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Chomedey landlord wins \$29,500 judgment but may never collect the damages settlement



MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Laval News
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While a Chomedey landlord recently won an almost \$30,000 judgement against a tenant who was held liable for extensive damages to an apartment, the owners say they still have numerous hurdles to jump before they can even hope to collect a settlement from their former tenant.

“Honestly, this could be the worst tenant of all time,” said Bill Choudalos, whose father, Stelios, has owned and lived in a Châtelaine Ave. duplex in Chomedey for half a century.

Three years ago, the father, who has 2 1/2 room basement apartment, decided to rent it out to a middle-aged Chomedey man who claimed he was a former international DJ who had begun working for an Australian security company.

Signs things weren't right

“About ten, fifteen years ago, he would travel even to Europe to DJ,” said Bill, surmising that the former tenant’s heyday was apparently over by the time he arrived on his father’s doorstep seeking to rent the apartment.

Being essentially kind in nature, the father decided to rent out the unit at a fairly low cost – around \$500 a month, as his son recalled.

However, they sensed something was going wrong when one of the first things the new tenant did after moving in was to tape large black cloth coverings over the basement apartment’s windows. As a result, no one on the outside could see the gradually-deteriorating state of things inside.

Living in a garbage heap

“His curtains weren’t opened for three years,” said Bill. Much worse, it would appear he almost never bothered to clean up and put out his garbage, which accumulated in large piles inside.

“He had his mattress over here in the corner, and he had garbage beside the mattress, but it would stay there for weeks and weeks. When I first came in here after he left, the smell was unbelievable. I couldn’t stay in more than five minutes. How does a human being live under those conditions?”

Then came the rats. The accumulation of garbage became so bad over the three-year period, that the four-legged vermin were living openly in the apartment, claims Bill, who furnished The Laval News with photos showing a dead rat on the floor of the vacated apartment.

Cleanup took two months

“There was a stove and there were rats living in the drawer of the stove and there were thousands of rat droppings in there,” he said. “This is all because he [the tenant] would hoard garbage. It took us two months after he left just to get rid of the rats. After he left, we removed 35 garbage bags.”

The infestation grew worse when the rats began spreading from the basement through the walls upward into the rest of the house. The family could hear them scratching behind the walls as the rats moved around at night. According to Bill, the tenant always refused during his three years of occupancy to allow the apartment to be inspected.

“Things came to a head one summer afternoon when we saw a rat on the windowsill,” he said. “We were walking through our backyard and it was daylight. There we could see between the curtain and the window was a rat on the windowsill. We couldn’t believe it. He was in the apartment and there was a rat in there with him.”

Would be up all night

Bill said the tenant would typically be up all night, smoking cigarettes and marijuana – even



The apartment after, seen here with Bill Choudalos who is holding the judgment issued by Quebec’s Régie du Logement.

though Bill claims the tenant had agreed to smoke only outdoors – while burning candles that were later found burned down to their stubs, creating a potential fire hazard.

Matters finally came to head when Bill and his father decided to call the Laval Fire Department, which conducted an inspection, following which an inspector issued an order to the tenant to remove the garbage from the apartment within a two-week deadline.

“That’s how we were finally able to get rid of him,” said Bill. “He knew it was pretty much impossible to clean up the mess that he created. So, last Oct. 8, he finally moved out. My 80-year-old dad who’s been here for 50 years and never missed a day of work in his life, did the cleanup himself.

Appliances ruined

“The fridge and stove were ruined. The stove was covered in rat droppings. It took two

months to finally get rid of the rats. The tenant is currently living in an apartment complex on Chomedey Blvd. in Laval. He promised my dad he would return to pay the last month’s rent, which he didn’t, he never came back.”

Despite the Quebec Régie du Logement tribunal judgement in his father’s favour, Bill notes that his family will have to hire a bailiff at their own expense and take other legal avenues if they hope to collect the \$29,500 amount.

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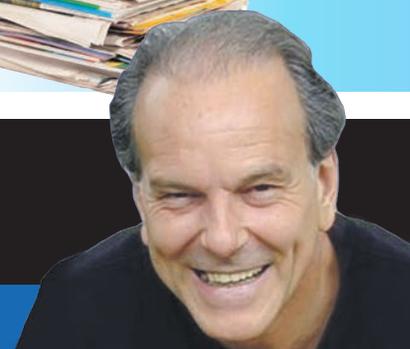
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OPINION & Editorial



THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo

Our Debates Don't Serve Canadians

I watched the French debate on TVA last week, the first of two French debates. Why is that? French Canadians and French Quebecers form less than 25% of the population, yet there are twice as many French debates as there are English. Another French debate today, Wednesday the 8th, and the other, finally in English, on Thursday. If we are to respect Canadian demographics, shouldn't there be three English debates to one French debate? Not sure of the reason but I can guess. Quebec is vitally important to any party that wants to win a majority. Justin Trudeau failed to take home all the chips in Quebec in 2019, because a newcomer, with an at home forum to display him, the Bloc's Yves-Francois Blanchet, 'un gas de Chambly-Beloeil', stole the show, in French. And stole Trudeau's majority.

If Canada purports to be officially bilingual, why don't we have a bilingual debate? Interpreters of course required, but it's feasible. I agree it could get messy when one leader talks over another as we often see and hear, but if that's how they are going to conduct themselves, that's the way it'll be seen, and heard.

Do all these debates really serve all Canadians. Certainly not. This first French debate highlighted the pandemic, social issues and 'le Canada de Demain'. We could have a debate on each of these topics. Discussion on the handling of the pandemic, and the billions of unaccounted expenditures could easily take up an hour or two. A debate on the pros and cons of free and lavish spending in the weeks leading up to the election call, another two hours. We could have a debate on Afghanistan. Despite its initial noble purpose, and some last-minute heroic efforts, it was a catastrophic miscalculation, and considered a 20-year failure by the Americans and all those who helped out. That would definitely include Canada. We deployed 40 thousand members of the Canadian Armed Forces, lost 168 men and women, and sustained two thousand injuries.

The west does not give a damn about Quebec, but it should when it comes to Bill 96. It not only affects western Canada but all Canadians. As the respected former Quebec minister Clifford Lincoln puts it, the bill is "the substitution of the National Assembly for the courts of law, as the arbiter of language provisions in the bill." This could easily apply to other provinces, not necessarily affecting language, but our sacred Canadian rights. That's why all Canadians should pay attention.

How about a debate just on our Public Health system? But the moderator(s) has to probe when there is mention of those billions of dollars given to the provinces. This should not be an exercise in accounting. It's about what is relative and meaningful to you and me the viewers. We want to know how this money would be used, and how it would benefit you and me when God forbid, we are sent to emergency, or admitted for surgery. Would it reduce wait time in the ER? Would it eliminate having to seek medical assistance in the US, Mexico, or Europe? Would it add more nurses? How would it raise the poor standards, and medical professionalism in long term care homes?

