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# Canada Recovery Benefit hurting labour availability, CFIB tells Ottawa

*Lack of staff 'is one of the top concerns among small business owners,' SME lobby claims*



MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News  
marty@newsfirst.ca

In a letter sent recently to federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business says it believes the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) program is contributing to a growing shortage of part-time labour across Canada and that it should be changed so that no one is earning more under the program than they were in the pre-pandemic period.

Saying that the CRB program "is one of the top concerns among small business owners," CFIB CEO Dan Kelly wrote, "A small firm will not be able to recover if it is not able to meet demand for its products and services due to a lack of staff."

## Earning more on CRB

"While we recognize that many workers and self-employed business owners may still require CRB benefits, many part-time workers are earning more on the program than when working. CFIB proposes that the CRB be changed to ensure no one is earning more than they were pre-pandemic and that existing EI rules requiring workers to return to their positions when recalled or to be available and looking for work be enforced."

This year's Small Business Week was anything but something to celebrate, according to the CFIB. Instead of celebrating from Oct. 17 to 23, small businesses across the country were

counting down to a grim deadline: the end of federal business support programs last Saturday.

## Want programs extended

With only four out of 10 small businesses in the country being back to normal sales following the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFIB has been urging the government to immediately extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) until November 20 as a first step.

Following this, says the CFIB, the government should work on new legislation to extend the programs and the Canada Hiring Benefit until next March.

"Small Business Week is not just an opportunity for politicians to say nice words about small business owners. It needs to include concrete action to help them with their challenges – particularly at this time when concerns about COVID restrictions and passports are growing across Canada," said Kelly.

"The federal government needs to extend its crucial business support programs now, so business owners can have more certainty heading into the fall and winter months."

## Just 40 per cent normal

In the CFIB's letter to the finance minister, which was co-signed by CFIB senior-vice president for national affairs Corinne Pohlmann, they noted that the CFIB's Small Business Recovery Dashboard indicated that 76 per cent of small businesses in Canada were fully open, 45 per cent were fully staffed, but that only 40 per cent were making normal sales.

"Our September Business Barometer showed

a significant drop in business outlook – the largest drop we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic," said Kelly, adding that a large proportion of small businesses are still facing major hurdles including increased uncertainty due to the fourth wave, ongoing capacity restrictions, cashflow concerns, a growing shortage of labour, and rapidly rising costs.

## Worried about future

"Clearly many small businesses remain worried about their future and need certainty to help them through the next several months. As a result, we ask that you immediately extend The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) to November 20 as outlined in Bill C30 as these programs are to expire on October 23."

Kelly said that the majority of SMEs (73 per cent) have had to take on significant amounts of debt, averaging \$170,000 per business. To help them deal with this debt, he asked that Freeland "look at implementing further rounds of funding through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan, as well as delay the deadline to pay back the loan from the end of 2022 to the end of 2024 when more businesses will be back to normal sales."

## Borrowed money issues

"We believe a reopened CEBA program should raise the maximum loan amount to at least \$80,000, increase the forgivable percentage to 50 per cent, include new and micro-sized businesses and delay full repayment requirements until the end of 2024."

Kelly said that as most of the associated costs



with administering a vaccine passport system are being borne by small business owners, the CFIB was asking that the federal government request the provinces to dedicate this \$1 billion funding to help affected small businesses with their vaccine passport related costs by providing them with provincial grants to cover their required staffing and technology costs.

## CFIB's wish list to Ottawa

The CFIB maintains that the federal government can also help businesses by:

Working with Parliament to further extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program, CEWS and CERS, to March 31, 2022.

Returning the maximum wage and rent subsidies to 75 per cent for all sectors of the economy, as promised to the tourism sector by the Liberal party during the election.

Including new businesses that started after the pandemic began in all business support programs.

Offering additional funding through the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan and delay the repayment deadline to the end of 2024.

Changing the Canada Recovery Benefit to ensure it does not incentivize workers to stay at home rather than returning to the labour force.

Dedicating the \$1 billion in funding promised to provincial governments to implement passport systems to small business owners required to implement these systems.



