advice resonated with much of the audience.



Participants gather for a cybersecurity presentation led by Emeline Manson, one of the featured speakers at the second edition of Digital Women's Day. (Photo: Alessandro Commisso, The Laval News)

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## HORSE SENSE

**Q** I have a question about ending a friendship. I would like to feel I did what I had to do, that I was not just being too sensitive.

The woman in question was a friend of mine for some eight years. We shared a passionate love of horses; it was our common interest. In addition, during our friendship we both had troublesome relationships and helped each other through the worst times.

Some months ago, however, I had photos taken of my horse and I. When I showed them to my friend, she accused me of being vain and basically said my horse was ugly. I stopped talking to her. I was horribly hurt. After several months, I made contact and slowly we resurrected our friendship.

Well, just this week I bought a new horse, a 1-year-old Arabian. He is not the most expensive or impressive of his breed, but he is undeniably beautiful. When I showed his photos to my friend, she immediately criticized his appearance and asked if he was even purebred. I said, Of course, I have paperwork to prove it. My friend was openly hostile. She ended an

email saying my new horse was ugly. She said she did not want to have to say that, that she was initially being polite for the sake of our friendship, but I "forced" her to say it. Her final word was an angry acknowledgment that she is not allowed to use the word "ugly."

When I read that, it seemed to me she is more interested in being right than in keeping me as a friend and saying a real sorry. This is all the more hurtful considering she made it sound like she was the victim.

Maggie

**A** Maggie, this woman used her spurs on you, and you bucked her off. Bravo! You shouldn't feel bad. She's intentionally cruel. Her remarks were barbed and meant to hurt.

Giving her a second chance allowed her to revictimize you. That's irritating, but you don't need her to acknowledge that you are right. You just need to end this. People like her are always right, especially when they are wrong.

Wayne & Tamara

## SEMIANNUAL REVIEW

**Q** My husband and I have been married 12 years and have two kids. He has been asking for a divorce every six months since we got married. He says I don't treat him right, but I cook, clean, work part-time and we are together at least two times a week.

Four months ago he again asked for a divorce and went to Reno to get his head straight. From phone records I found out he was having an emotional affair with a girl he went to school with, who lives in Reno. Then I learned he's been in contact with another ex--you know, the one who got away, the true love of his life. Later I found a message to a third girl that said, like a fine wine you grow more beautiful each day.

He says I am blowing this all out of proportion. He yells at me and calls me every name in the book when we discuss it. He even spit in my

face. Am I supposed to forget this all happened because now he wants to work this out?

Dani

**A** Dani, grain merchants use long probes to collect samples from different levels of a rail car or truck. They do this to measure the quality of the grain and to check for toxins. Your husband has collected samples of your marriage every six months and found it rotten.

That you haven't gone to a counselor, women's center, or divorce lawyer after his threats shows how much his "sampling" has damaged you. You are too good for him and he knows it, so he beats you down. Contact one or more of the three sources we mentioned to escape this rotting relationship.

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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# A community that cares

*Winter coats bring warmth to Laval families*



Pictured from left to right: Pierre côté, Chevaliers Colomb Ste Dorothee; Vera Madic; Christian Chartier, Directeur Ecole des érables; and Richard Boily, association des enfants handicapés.

**NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA**  
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For a child facing a Laval winter, a warm coat is more than clothing. It is comfort on a freezing morning, protection against the cold, and a reminder that someone in the community cares. This year in Sainte-Dorothée, local generosity is helping make sure that warmth reaches families who need it most.

The Knights of Columbus of Sainte-Dorothée, with the involvement of Pierre Côté, organized a winter coat distribution to support local children and families in need.

The initiative is benefiting families connected with Karaté Autiste, led by André Langevin and represented by Medi; the Association d'aide aux enfants handicapés, represented by Richard Boily; and École des Érables, represented by principal Christian Chartier

on behalf of the school's students.

And the generosity continues. The remaining coats are being donated to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Laval-Ouest through Guy Dupont, extending a helping hand to even more families in the community.

For those receiving them, these are more than winter coats. They are a gesture of kindness and a reassuring reminder that, during difficult times, their community has not forgotten them.

That is the spirit behind this Sainte-Dorothée initiative: neighbours helping neighbours, local organizations working together, and people quietly stepping forward to make life a little easier for others.

As another Laval winter approaches, that generosity carries a message as warm as the coats themselves: no family should feel alone when a community is willing to care.



# HOROSCOPE

Week of **OCTOBER 25 TO 31, 2026**

The luckiest signs this week:  
**CANCER, LEO AND VIRGO**



## ARIES

You're brimming with positive energy. An emergency at work requires an immediate response to limit the damage. A promotion is on the horizon. Despite the stress and adjustments, it will boost your personal and professional satisfaction.



## TAURUS

The end of long-standing obligations, postponed for weeks, is finally in sight. Once you clear this hurdle, take time to rest before beginning new challenges. This essential pause will preserve your health.