Debates can be extremely useful as a means of informing the electorate. Instead, this quick two-hour debate we are exposed to, whether French or English, is centered on who won and who lost. Who cares? The vote results will determine that. It should not be about whether the debate results advance a leader in the polls because he/she articulated their position well, but rather what did I learn as a tax paying viewer about their respective program content, its viability, and credibility. It's about leadership qualities, and whether the head of that party will deliver for me as a Prime Minister. That's what it's all about, or should be.

The process of mail in votes will start soon. It will be a new experience for many of the over 27 million Canadians registered. I'm still in the dark about why we are holding an election at this time when the majority of us do not want to go to the polls during the 4th wave of a Covid 19 pandemic. No one has adequately answered that question, especially the person who called this election.

The nearly 80% of us who have been vaccinated wonder why, and frankly want these impudent hooligans, anti vaxxers, screaming vitriol in front of hospitals, to stop. STOP. It's the height of disrespect for the health care workers, crying out their frustration and fatigue. And it's rude and disrespectful to the patients in those hospitals trying to recover from surgery, and Covid-19.

That's What I'm Thinking

Robert Vairo

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Laval restaurants/bars join growing 'safe bar' network

Carlo's & Pepe's is first to sign up for 'Commande un Angelot'



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In response to rising apprehensions among some women about aggressive sexual advances sometimes leading to assault and rape, the City of Laval has decided to throw its support behind a growing network of "safe" bars where staff are trained to intervene and help clients when they feel threatened or are in uncomfortable situations.



In all, 15 bars have decided to take part in the initiative, which is also supported by Collège Montmorency and the Centre for the Prevention and Intervention for Victims of Sexual Aggression (CPIVAS), under the leadership of Collectif social, a student-centered collective.

Making a night out safe

Carlo's & Pepe's at the Centropolis is the first Laval restaurant and bar to get with the program. The announcement was made at the restaurant last week, with Laval's Deputy Mayor Stéphane Boyer and executive-committee co-member Sandra Desmeules on hand for an official launch.

"We are proud to be the first bar in Laval to become accredited for Commande un Angelot," said Harold Brunet-Stringer, co-owner of the Laval Carlo's & Pepe's. "For us, it is important that our clientele should feel they are safe with trained staff to come to their assistance in case it's needed."

Accreditation and training

Decals will be clearly posted outside and inside the bars that are participating. At each, staff members will have received training in how to spot behaviour among the clientele that could lead to violent situations. The staff will also be able to offer help to clients if they feel they need assistance.

The program (known as 'Commande un Angelot' in French) is based on a campaign launched in England five years ago called 'Ask for Angela,' as well as the similar 'Angel Shots' program launched in the U.S.

'Order an Angelot'

When a bar takes part in the program, a client who believes they are in danger can ask for Angela, a fictitious name. The staff are instructed to help the client get home discreetly and safely by escorting them to a different room, or calling a taxi, or by asking the other party member to leave.

The way the program works in Quebec, clients who feel threatened are instructed to "Order an Angelot," and the staff follow the protocols they learned in their training. In all, 30 bars across Quebec now participate in Commande un Angelot, and 1,500 staff in drinking establishments have been trained. The bars in Laval are expected to become fully accredited over the coming year.

Creating a safe space

Laval's Deputy Mayor Stéphane Boyer said he decided to join his city council colleagues, Councillor Sandra Desmeules who is responsible for public security on the executive-committee, and Councillor Sandra El-Helou, who oversees women's equality issues, to support the effort to make a night of bar-hopping safe for all concerned.

"Acts which are sexually violent impact mostly women, but also everyone else who goes to bars," said Boyer. "They are unacceptable, and the training provided to the staff in bars will be a tool for prevention to counter something that is intolerable."

One out of three women

According to Collectif social executive-director Andréanne St-Gelais, in Quebec one woman out of three will be a victim of a sexual assault during her lifetime, and bars and similar entertainment establishments where lively socializing takes place are where such incidents are most likely to take place.

"The Commande un Angelot protocol is a way of increasing the safety of the clientele," she said. "We acknowledge the participating establishments who recognize this reality and wish to do their bit to be part of the solution."

"Prevention of sexual forms of violence is a priority for Collège Montmorency and we are proud to support this important project, which will allow our young people to frequent these places while feeling secure," said the college's executive-director Olivier Simard.



From the left, City of Laval Deputy Mayor Stéphane Boyer, Andréanne St-Gelais of the Collectif social, Carlo's and Pepe's of Laval co-owner Harold Brunet-Stringer and city executive-committee member responsible for public safety Sandra Desmeules are seen here as the Commande un Angelot logo is installed at the front door of Carlo's and Pepe's last week. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



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Executive-committee approves planting of more trees



The members of the City of Laval's executive-committee were busy making decisions on a range of issues during public meetings held on Aug. 11 and Aug. 25.

As part of a community planting program, the City of Laval has for several years been offering free trees to groups in Laval who ask.

In order to accelerate the planting of these trees and to be proactive towards these groups, the executive-committee approved a mandate to CANOPÉE, an organization that will be planting 2,000 trees in Laval this year and next year.

The tree plantings will be taking place on lands belonging to municipal and public groups. The trees will be paid for by the city.

Renovations to historic house

The Maison André-Benjamin-Papineau, located at 5475 Saint-Martin Blvd. West in western Chomedey, is classified as a heritage building by the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications, as is an annex building next to it.

Both buildings are currently considered to be structurally unstable due to flooding in the basement, mould and other damage.



In order to restore the historic buildings, the executive-committee members adopted By-law L-12572, decreeing a loan of \$4,705,000.

The sum will allow phase one of a work program to begin, which will consist of renovating, restoring and enlarging the main house, while also renovating a café located in the adjacent building.

The city says the work will make the buildings universally accessible to disabled persons, while preserving an important piece of heritage architecture in Laval.

Libraries will be open for longer hours

Beginning Sept. 13, branches of the City of Laval's library network will become accessible seven days a week, meaning there will be 55 additional hours per week to visit the library.

As well, says the city, 65 free activities (in-person and online) will be offered as part of the library system's fall programming.

"With these additional opening hours, we are keeping our pledge with regards to accessibility to activity spaces in our libraries," said Stéphane Boyer, deputy mayor and vice-president of the executive-committee.

"The Covid confinement measures were a splendid occasion to maximize the digitalization that we carried out in our libraries



and that is becoming an essential tool in this context," he added. "With the new website, the YouTube network, the abolition of late fees, and now the addition of more hours, we are pursuing these efforts."

Boyer said the administration also plans to expand the opening hours of The Studio, and the media lab for digital creation at the Multicultural library this autumn.

Beginning Sept. 25, the public libraries will be offering a range of programs and activities free of charge. Among them:

- Seven conferences and workshops given by Agence Science-Pressé;

- A dozen youth activities, including Story Time;

- Special activities during Public Libraries Week, from Oct. 16 - 23;

- The 3rd annual Festival NUM (registration starting Oct. 15); Registrations are being accepted beginning Sept. 15 at noon.