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**Publishers:**  
George Bakoyannis  
George S. Guzman

**General Director:**  
George Bakoyannis

**VP Sales & Marketing:**  
George S. Guzman  
[sales@newsfirst.ca](mailto:sales@newsfirst.ca)

**Graphic Design:**  
Elena Molter  
Thomas Bakoyannis

**Advertising Consultants:**  
Peter Stavropoulos  
[peter@newsfirst.ca](mailto:peter@newsfirst.ca)

Jean Paul Chamberland

**Editorial Staff:**  
Martin C. Barry  
Renata Isopo  
Maria Diamantis  
Savas Fortis  
James Ryan

**Columnist:**  
Robert Vairo

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# OPINION & Editorial



## The 26th Blah Blah Blah Festival (aka COP26)

*Those who care about the climate act; those who care about blah blah blah will all be in Glasgow*

The Cop26 climate summit starts in Glasgow, UK, on October 31, and countries must deliver tougher pledges to cut emissions to keep the goal of 1.5C within reach. According to the UN, carbon emissions will rise by 16 per cent by 2030, rather than fall by half as governments previously agreed to in Paris at COP 2015. Twenty thousand people are expected to attend the Glasgow meetings.

Since 1995 the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) has been meeting in a world festival of talking, challenging, and demanding. But make no mistake, these meetings are about money, disguised as a meeting about climate change. Together with India and China, small island states and emerging economies want \$100 billion a year from the developed world to compensate for the CO2 "pollution" they experience and help them accelerate their move to green energy and reduce their own contributions to CO2 emissions.

The developed world does not want to give money to these countries or even accept the basis of their demand – that the developed world's CO2 emissions are the cause of their current and potential damage due to changes in climate. Like many other COP commitments, the \$100 billion a year promise from past COP sessions has yet to be met.

The NGO community wants all governments to spend more money transitioning their economies from oil and gas to green energy. The UK, for example, has announced that it will be a net-zero economy by 2050 at a cost of \$2.4 trillion. New taxation will also be required to pay for the massive costs of this transition, including new taxes to make up for lost tax revenue from the sale of gasoline (in the UK this is approximately \$46 billion annually).

Canada has also made promises to spend large amounts pursuing net-zero by 2050 and has allocated billions to achieve it. But our track record is dreadful. Canada is the only G7 country whose emissions have risen every year since the Paris Accord when we promised to cut them every year.

The governments of the world want to reduce the costs of the energy transition, in part through delay and in part through making it all more complicated than it needs to be. But their reluctance will be disguised through "booster bullshit" language and technical details, with little result. Greta Thunberg had it right when she said that world leaders just talk "blah blah blah"

and have done so for 30 years, as is evidenced by the continued growth in emissions ever since COP1.

These meetings are also about abusing the idea of science. Science is the rigorous, relentless questioning and analysis of data in pursuit of truth – the use of data, reason and analysis and the testing of a range of hypotheses. COP science is about resisting alternative explanations for various climate events and insisting that the "science is settled."

For some, science is shorthand for a near-religious belief in certain key tenets of the climate agenda. For others, science is a vehicle for securing the funds they are seeking. For yet others, science is a cudgel with which to beat up politicians who do not "follow the science" and accept the projections of computer simulations. But the scientists themselves (especially those on the International Panel on Climate who have made subtle changes in the AR6 assessment) are now questioning the utility and value of computer climate model simulations and suggesting that the computer models are now based less on physics than on politics.

Climate summit forced to confront inconvenient truths by Rashid Husain Syed

What can we expect from COP26? Again, Greta Thunberg speaks some sense:

"We can no longer let the people in power decide what is politically possible. We can no longer let the people in power decide what hope is. Hope is not passive. Hope is not blah, blah, blah. Hope is telling the truth. Hope is taking action. And hope always comes from the people."

We should not look to the Glasgow talk-fest for answers: we should look to what our city leaders are doing; we should look to our own energy companies and their investors and ask what they are doing. The answer is obvious. They are transitioning to green energy and doing the work. The investment community is also making the shift happen. It is on track to invest \$500 billion in green initiatives in 2021, with \$1 trillion annually in 2023.