## GEMINI

The wait for medical results, whether for yourself or a loved one, will cause anxiety. A positive update will ease your concerns. Such clarity will allow you to look ahead with greater calm and confidence.



## CANCER

Handle minor tensions in your family or at work with composure. A promotion may require a revamp of your schedule. Attractive compensation and appealing responsibilities will make it easier for you to make a quick and positive decision.



## LEO

You're already thinking about the end-of-year holidays. Whether you travel solo or go with family, friends or that special someone, be sure to book early to avoid a last-minute rush. Your forethought will make planning easier and more pleasant.



## VIRGO

An international assignment or training opportunity awaits you at work. Prepare for potentially challenging exchanges with colleagues who aren't fully fluent in your language. Your adaptability is your greatest asset.



## LIBRA

Your relationship deserves special attention. Open a frank dialogue to rekindle the spark and avert misunderstandings. These thoughtful adjustments will restore harmony and tenderness and strengthen your daily connection.



## SCORPIO

Every negotiation requires effort and compromise. The significant changes you're initiating, whether in your diet, your daily schedule or your environment, will improve your health in the long term. These choices will positively change your daily life and vitality.



## SAGITTARIUS

A major professional success is on the horizon. A promotion, a new position or public recognition awaits you. At the same time, encouraging health news rewards your perseverance after a difficult period. You'll fully appreciate this double victory.



## CAPRICORN

The idea of purchasing a home that better accommodates your family is taking shape. This project prompts you to reorganize your life for more efficiency, helping you rediscover a sense of well-being. You'll see increased harmony at home.



## AQUARIUS

Recharge your electronic devices every night to avoid communication outages. Be prepared for requests to act as the family's shuttle service. These small gestures will help routines run smoothly and keep moods serene.



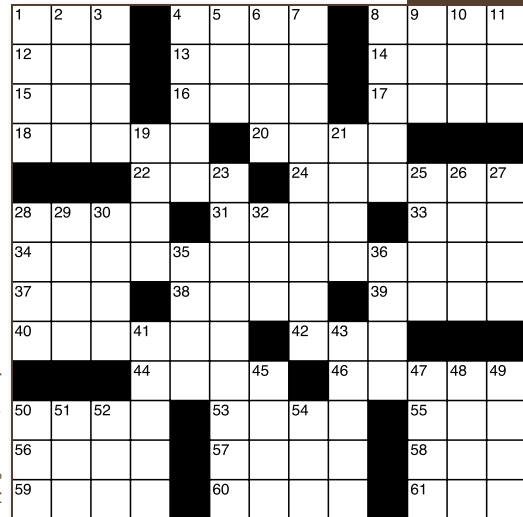
## PISCES

Your honesty is forthright this week. You'll express what others are thinking. You won't hesitate to point out your partner's unnecessary impulse purchases. This frank approach will help preserve harmony in your relationship.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORD

GRID N° 314



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### ACROSS

- Health facility
- Catholic service
- Snout
- Pull behind
- Poker beginning
- Acorn bearers
- Monkey's relative
- Matinee hero
- Pupil's site
- Varnish ingredient
- Some domesticated animals
- Dawn drops
- Swiss export
- Make dirty
- Pinch
- Through
- Amusement
- Perfect serve
- Division word
- Inquires
- House of worship
- Young louse

### DOWN

- Night sight
- John XXIII, e.g.
- Amazes
- Down East
- Also
- Cease
- Choice
- Roar
- Rower's need

- Take to the slopes
- Curvy turn
- Unused
- Word of comparison
- Saw
- Dusks
- Basin
- Noshes
- Couch
- Fairy-tale start
- Bit of info
- Cereal type
- Provoke
- School subject
- Playful trick
- Fit to be tied
- Checked vehicle
- Scamps
- Nifty
- Solely
- Unearth
- Exist
- Stocking tip
- Rummy game

# Sudoku

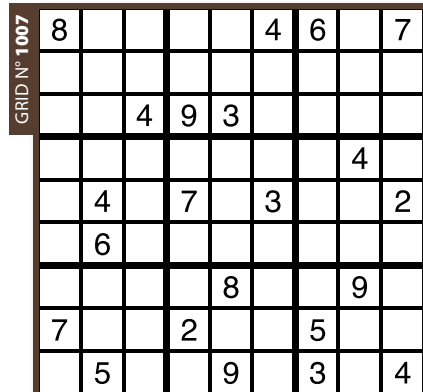
## HOW TO PLAY

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.

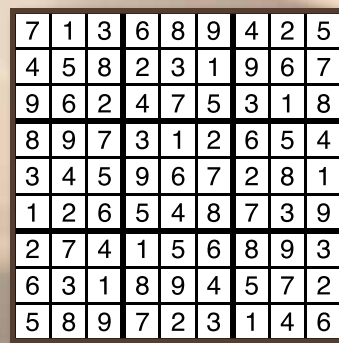


## LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

### CROSSWORD



### Sudoku



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