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ELECTIONS 2021

Who's taking sides? 'Conservatives are dangerous,' Canadian Labour Congress says *'We're not endorsing anyone specifically, right?' says national labour lobby's president*



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Although the Canadian Labour Congress doesn't formally endorse any particular political party during elections, the national trade union lobby group makes no secret of its colossal disdain for Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole, and what the CLC claims is his "record of letting down workers."

A focus on issues

"We're not endorsing anyone specifically, right?" CLC president Bea Bruske said during a phone interview on Labour Day weekend with Newsfirst Multimedia.

"Because, of course, we represent many different unions that have many different thoughts on these particular issues. And so, what we really want to always focus on is the issues. And really the issues are that we have significant problems in our country that affect workers, that affect our communities."

Pandemic's election impact

"We know from the last 18 months that the pandemic has really laid bare some of those existing inequalities that labour has been talking about for a long time. And so, we have things we want the parties to address and we want

workers who are voting to think about when they mark their ballots."

Still, the CLC's head acknowledged that the Ottawa-based lobby group has historically maintained close links to the left-wing NDP, much more than any other party.

Building connections

But at the same time, she downplayed the CLC's relationship to the Liberals, in spite of the Trudeau government's appointment this past summer of the CLC's immediate past president to the Senate.

"No matter what party is governing, we need to have a relationship with that party, right?" said Bruske. "And so, what that means is that when they make decisions that we believe are the best course of action for workers, we would support that."

"When their decisions are not in the best direction for workers, we're going to speak to that, as well. And so, you know, we need to be able to have that open door kind of connection with anyone who is forming the government."

Conservatives 'dangerous'

That said, there's no doubt how the CLC feels about the Conservatives and their leader. "Our message to hard-working people is simple: Conservatives are dangerous for working Canadians – don't risk our future on Erin O'Toole," Bruske said, holding nothing back in

a media release earlier this month.

"We have seen his rhetoric around supporting working people," added Bruske, who became the CLC's new president in June, succeeding Hassan Yussuff who was appointed to the Senate that same month by the Trudeau government.

"But when you look at his record, you start seeing the real O'Toole. While he clearly will now say anything for votes, the fact is Erin O'Toole is a former Bay St. lawyer for giant corporations. And it shows."

Taking aim at O'Toole

"Sadly, Mr. O'Toole cannot be counted on to stand up for workers. This election, he's proposing policies that fail to protect workers' pensions during commercial bankruptcies and start privatizing EI and public pensions. And during the pandemic, while Alberta premier Jason Kenney made it easier to bust unions and attacked nurses, Erin O'Toole was silent."

Bruske and the CLC contend that O'Toole's anti-worker record includes: Voting against extending emergency pandemic help for workers; saying the government should have given less to working families and more to businesses instead; proposing a law making it easier for corporations to walk away from pension obligations; voting to make it harder for workers to refuse dangerous work; and supporting trade deals that lost Canada thousands of manufacturing jobs.



An historic election

Bruske suggested that after 18 months of working people facing unprecedented health and economic challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, the outcome of election 2021 could be historical. "The pandemic and economic crisis laid bare the inequality in our society," she said.

"Many families are struggling to afford housing and essentials like food and medicine. The stakes are high in this election. Canada's unions are urging Canadians to support candidates who are putting working families at the centre of their recovery plans."



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ELECTIONS 2021

ABACUS DATA polling analysis based on a new large survey of 2,692 adults eligible to vote:
Statistical tie between the Liberals and Conservatives as those thinking the Conservatives will win continues to rise

By Bruce Anderson & David Coletto

We just completed a national survey of 2,692 Canadians eligible to vote in the current federal election (September 1 to 4, 2021). 62% of the interviews were done after the TVA French-language debate on Thursday evening.

Here's what we are seeing in our most recent survey:

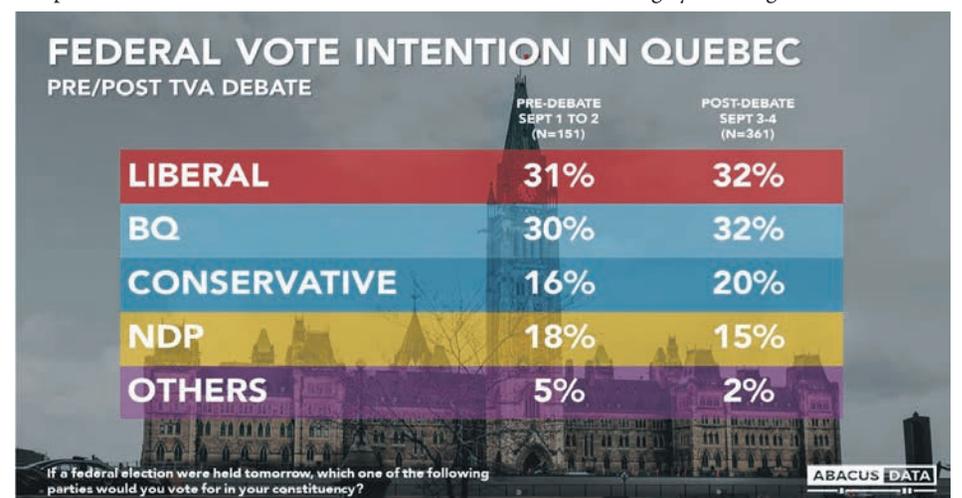
If an election were held now, the Conservatives would win 33% of the vote (+1 from last week), the Liberals 32% (down 1), the NDP 21% (down 1), the Green Party 3% (up 1) and the BQ at 31% in Quebec (down 3)

- In BC, a three-way race with the NDP at 32%, the Liberals at 30%, and the Conservatives at 30% is very tight.
- In Alberta, 50% would vote Conservative compared with 24% for the Liberals, 19% for the NDP, 4% for the People's Party and 1% for the Maverick Party.
- In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the Conservatives lead with 53% followed by the Liberals at 21% and the NDP at 18%
- In Ontario, the Liberals and Conservatives are statistically tied (36% LPC vs. 35% CPC) with the NDP at 21%. Last week we had the Liberals ahead by 7 in Ontario.
- Within Ontario, the Liberals have a 23-point lead in the 416 region of Toronto, the Liberal and Conservatives are tied at 37% in the GTHA (postal codes start with L), the Liberals and Conservatives tied in Eastern Ontario while the Conservatives have a 17-point lead over the NDP in the Southwest.

• In Quebec, we see the BQ and LPC tied at 31% followed by the Conservatives at 18% and the NDP at 16%. When we compare the sample pre- and post-TVA debate, differences are within the margins of error. In our next release, we will have a larger sample of people who watched the debate and can report a clearer picture of how it might have affected attitudes.

• In the Atlantic provinces, the Liberals are ahead by 11 over the Conservatives (42% to 31%) with the NDP at 22%.

Although the Liberals and CPC are statistically tied among all decided respondents, the Conservatives continue to have a 3-point lead among those who are most likely to vote. Among the 69% of respondents who said they would definitely be voting, the Conservatives have 35% compared with 32% for the Liberals and 20% for the NDP. This is largely unchanged from last week.