We need to stop looking to governments and green activists to act on climate change. We need to look at our own behaviour and ask ourselves, "what are we doing?"

Those who care about the climate act; those who care about blah blah blah will all be in Glasgow.

*Stephen Murgatroyd*

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# Voters wanted and needed

An overview of the upcoming 2021 Laval municipal elections...Public notices not available in English

## RENATA ISOPO

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News • [renata@newsfirst.ca](mailto:renata@newsfirst.ca)

The campaign for the 2021 Laval municipal elections has been underway for several weeks now, in full flight following the September 20, federal election, and the September 26 Laurier School Board Contest for the chairperson's post.

In this third election in less than two months to call voters to the urns, scheduled for November 7, 2021, there will be, according to stats released by Élections Québec, in excess of 300,000 (313 302) of us on Laval Island invited to express our preferences for one of eight mayoralty hopefuls and 21 of 102 city council seat seekers.

For the top job, and one of the best-paid in Québec municipalities, a new face will be visible to the citizens of Québec's third largest city, following the decision by two-term mayor Marc Demers to retire from public life, declining to attempt to secure a third term at city hall.

## In the footsteps of city's history

Always considered a hot-bed of political activism, Laval has had in the past a slew of leaders heading multiple political parties in search of power on council and through the hands of the man (and perhaps this time around, the woman) holding the microphone that controls all council meetings as citizen's questions are thrown at M. Le maire.

When the final tally is certified by Élections Québec on, or soon after, the evening of November 7, the chief magistrate's seat (as the office is traditionally called) will be occupied by one of the six men and two women whose desire for public service and their ambition for decision-making power.

Vying for the post with different qualifications for political leadership, this group of relative neophytes share the common bond of never having held the city's top job. After the election, one of them will follow in the mostly revered footsteps of previous mayors who since 1965 have taken Île Jésus from a dispersed collection of 14 independent municipalities into the third millennium where the island now thrives as an important urban hub of economic and cultural development, and a venue that welcomes a diversity of new residents who deeply enrich the city's reputation, profile, and image in Québec, Canada, and the world.

The task of the new mayor will not be easy. Having to follow in the blazed trail of city founder Jean-Noël Lavoie, and successors Lucien Paiement, Jacques Tetreault, Claude Lefebvre, Gilles Vaillancourt and Marc Demers will an enormous challenge, but it is assumed that the leaders of the five parties and the three independent candidates see themselves as capable of doing the job.

At the close of nomination deadlines, the eight candidates for mayor, in alphabetical order, were announced as: Pierre Anthian (Ma Ville Maintenant), Stéphane Boyer (Mouvement lavallois), Hélène Goupil, (Indépendante), Nicolas Lemire (Indépendant), Michel Poissant (Laval citoyens), Michel Trottier (Parti Laval), Sophie Trottier (Action Laval), Redouane Yahmi (Indépendant).

## Approaching gender equality

Not surprisingly, the roster of candidates for the 21 council seats leaves little to be desired relative to the interest manifested by a large number of, by municipal standards, of men and women willing to put in the time to campaign and then hold seats on council. In all, the list number 102 candidates, of which 53 are men, challenged by 49 women.

Notably, this represents an almost equal divide

of 52% male and 48% female, a breakdown of gender equality which would probably be the envy of most political jurisdictions anywhere in the world.

In a rather fascinating piece of reality, in only two of the 21 districts – L'Orée-des-Bois and Fabreville, there is no woman candidate, with the first showing five men, the second four as the only office-seekers. In another powerfully-poignant 2021 statement, women outnumber men as candidates in 12 of the 21 seats that compose city council.

## A flood of posters island-wide

People of Laval, especially motorists who have to negotiate the city's streets, avenues, and boulevards, may have noticed that the landscape has been inundated with the images of political aspirants since just about mid-August, with federal parties holding sway until September 21, followed by the municipal onslaught that took hold immediately after.

While it is understandable that independent candidates would have little financial resources to paste themselves all over the island map, a closer analysis of the countless posters gracing or marring the lampposts (depending on your point of view concerning these publicity measures) reveals that some parties are more focused than others.