TODAY VS. 2019: HOW WELL ARE PARTIES HOLDING THEIR VOTE.

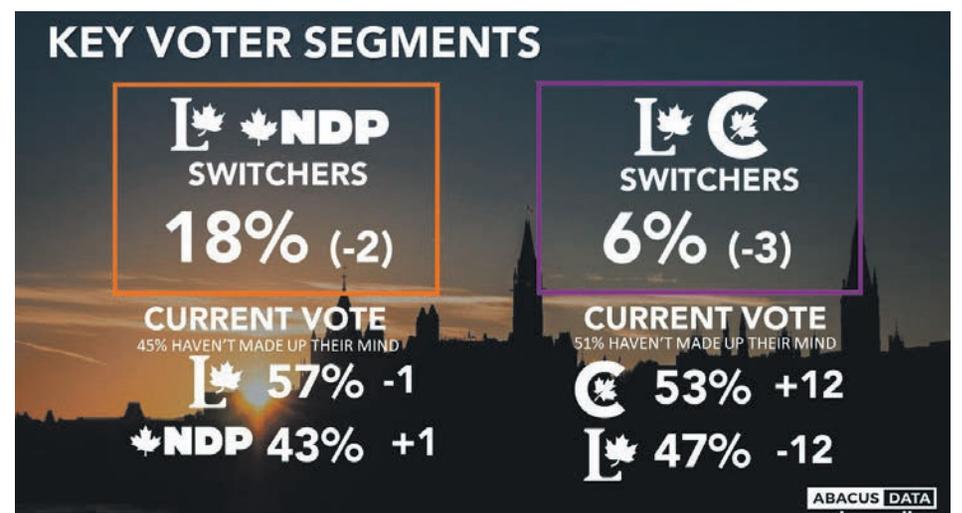
The Conservatives are holding 87% of their 2019 vote, the rest has been scattered with no more than 4% going to any other party.

The Liberals have held 81% of their 2019 vote, losing 10% of that vote to the NDP and 6% to the Conservatives.

The NDP has held 83% of its 2019 vote, losing a bit more 7% to the Liberals than to the Conservatives (6%).

The Green Party has held on to just 48% of its 2019 vote, losing a quarter of its voters to the NDP, 11% to the Liberals and 11% to the Conservatives.

THE SWITCHERS



We continue to track two key groups in the electorate: LPC/NDP switchers (18% of the electorate) and LPC/CPC switchers (6% of the electorate). About half in both groups say they could still change their mind about how they will vote.

The Liberals continue to have a sizeable lead over the NDP among the LPC/NDP switchers with little change. However, among LPC/CPC switchers, we have seen a noticeable shift in favour of the Conservatives. This week, 53% of the LPC/CPC switchers would vote Conservative (up 12 points) while 47% would vote Liberal (down 12 points).

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VOTE CERTAINTY

33% of those with a vote preference say their vote could still change (down 5 points in a week, and 7-points in two weeks. NDP and Green supporters are the most likely to be open to switching. Overall, 25% of Conservative supporters might change compared with 32% of Liberal voters, 25% of BQ supporters, and 46% of NDP voters.

EXPECTED ELECTION OUTCOME

As of today, Monday September 5th, 37% expect the Liberals to win (down 6 since last week), followed by 28% who expect the Conservatives to win (up 5), and 9% who expect the NDP to come out on top.

When asked whether the election will be close or will one party win by a lot, 70% think it will be close while 14% think one party will win by a lot. 16% are not sure.

Those who would prefer the LPC to win but think the Conservatives are going to win makes up 4% of the electorate – doubling from last week. Among this group, 43% would vote NDP, 33% Liberal and 12% Conservative. 9% would vote Green and 3% BQ.

DESIRE FOR CHANGE

The rise in the desire for change we were seeing in previous weeks has halted. Today, 48% definitely want to see a change in government (unchanged from last week) while another 23% say it would be good to have a change, but it is not really that important to them, for a total of 71% who would prefer a change in government. This outlook is almost identical to the feelings we measured in the run up to the 2019 election.

The vote preference by change group is important to understanding the election. Among those who say they want change but it isn't important (23% of the electorate at the moment), the Liberals and NDP are statistically tied (NDP 34% vs. LPC 32%) with the Conservatives in third. As long as the Liberals can win a large share of this group, they can be re-elected.

But if those in this group migrate up to "definitely want change", it's far less likely they will vote Liberal. As perceptions about the competitiveness of the election shift, the split in these groups could also change.

PREFERRED PRIME MINISTER

Today, 36% of voters would prefer Justin Trudeau be PM after the election, 32% would prefer Erin O'Toole, and 25% Jagmeet Singh. This is the exact same split as last week.

In BC, 34% would prefer Singh and 33% Trudeau, followed by O'Toole at 29%. In Ontario, Trudeau is preferred by 37% followed by O'Toole (31%) and Singh (21%). In Quebec, Trudeau is well ahead of O'Toole (42% to 28%) followed by Singh at 21%.

Asked if the choice was only between O'Toole and Trudeau, Trudeau would be the preference of 56% (down 2) and O'Toole 44% (up 2). When asking who they would prefer between Mr. O'Toole and Mr. Singh, the split is almost the same, 55% would prefer Mr. Singh and 45% would prefer Mr. O'Toole.

UPSHOT

According to Bruce Anderson: This results would probably produce a very similar House of Commons to the one which was just dissolved. But it is very unlikely that there will be no movement in the next 16 days as more debates and more advertising kick in. There are two groups to watch in my view.

- The 23% who want change but who don't feel that strongly about it – if a third of them vote NDP as they currently intend to do, then the Liberals could be defeated by the Conservatives on Election Day.

- The 18% who say they will either vote Liberal or NDP, among whom 45% say they will currently vote NDP, but among whom 98% prefer the Liberals to win over the Conservatives. As three of four NDP voters prefer a Liberal government they likely hold the key to whether the country will elect one on September 20.

The campaign has gone well for Erin O'Toole personally and he has improved his party's chances. With debates beginning and advertising becoming more plentiful and more pointed, the level of scrutiny about a Conservative victory and what it means will be higher and more persistent, especially as Canadians think it is more possible.

NDP-leaning progressive voters will likely be attentive to what a Conservative government could mean for issues ranging from climate change and pipelines to childcare to health care and vaccinations.

With almost 10 million voters saying their current preference isn't locked in, the election trajectory is far from certain and the outcome unpredictable.

According to David Coletto: "We continue to see only slight changes in vote intention and impressions on most metrics we track as week three of the campaign comes to a close. The Conservatives and Liberals remain statistically tied although the Conservatives have a slight lead among those most likely to vote. Impressions of the leaders haven't changed much since last week.

However, we are seeing some important shifts in other perceptions. For example, far more people today believe the Conservatives will win the election. More still think the Liberals will win but the gap has closed substantially over the past three weeks.