A rather unscientific but fairly reliable visual examination of the poster brigade shows that three of the parties contesting the election have a sizeable edge on the other two, with Mouvement lavallois, Action Laval, and Parti Laval exhibiting a greater presence on both lampposts and in free-standing structures. The Laval citoyens and Ma Ville Maintenant less visible.

These impressions notwithstanding, it is patently clear, on visual inspection, that the 110 men and women vying for mayor and city council seats, make up a diversely rich community of ethnic origins, race, age, and language – but more importantly, there seems to be none among this varied cohort of 'wannabe' municipal representatives who would not happily accept the trust that voters would show them by electing them to office.

## The people should care, but do they?

A quick perusal of the final figures of voter-turnout in the last three Laval municipal elections, dating back to 2009, sadly reflects apathy of shocking levels, this in a level of democratic responsibility that is as close to grass roots as can be, save for elections of school boards. In 2017, just over one third (36.32%) of eligible voters displaced themselves to vote for Laval mayor and city council. In 2013, the tale was a little better, but not much as only 41.05% turned out. Bringing up the rear, in 2009 a dismal 35.69% considered the election a must-do exercise in democratic action.

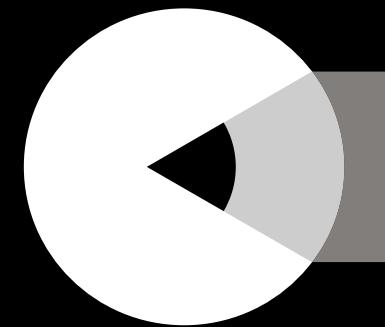
Apparently, the problem of low turnout has little or nothing to do with the enthusiasm of those seeking office, as we can see from the great number of candidates (110) for only 21 seats, and the mayor's chair. But this notwithstanding, would the turnout be larger if a bit more encouragement was exercised by the Directorate of Laval Elections towards the city's sizeable English-speaking community?

## Are English voters being ignored?

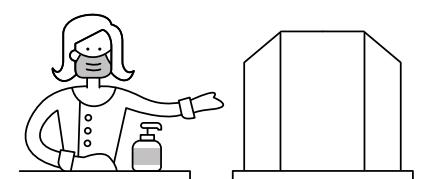
On analysis, the CARTE DE RAPPEL DU VOTE (Voting Reminder Notice) mailed to all Laval households with eligible voters by the

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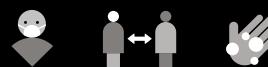
- If your domicile is located in the municipality, you must have been living in Québec for at least six months.
- If your domicile is not located in the municipality, you must have been the owner of a building (cottage, apartment building, etc.) or have occupied a business establishment located in the territory of the municipality for at least 12 months and must have sent the municipality either an application for entry on the list of electors or a power of attorney, in writing and within the timeframes set forth.



## What you need to bring to vote

At the polling station, you must establish your identity by showing one of the following documents:

- Your health insurance card
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- Your Canadian passport
- Your Certificate of Indian Status
- Your Canadian Forces identification card



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# CITYWATCH

By Martin C. Barry

During public meetings held by the City of Laval's executive-committee on Oct. 13 and 20, the members voted to provide subsidies to a Laval-based volunteer centre and food bank,

## Subsidy for volunteer centre/food bank

During the Oct. 13 session, the executive-committee members decided to award a \$31,175 subsidy to the Centre de bénévolat et moisson Laval.

According to city officials, the decision took into account the direct impact that the Covid pandemic had on the most disadvantaged people in Laval, who from one day to the next in

## Music authors' and composers' rights

In a separate issue during the Oct. 20 meeting by the executive-committee, the members dealt with the question of paying royalties to composers and musicians who own the rights to music or song lyrics they created.

Professionals in the domain had approached the city to work out an agreement whereby their rights would be recognized, and they would be compensated for music used especially during City of Laval recreational activities, as well as on municipal communications systems.

As a result, the executive-committee members voted to approve licensing agreements between the City of Laval and the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers

as well as to approve support by the city for copyright licensing agreements in order to pay composers and musicians for the use of their lyrics and music.

the past year-and-a-half often found themselves without income or with drastically reduced revenues.

Since January this year, according to the city, the municipal administration has disbursed \$151,325 in subsidies to the Centre de bénévolat et moisson Laval.

## Music authors' and composers' rights

of Canada (SOCAN) and Ré: Sonne (Sound Music Licensing Company) in order to legalize the use of the music in question by the city during 2020-2024.

The licensing fee amounts to \$114,975 (taxes included). The agreement with SOCAN is for five years and is retroactive to Jan. 1 2020. The agreement also takes into account the pandemic years 2020 and 2021.

The city noted that by using the services of a third authors' rights organization, Entandem, as the mandate-holder collecting and paying out the royalties for the other two, made it easier for the city to obtain a license based on terms set down Canadian copyright law.

## Mr. Jean Lauzon received the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Outstanding Merit.



(Newsfirst) The Éco-Nature team is proud to announce that this year, the recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Quebec for Outstanding Merit is Mr. Jean Lauzon, co-founder and Director of Development of Éco-Nature, the organization responsible for the management of Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles. The official handover took place on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 11 a.m. at the Exploration Centre of the Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles.

The Honourable J. Michel Doyon, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, presented this medal to Mr. Lauzon in recognition of his involvement and dedication in the field of the environment, culture and recreational tourism.

Jean Lauzon has dedicated more than 35 years of his career to the protection and enhancement of the Laval region and the surrounding area. He has created strong alliances and negotiated several agreements, which have allowed Éco-Nature to carry out many projects.

Thanks to his work and perseverance, a park and a wildlife refuge were created on the Rivière des Mille Îles. The rehabilitation and protection of this river has not only facilitated the reintegration of many plant and animal species, but has also allowed the inhabitants of river

communities to enjoy all the benefits of this natural environment. He is also the designer of several projects such as the recreational and utility transport project, ERRE ecomobility, the first phase of which was launched this summer.

"We are extremely pleased for Mr. Lauzon who deserves to be recognized for his many years of extraordinary work, especially on the eve of his well-deserved retirement. He has never stopped looking for ways to protect the environment and convince citizens to support him in his cause," said Christine Métayer, Executive Director of Éco-Nature.

"I receive this distinction with humility and gratitude. I would like to share this medal for exceptional merit with all those who have contributed in any way to the mission of Eco-Nature over the past 35 years. Without them, I would not be the man I am today," revealed Jean Lauzon.

"Mr. Jean Lauzon is an example of commitment to his community. Throughout his life, he has shown remarkable leadership within the greater Laval community. His innovative spirit and dynamism have certainly had a positive influence on his fellow citizens. He has demonstrated an extraordinary social commitment for many organizations and has been able to ensure their development thanks to his vision of the future, simple and fair. His commitment to the protection and enhancement of the Thousand Islands River is admirable. " said the Honourable J. Michel Doyon.

Moreover, Mr. Lauzon is the recipient of several honorary awards, including a special mention in the Individual category at the 2021 Heritage Action Awards, the medal of the National Assembly of Quebec in 2018 and the title of "Guardian of water" in 2017 by the Conseil des bassins versants des Mille-Îles, because of his involvement in the community and his dedication to the cause of water. Although this is his last year before his retirement, he continues to dedicate himself body and soul to the mission of the organization.

# STL wins special mention at Jalon Mobility Awards for commissioning electric buses

*'We appreciate being recognized by the industry, said STL president Éric Morasse*

(TLN) The Société de transport de Laval (STL) is proud to be the recipient of a special mention at the Jalon Mobility Award in the Energy efficiency and electrification category, which it earned for the commissioning its electric buses.

## Another first for STL

The STL was presented with the award on Oct. 22, during a gala hosted by Jalon Montréal, an organization focused on accelerating the use of innovative sustainable and intelligent mobility solutions.

With this first commissioning on such a large scale of 100 per cent electric buses in Quebec, the STL achieved a major milestone in the electrification of its fleet and other resources.