The Conservatives are making some gains among Liberal/Conservative switchers, but they haven't fundamentally altered the electorate. Those open to voting Conservative is stuck at 44%, the same as last week. And so, while the Conservative campaign has been successful in re-engaging its 2019 coalition, I don't see any evidence yet that it is expanding its audience and building a coalition that can win the election outright.

The Liberal vote share has been stuck in the low 30s now for three straight weeks. Mr. Trudeau's negatives are rising slowly but importantly for the Liberals, the desire for change has halted its weekly rise in our tracking. Right now, more people still would prefer Mr. Trudeau as prime minister over Mr. O'Toole but that margin has shrunk somewhat from last week.

And finally, while Mr. Singh continues to have the best net impression among the national leaders, the NDP vote is stuck in the low 20s. In fact, it seems to have reversed gains made earlier. There's still a lot of people who say they are open to voting NDP (48%) but converting them beyond 20-22% seems to be a challenge. The biggest risk for the NDP remains the threat of strategic voting, especially as more and more people come to realize that the Conservatives are able to win the election.

So far, the TVA leaders' debate doesn't seem to have fundamentally altered the race in Quebec but we will have more to say on that on Tuesday."

METHODOLOGY

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/-1.9%, 19 times out of 20. The data were weighted according to census data.

ERIN O'TOOLE
LEADER
CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CANADA

SARAH PETRARI
MARC-AURÉLE-FORTIN

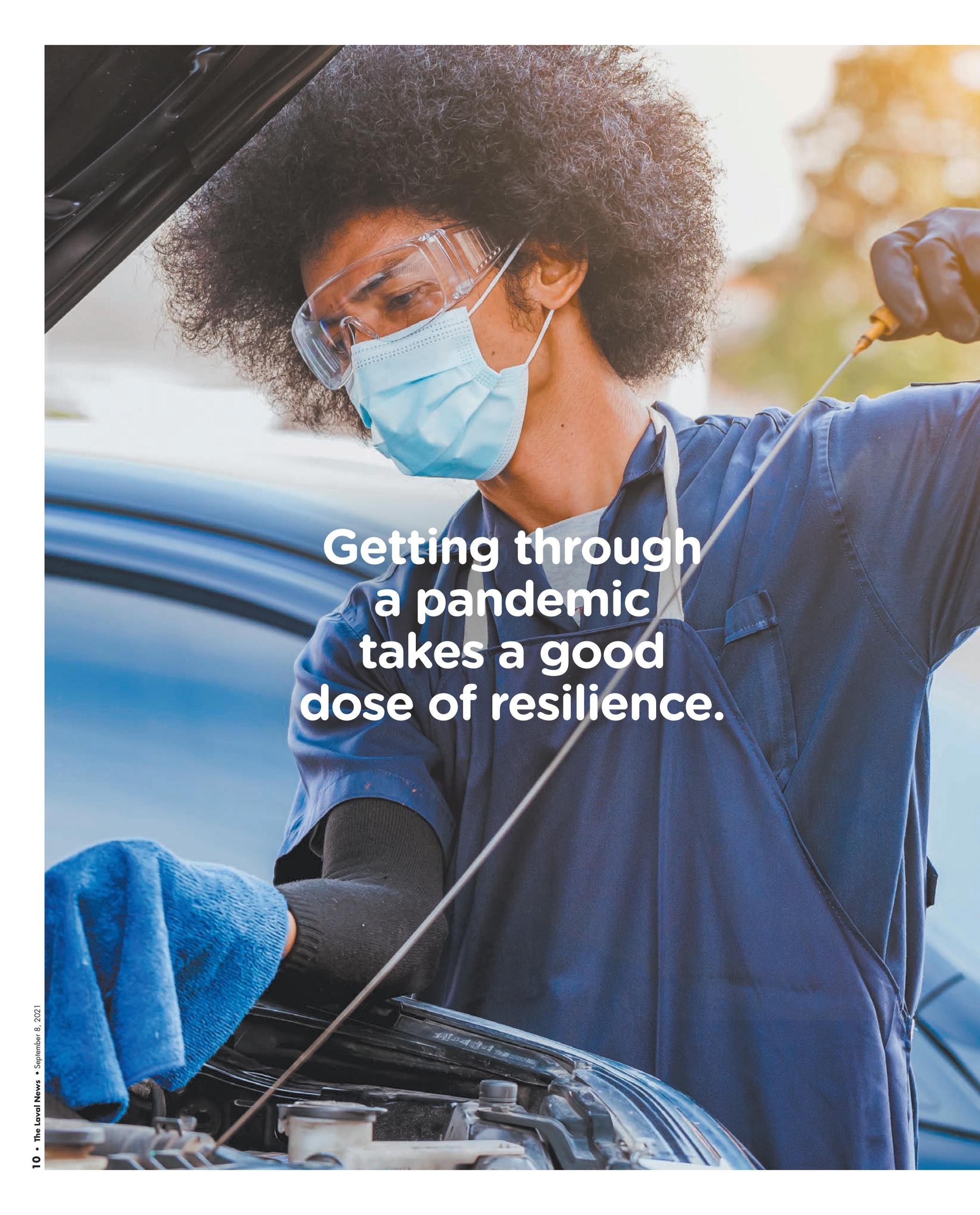
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A close-up photograph of a mechanic with a large afro hairstyle, wearing a blue surgical mask and clear safety glasses. He is focused on working on the engine of a car with its hood open. He is wearing blue overalls and has a blue cloth tucked into his pocket. The background is softly blurred, showing an outdoor setting with trees and a building.

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Les Bolides du Nord's 2021 season cut short by Covid

Laval-based classic car club starts a new year in May 2022



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

For the second time since Les Bolides du Nord was founded seven years ago, the Laval-based classic car collector's group had to cancel their annual automotive show which was scheduled for Saturday Sept. 4.

Covid takes a toll

"Our one major annual event had to be cancelled because of the Covid," said Christian Danis, the Club Automobile les Bolides du Nord's vice-president and webmaster, noting that the next major show will be on Sept. 3 2022.

"Last year, we also didn't do it because of Covid. But prior to that, in 2019, we had 248 cars and at our first event we had 158 cars." The club's regular Friday evening meets in the parking lot outside the Tim Horton's at 460 Curé Labelle have also come to a close until the first Friday of May next year.

Classic car territory

Quebec it would seem is prime territory for classic car clubs. There are two just in Laval, according to Danis, as well as clubs in Saint Eustache, in Saint Jérôme and several more on the island of Montreal.

Among the outstanding vehicles owned by members of Les Bolides du Nord is a 1955 Chevy Bel Air in immaculate condition. "The engine is chrome from A to Z," said Danis, adding that the vehicle probably has an estimated value of \$125,000.



Some amazing details

"It just packs in people. When he arrives at one of our shows, everybody just goes over to that car right away." Describing the individual approach that each member has for the care and detailing of his or her prized vehicle, he said, "Everybody personalizes their car their

own way.

"For some it might be more the paint job. If you look at some of the low-riders, they have some simply amazing paint jobs – the details are amazing. Each person personalizes his car his own way. That's what brings people out to see cars like that."

Model T's to Oldsmobiles

While the definition of a "classic car" will vary from one club to another, Les Bolides du Nord defines it as any vehicle produced up to the year 2011. "We've had people coming with an old Ford Model T 1926. I myself have an Oldsmobile '76."

Rosh Hashanah 5782



Je souhaite un joyeux

Rosh Hashanah 5782

à tous les membres de la communauté juive de Laval. Que cette nouvelle année soit sous le signe de la santé et de la prospérité.

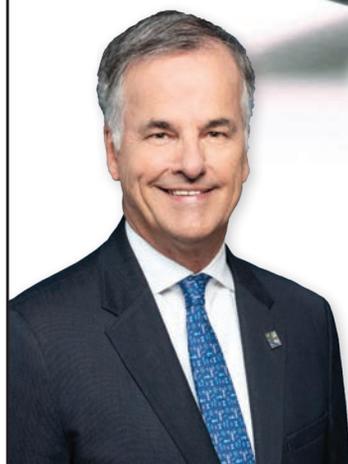
Mes meilleurs voeux à vous et à vos proches.

I would like to wish everyone in Laval's Jewish community a very happy

Rosh Hashanah 5782

May your New Year be filled with health and prosperity.

My best wishes to you and your loved ones.



Guy Ouellette
MNA for Chomedey

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District de Chomedey



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de nos citoyens!**





DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

Surrounded by Betrayal

Q Five years ago, I started dating a guy, and after a month he revealed he was married with two children. He said he was unhappy and planned on leaving. Being young and foolish, I stayed with him for a year before realizing it would not happen.

But I formed strong attachments with him and particularly his kids, and so we remained friends. I got over him and tried to support him in his efforts to make a go of his marriage. Still, I had to push back his advances every so often.

I got to know his wife, and it turns out that, of course, she isn't the monster he described. She is a lovely person who has been lied to and made empty promises to. Much the same way I was taken in by him.

He tried to run his own business but was a hopeless spender who plunged them into debt. His wife had to refinance the house twice. He continues to lie about money, and I am convinced he's had other affairs. I know he slept with at least one other woman while he was with me.

During their marriage, his wife became depressed and took up smoking and drinking. But he managed to keep his cheating from her. They recently separated, and I am now better friends with her than I am with him.

She remains ignorant of my affair with him, and I feel terrible about it. I feel like she ought to know. I said nothing before because I hoped the marriage would work for the children's sake.

I try to be a good friend and help her where I can, but I feel like a hypocrite.

I'm tempted to tell her everything, so she will know exactly what he is like. She deserves better, and I want her to know what a rat he is. But I can't do that without losing her friendship myself.

I'd like to think she could forgive me, but in reality, I can't be sure. I'm still close to the kids, and it would mean losing them.

But I am scared what will happen if I let something slip one day, or if someone else tells on me. There is a fair-sized group of people who know, though they have kept silent for the past five years.

It might be better to take the risk, sit her down, try to explain my mistakes, and ask for

forgiveness. Is it selfish of me to want to clear my conscience when nobody stands to gain from me telling?

The marriage is over, after all, and they are coping well with sharing the kids. My friend seems much happier and has cut down on her drinking. Is the moral argument worth spoiling the peace?

Patty

A Patty, let's consider this from his wife's point of view. You cheated with her husband. Then you entangled yourself into her life and the lives of her children.

If you tell her, she will doubt herself, doubt her sanity, and know she has been made a fool of. Fooled by her husband and fooled by his mistress. She will feel you perpetrated a fraud on her.

It does not appear conscience is the issue. It appears it is the fear of being found out. Right now, this woman believes her husband caused the demise of the marriage, not another woman. The blame is where it should be, on him. Don't take that explanation away from her.

Telling her risks her thinking, No, it wasn't my husband who ruined my marriage, it was you.

What must the people who know be thinking? You are hanging out with the wife, and she doesn't know. OMG!

In one sense, you got involved with the wife and kids because it still linked you to him. In another sense, you appear to be a voyeur. You got to spy into the intimate lives of this woman and her children. How could she ever think your friendship was genuine?

You are as much in the wrong today as you were when you stayed with him, once you knew he was married. You sided with the deceiver because you thought it was to your advantage.

Do now what you should have done. Walk away from this man, his wife, and her children.

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964 or email: DirectAnswers@WayneAndTamara.com

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Three arrested after attempted murder in Chomedey



Stevenson Shoute, 20,

The LPD reports that three suspects were arrested on Sept. 1 in connection with what the force described as an attempted murder in Chomedey a few days earlier.

The arrests followed a shooting incident around 2:45 am on Sept. 1 in front of a recently-opened bar/restaurant, located in a commercial mall at the intersection of Curé-Labelle and Samson boulevards.

One of the persons shot was located following a 911 call and was taken to a hospital, while another showed up at a different hospital later. The two and a third suspect were arraigned at the Laval courthouse to face various charges.



Charles Turnier Lafleur, 29

Stevenson Shoute, 20, appeared on charges of recklessly firing a gun to injure a person, aggravated assault and the possession of an illegal firearm.

He was being detained and was due to return to court this week. A news report last week maintained that Shoute was struck four times by bullets, including three in the back, as he was leaving the bar/restaurant. The same report said that up to 15 shots were fired during the exchange of bullets.

Charles Turnier Lafleur, 29, appeared on charges of attempted murder, recklessly firing a gun to injure a person and assault. He was



Rebecca Dugas Germain, 25

also being detained and was set to appear in court again last week.

Rebecca Dugas Germain, 25, was arraigned on charges of being an accomplice to an attempted murder, firing a gun and aggravated assault. She was released but had to meet several conditions, according to the LPD. None of the suspects has a criminal record.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call 911. The police file is LVL 210901-004. Anonymous calls can also be made to the LPD's Info-Line at 450-662-4636.

Suspect arrested after crashing stolen SUV

A 19-year-old male who stole an SUV was taken into custody by the Laval Police on Sept. 3 following a vehicle chase which ended with the stolen car crashing and bursting into flames.

The vehicle, a Honda CRV, was stolen by the suspect in Sainte-Dorothée and was later spotted by the LPD around 3 am as it made its way eastward along Autoroute 440 near Autoroute 13.

The suspect continued evading the police at high speed along Montée Masson, striking a street lamp post at one point, until finally losing control and smashing into a convenience store and gas station.

The suspect then fled on foot, while the vehicle caught fire, causing damage to the building. The LPD set up a security perimeter and called in the canine squad to track the suspect, who was finally found hiding in nearby woods.

Motorcyclist, 68, dies after crash on Le Corbusier

A 68-year-old man riding a motorcycle died of injuries following a collision with a car in central Laval on the afternoon of Aug. 31.

The crash happened around 4:20 pm on Le Corbusier Blvd. The driver of the car was heading south. While trying to make a turn onto Saint-Elzéar Blvd. West, he struck the motorcyclist who was headed north on Le Corbusier.