## Reducing GHGs

Laval residents and riders became the first to enjoy a new generation of long-range electric buses, which are gradually being rolled out on the network to provide quieter and greener public transit.

A leader in transit electrification since 2012, the STL says it stands committed to reducing its GHG emissions by 45 per cent by 2028.

## Much appreciated

"We appreciate being recognized by the industry for an initiative we are especially proud of," said STL board president Éric Morasse.

"This project proves to stakeholders in public transit, and in other industry sectors, the feasibility of using low GHG emission vehicles, thus helping to develop Quebec expertise in



transportation electrification."

## Among most innovative

The STL develops and operates an integrated network consisting of buses, school transport,

shared taxis and paratransit transport, which together combine for more than 19 million transit trips per year.

The STL's regular bus network consists of 47

routes, some 2,700 stops and covers over 1,500 kilometres across the City of Laval's territory. The STL considers itself to be among the most innovative transit authorities in North America.

## Société de transport de Laval gears up for service disruptions in November

*Transit agency says essential services will be maintained on strike days*

(TLN) Management at the Société de transport de Laval says it finds unacceptable the recent decision by its unionized bus drivers to go out on strike on Nov. 2, 15 and 26, while mediation is still underway.

"This action, especially during a pandemic, has as a consequence that it is depriving the clientele of an irreplaceable, efficient and low-cost service," the STL said in a statement.

## Maintain essential services

The STL said it wants to reassure transit users that essential services will be maintained at adequate levels. The public transit agency says it will be taking means to assure that the union honors its legal obligations to provide essential service, as defined in provincial law.

The STL said it is currently working on a draft schedule of bus services, which will be deployed when service interruptions become imminent.

The transit agency also noted that given the current budget restraints brought on by a decline in ridership during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is facing tough economic realities.

## Other agreements reached

Among other things, the STL recently reached new collective agreements with its maintenance and office employees. The company said the terms of the agreements were similar to those

presented to the drivers' union, which has so far turned down the offer.

"The rebooting of public transit, in which we are trying to reestablish ridership and the revenues of the STL to levels seen before the pandemic, should be an occasion to work cooperatively with our drivers to improve the client experience and encourage the population to opt for public transit in the struggle against road traffic and climactic changes," said the STL's management.



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# Help for sexual assault just a phone call away, though the problem isn't disappearing

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre launches a re-branded Sexual Violence Helpline



MARTIN C. BARRY  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News  
marty@newsfirst.ca

A province-wide 24-hour phone referral service for victims of sexual violence was given a new name and an official send-off last week, refocusing attention on a problem that continues to impact women, but also increasingly men, children and the elderly.

Deborah Trent, director of the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre (MSAC), announced the new name of the Sexual Violence Helpline during a webconference held in conjunction with representatives from other similarly-mandated organizations.

#### One victim too many

Previously known as the Provincial Helpline for Victims of Sexual Assault, the renamed Sexual Violence Helpline has been operating 24/7 for more than 10 years thanks to a partnership with the Quebec Justice Ministry.

According to the MSAC, the rebranding takes place as the helpline continues its mandate to provide assistance to a greater number of people affected by all forms of sexual violence. The group says in a press release that "every victim of sexual violence, no matter what form it takes, is one victim too many."

#### Cases are increasing

"Reported cases of cyber violence and sexual exploitation have only increased in recent years," said Deborah Trent, director of the MSAC. "Sexual violence is pervasive. We were initially mandated to help people who had been sexually assaulted, but we quickly adapted our services to respond to calls related to harassment, cyber

violence and particularly sexual exploitation.

"Having been in operation for over 10 years, our team of telephone counsellors is on the front lines, providing support in both French and English across Quebec. When the need for support arises, whether for sexual violence that occurred recently or in the past, the source for resources is always available."

#### Getting the message out

According to the MSAC, too many people in the greater Montreal region are still unaware of the existence of the Sexual Assault Helpline. They say that people from all walks of life, no matter where they are in the province, should have access to this kind of support as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

The organization feels that the new branding, combined with an increased presence in the digital sphere – particularly on social media – will allow more people to find their way more easily to the help offered by the Sexual Violence Helpline when it is needed.