While initially sustaining critical injuries, the motorcyclist died later in hospital.

Truck falls off...

A truck that was motoring along Autoroute 15 during the night of Sept. 4 accidentally drove off the road, smashed through a concrete wall and fell to the pavement below onto Saint-Martin Blvd.

Around 3:40 am, the driver, 32, who is thought to have fallen asleep at the wheel, careened off the highway, then downward onto Saint-Martin.

He is said to have suffered only minor injuries. Transport Québec sent a team to investigate as the incident involved a truck and took place on a provincial highway.

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Fabre MNA Monique Sauvé awards National Assembly Medals

Community leaders receive distinctive honor recognizing their efforts



Fabre Liberal MNA Monique Sauvé (centre) is seen here with this year's 10 recipients of National Assembly Medals in the grounds outside the Château Taillefer Lafon in Laval-Ouest last week. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)



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MARTIN C. BARRY
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In keeping with a tradition she started four years ago, Fabre Liberal MNA Monique Sauvé presented National Assembly Medals last week to ten residents of her riding in recognition of their many years contributing to the community.

Giving back

The provincial riding of Fabre corresponds roughly to the Laval districts of Fabreville-Ouest, the Îles-Laval, Laval-Ouest, Laval-sur-le-Lac, Sainte-Dorothée and Chomedey north of Souvenir Rd. and west of 100th Ave.

"Through your devotion, your commitment, your involvement and your leadership, all of you contribute to an exceptional quality of life for the families, the children and the senior citizens of Fabre," Sauvé said during a presentation evening held on Aug. 31 at the Château Taillefer Lafon in Laval-Ouest.

Inspiration to all

"It is with great joy that I am finally able to acknowledge the great work you do, while giving you your full credit," added Sauvé who is the PLQ's official critic for senior citizens' and caregivers' issues. "You are a true inspiration to all the citizens of western Laval."

In an interview with The Laval News, Sauvé said that many of those chosen to receive the National Assembly Medal have been involved with local non-profit groups for years.

They didn't make the news

"It's about time that people are made to know about their efforts and all the great work they've been doing to provide help in the community," she said. "There are people from schools, people who were helping the elderly. And, of course, with the pandemic it was especially hard last year for them to do this."

"These are people whose work will not make the front pages of the news," she continued. "Each year, this is an occasion for me to recognize the work they are doing for families, for

the elderly, for people who are going through difficulties in life. So, we wanted to let it be known that these people did a lot of hard work over the past year."

This year's recipients

The 10 recipients chosen by Monique Sauvé for National Assembly Medals this year are:

- **Jean-Jacques Beldié** (Association de citoyens de Laval-sur-le-Lac. Beldié is also a former Laval city councillor.)
- **Benoît Brabant** (FC Laval)
- **Julie Bruyère** (Maison de Lina)
- **Joanna Colida** (Académie de l'enfance)
- **Linda Delisle** (Manoir du Ruisseau)
- **Jacques Fournier** (Comité des résidents du Centre d'hébergement de soins de longue durée Sainte-Dorothée)
- **Claire Harnois** (Société Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Sainte-Dorothée)
- **Normand Jacques** (Quartier des arts du Cheval Blanc)
- **Myriam Stephens** (Collège Citoyen)
- **Mélanie Tremblay** (Loisirs Sainte-Dorothée)

Pandemic restrictions

Last year, no ceremony to award National Assembly Medals was held by Sauvé's office because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, as the sanitary restrictions imposed by the provincial government were more relaxed, she decided to hold the ceremony, albeit with fairly strict requirements such as the use of face masks and hand sanitizer still in place.

Who gets the Medals

According to a description on the Quebec National Assembly website, the National Assembly Medal is awarded by the Members of the Assembly:

To people of their choice who are deserving of recognition, or

As an official gift to Members of other parliaments, elected officials or other public figures during parliamentary missions outside Quebec or protocol receptions at the Parliament Building.



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2. Social media manager

In order to effectively grow a company's brand and audience across various social media platforms, you need to draw on skills ranging from copywriting and graphic design to marketing and data analysis. Creativity, adaptability and resourcefulness are crucial attributes.

3. Accounting clerk

If you're organized, meticulous and great with numbers, this might be the job for you. With the

help of spreadsheets and accounting software, you can easily carry out a variety of bookkeeping and clerical tasks without stepping foot in the company's office.

4. Customer service representative

If you're a good listener with strong communication skills who also enjoys helping people find solutions to their problems, consider becoming a customer service representative. Whether you answer questions over the phone, process return request emails or man the technical support chat line, there are plenty of ways to assist customers from the comfort of your home.

If you decide to telecommute, visit office supply stores in your area so you can set up an ergonomic workspace in your home.

Should you pursue a career in education?

Education is a demanding field, but it's also enriching and highly rewarding. Here are just some of the reasons to consider pursuing work as an educator.

A fulfilling career

A career in education will allow you to work in an energetic environment surrounded by young people. This means that no day will be the same as the next. Whether you teach toddlers or teenagers, you'll need to find creative ways to capture their attention and nurture their curiosity. As an educator, you become a life-long learner. Each year, you'll face new challenges, and you'll have to adapt your teaching strategies to engage various types of learners.

A contribution to society

Teachers and other professionals in the education sector are in a position to make a profound impact on the lives of their students. In addition to helping them achieve academic success, it's the job of educators to provide students with the knowledge and tools to become engaged citizens who go on to shape their communities and the world.

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In Memoriam & Obituaries

Final wishes

Maintaining the quality of life of your loved ones



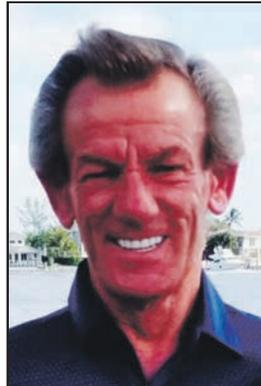
Life insurance exists to protect the surviving members of your family from financial loss associated with your death. Theoretically, people who have the most to gain from taking out life insurance are those who will leave others in need when they die, such as a spouse or children.

By taking out sufficient life insurance, you can guarantee the preservation of your family's lifestyle and goals in the event of your death. The first step is to evaluate your personal situation. The best way to go about this is to establish an up-to-date financial plan that takes into account your family's needs. The goal is to calculate the immediate living expenses that must be met so that your family will not have to deal with any financial worries in case of death.

An estimate of final expenses should also be made, especially funeral expenses, lawyer fees, as well as estate taxes —when a death occurs, the assets of the deceased are taxed before being passed on to heirs. The policy holder's debts should also be taken into consideration, such as credit card balances, a mortgage, and personal loans.

The death of a family member will have an effect on the family budget; there will, of course, be a drop in income if the deceased worked, but this might be balanced by a reduction in certain expenses, such as groceries, clothing, and transportation. In short, a sufficient amount has to be planned for so that beneficiaries will be able to maintain the lifestyle they are used to.

Adequate life insurance can prepare you and your family for the unexpected.



Lavoie, Serge
1952 - 2021

In Laval, on August 29, 2021, at the age of 69, passed away Mr. Serge Lavoie, spouse of Mrs. Sylvie Rompré. Besides his spouse, he is survived by the children of his spouse, Alexandre and Vincent, his brothers and sisters, Jeannot, Gilles, Gaétan, Danielle, Diane and Claudine (spouses, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends).



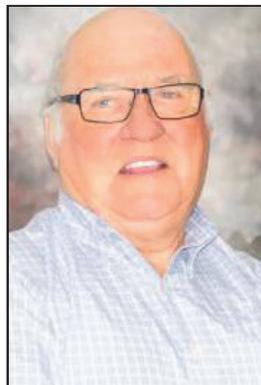
Garchi, Chafik
1966 - 2021

In Laval, on Tuesday August 31, 2021 passed away, at the age of 55, CHAFIK GARCHI, beloved husband of Mrs. Danielle Deschambault. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter Kenza, his brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, nephews and nieces, as well as many very good friends.



Klymchuk, Alice
1933 - 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Alice Klymchuk on August 29th, in Montreal, at the age of 87. She leaves to mourn her sister, Adona Kolisnyk (Zen) and her nephew, Ron (Kelli). She was predeceased by her everloving husband, Paul Klymchuk, brother, Miron Macyshyn (Anne), and her nephew, Ken Kolisnyk. Alice will be greatly missed by her family and friends and will be remembered for her love for her husband, kindness, positive outlook, generosity and devotion for her godchildren.



Bibeau, René
1941 - 2021

In Laval, on August 29, 2021, at the age of 79, passed away Mr. René Bibeau, husband of the late Mrs. Lucille Corbeil. He is survived by his children Martine (Marc), Manon (Stéphane) and Isabelle (Benoit), his grandchildren Mélanie, Mathieu, Jessyka, Marilyne, Lydia, Marc-Antoine, Karole-Ann and Daphnée, his great-grandchildren children Coralie, Chloé, Lohan, Adrien and Jeanne, as well as several relatives and friends.

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ARIES

You might decide to change your car on a whim. Just remember to be patient and negotiate a good price; the seller will eventually make you an ever better offer. At work, your team will offer to support you if you're overwhelmed.



TAURUS

As you calculate your budget, you'll realize you can afford to indulge in a few more luxuries, perhaps in the form of a vacation or two. Professionally, changes will prove quite profitable if you can overcome your fear of change.



GEMINI

You need to make changes in your relationships, both at home and at work. Wait a few days for your emotions to calm down before you take action. Some decisions need time; acting on a whim isn't always the best approach.



CANCER

You may be influenced by those closest to you to spoil yourself. You'll decide to give yourself a makeover and follow the advice of a specialist. By reducing your anxiety, you'll automatically find yourself in better health.



LEO

You'll find yourself in the spotlight for one reason or another. You'll be in charge of a group that might well pay tribute to you, or at least offer you warm congratulations. A promotion isn't too far off.



VRIGO

You'll consider buying property if your family undergoes one or more changes. You may hear of a birth among your relatives, which will delight you. Try to be more delicate with certain sensitive people.



LIBRA

You'll have a lot of conversations. Even at work, you'll find yourself in the middle of a great discussion. This will allow you to expand your social circle and network of professional connections. New friendships will lead to great adventures.



SCORPIO

You'll finally get out of a complicated financial situation. You'll master the art of persuasive speech and convince some people to follow you. In love, communication is essential if you want your emotional connection to thrive.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll need to make a decision without having access to all the necessary information. Try to rely on your good judgement. And above all, avoid long-term payments whenever possible so as not to add to your financial strain.



CAPRICORN

You could receive a great offer in your professional life. Take the time to discuss it with your loved ones before you accept, even if it's your dream job. Affection will magically appear as soon as your world is ready for it.



AQUARIUS

You'll have your eyes glued to your social networks. It's a good idea to include your significant other more in your various activities to rekindle the passion between you. At work, your whole team will rely on your experience.



PISCES

The phone is ringing off the hook; sometimes clients will be in dire need of your service, other times your loved ones will be looking for you. Your efficiency is what makes you so highly sought after. If you're single, you'll find love when you stop looking for it.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 093

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

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ACROSS

- Suitor
- Bonfire residue
- Base-runner's goal
- Like
- Large antelope
- Toe the line
- Squeal
- Ambition
- Meet defeat
- Exclude
- Beseech
- Put through a sieve
- Bitter brew
- Some amphibians
- Bestowed
- Certain prepositions
- Grumpy's pal
- Past
- Scout's shelter: 2 wds.
- Criminal
- Tiny
- Most impolite
- Bent

- Snack place
- Incline
- Brother's sib
- Londoner's farewell: 2 wds.
- Tip slightly
- Debate side
- Farm animals
- "___ the Lonely"
- Certain evergreen
- Cattail, e.g.

- Flat-topped hill
- Watched
- Offense
- Frolicsome
- Halt
- Bean curd
- Rough file
- Astonishment
- Appropriate
- Hill's companion
- Self-images
- "___ Be Cruel"
- First number
- Jackson bill
- Newspaper bigwig
- Plant anew
- Voice part
- Harness strap
- Telephone
- Extreme
- Agent 007, e.g.
- Wood cutter
- Kind of shirt
- "Stand ___ Deliver"

DOWN

- Howl
- ___ out (make do)
- Be ill
- Disburden
- Encore!
- Temper tantrum
- Bustle
- Shout
- Clarinet's relative

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.**

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

PUZZLE NO. 818

Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS

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

Sudoku

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



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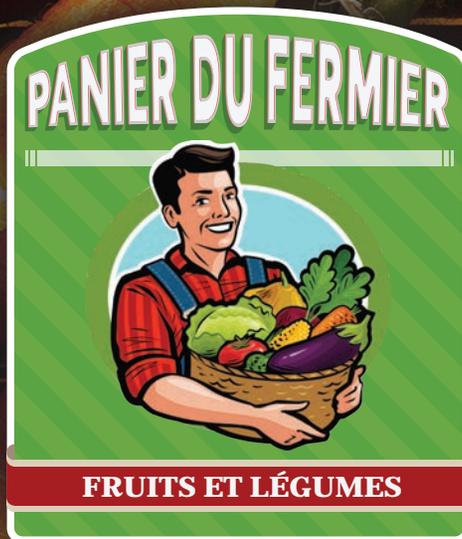
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- Grapes
- Squash
- Melon
- Broccoli
- Blueberries or Raspberries
- Bananas
- Grapefruit
- Plums
- Pears
- Lemons
- Potatoes
- Peppers
- Zucchini
- Beets
- Onions
- Lettuce
- Avocados
- Cucumber
- Mystery item

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- 1 Place your orders online or by phone before 8 PM on Thursday
- 2 Pick up your baskets on Thursday, Friday or Saturday

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