"For us, the issue is not to encourage victims of sexual violence to follow a specific path, but rather to ensure that they are welcomed, listened to and supported every step of the way, no matter what path they choose," said Roxanne Ocampo of the Regroupement québécois des CALACS (Centre d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel).

#### Leaving no one behind

"To do this, there must be adequate specialized resources and services to serve the entire territory, with particular attention given to the specific needs of marginalized people. To be able to respond in a way that respects the reality of each survivor, collaboration such as that between CALACS and the Sexual Violence



Clockwise from the top left, Mylène Gauthier, Coordinator of the Provincial Helpline for Victims of Sexual Assault at the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, webconference moderator Véronique Saumure, Deborah Trent, Director and Spokesperson for the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre and Roxanne Ocampo, Communications Officer for the Regroupement québécois des Centres d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel, are seen here during the web launch of the Sexual Violence Helpline.

Helpline is essential. We are all working towards the same goal: ensuring that no victim of sexual violence gets left behind."

The two groups say that the last few years have demonstrated beyond a doubt that thousands of people across the province still need

support services to deal with sexual violence. Many organizations and specialized services are available to help these individuals regain control of their lives.

#### Finding the resources

They say what is needed now is to promote the Sexual Violence Helpline as the starting point for resources that can help steer victims towards services adapted to their needs. The team, which is specially trained to work with victims of sexual violence, is made up of nearly 20 counsellors who serve the general public and are capable of meeting new challenges.

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the Sexual Violence Helpline is anonymous, confidential, free of charge and bilingual. The line is open to anyone affected by sexual violence, regardless of age or gender, including victims, their loved ones, counsellors, people in doubt, as well as the general public.

The service is managed by the MSAC and is mandated and funded by the Ministère de la Justice du Québec. The Sexual Violence Helpline's phone number remains unchanged: 1-888-933-9007.

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# Chrétien's 1990s welfare cuts 'a blueprint' for health-care reform, says Fraser Institute

*Conservative think tank chooses a Liberal government's strategy as an example to emulate*



MARTIN C. BARRY  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Fundamental reform of Canada's health care system should start by following the example of changes made in the 1990s when former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Liberal government removed strings attached to federal welfare funding and the provinces got more flexibility and autonomy, concludes a new study released last week by the Fraser Institute.

## Canada poor to moderate

"COVID-19 has exacerbated two of the most important ongoing public policy challenges facing Canada: the deterioration of government finances and the comparative underperformance of our health care system," said Ben Eisen, senior fellow at the Fraser Institute.

The co-author of 'Less Ottawa, More Province, 2021: How Decentralized Federalism Is Key to Health Care Reform' noted in his study that despite high spending levels in Canada, compared to other universal health care countries, this country's performance has been poor to moderate on most measures.

## Reforming health care

According to the institute, Canada ranks fifth-highest out of 28 universal health care countries examined in terms of age-adjusted health care expenditures per capita, as well as 26<sup>th</sup> for physicians, 14<sup>th</sup> for nurses, 25<sup>th</sup> for acute care beds, and 24<sup>th</sup> for psychiatric care beds per thousand population on an age-adjusted basis.

Despite the institute's well-known politically-conservative leaning (it does not accept grants from governments), its study highlighted successes emerging from the Liberal Party of Canada's Chrétien-era welfare reforms, which the Fraser Institute claims are providing a blueprint for health-care reforms today.

## Welfare budgets were high

The Fraser Institute notes that in 1994, more than 10 per cent of Canadians – over 3.1 million people – were on welfare, and it was at that time consuming large portions of provincial budgets. So, as part of its deficit reduction plan, the federal government cut federal welfare transfers to the provinces while also eliminating most strings attached to the funding, thus spurring innovation and reform by the individual provinces.

The institute goes on to note that as reforms were subsequently introduced by the provinces, particularly programs like workfare and limiting benefits periods for employable people, the proportion of Canadians on welfare dropped to less than five per cent, while welfare spending as a share of provincial program spending had dropped to less than four per cent by 2008.

## Chrétien still active

"Cutting the strings attached to the health-care transfers from Ottawa – as the Chrétien government did with welfare – while maintaining the principles of universality and portability, would free the provinces to experiment and reform health-care delivery and financing," suggested Eisen.

For his own part, Jean Chrétien, who served as Prime Minister from 1993 to 2003 and is now 87, is still partly active from the sidelines in Canadian politics, commenting to journalists who seek him out from time to time for reactions to the current Trudeau Liberal government's policies and actions.

## Critical of Trudeau Liberals

In a televised interview with CBC TV last weekend, Chrétien said the government should have moved earlier to resolve the issue of the detention of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor who were kept under arrest in China for three years and were tried and found guilty of espionage.

"They should have moved earlier," he said regarding the Trudeau government's handling of the situation. Chrétien's comments came as he was in the midst of promoting a new book, *My*

*Stories, My Times, Vol. 2*, in which he contends, among other things, that the standoff with China was a political problem and not a legal one.

## Says China has changed

On the other hand, Chrétien acknowledged that China had changed since the time he led Canada and this played a role in the Trudeau government's reaction to the crisis. "We had disagreements, but now they have become a power, and they're playing as a power," he said.

He suggested that the Trudeau government might have done better with China had it reached out to the older generation of Liberals like himself for advice, while insisting he wasn't passing judgment on the current government's way of doing things.



Ben Eisen, Senior Fellow, Fraser Institute

## DEVELOP SWEET REFLEXES

### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween night and the weeks of preparation leading up to it can be very exciting for children of all ages. It's a special celebration shared with their family, friends and community that offers them a rare opportunity to walk around their neighbourhood at night.

The trick to making Halloween a real treat is to follow these 'sweet' safety tips:

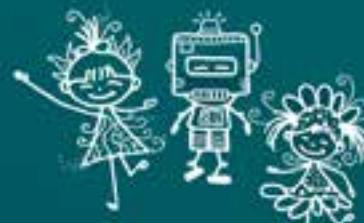
#### Before Halloween:

- Choose bright costumes and have your children carry flashlights or glow sticks so they are easily visible.
- Plan a trick-or-treating route in familiar neighbourhoods with well-lit streets. Make sure to identify all the safe places where your children can seek help in case of an emergency.
- Make sure your children know your cellphone number and address in case you get separated. For older children, consider giving them a cellphone so they can reach you easily.
- Remind them, not to text while walking or crossing the street!
- Teach your children to say NO! in a loud voice if someone tries to grab them or entice them away.

#### On Halloween Night:

- Make sure older children go with friends and that they stay together while trick-or-treating.
- Remind your child to only visit homes that are well lit and decorated, and so always wait on the porch.
- Remind your child not to approach any vehicle or accept a ride unless they have your permission to do so.
- All good things must come to an end! Make sure that older children respect the agreed-upon time to return home.
- Carefully inspect all the treats and immediately discard any that are unwrapped.

Happy Halloween!



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Keeping hope alive



# DIRECT? ANSWERS

From Wayne & Tamara

## Up In The Air

**Q** I am a 21-year-old college senior looking forward to graduation in four months, pursuing a career and possibly my first love. So here's the question...

I've been in love with my first boyfriend, with whom I shared my first time, since I was 15. I knew I cared about him then, but I thought it was puppy love. Although the relationship didn't last long, we dated again sophomore year of college and began "hooking up" again five months ago.

We both dated other people in the interim. I'm beginning to realize I am really in love and thinking about a future with him. The problem is we go to school four hours away from each other. I'm 21, he's 23. We also feel we deserve to "have fun" our last semester at college. The big problem is neither of us knows where we'll end up after graduation.

Plus, I'm not sure he knows how very much in love with him I am. I'm scared he'll find somebody else if I don't tell him. But I'm also not sure how he'll take it if I do. He doesn't show his emotions much.

Am I insane in thinking everything will work out if I tell him? We've talked about it, and he's never felt so "comfortable" with anyone before, but I'm not sure how he feels about a future with me.

I think he feels the same or we wouldn't keep going back to each other. Either way, I don't want to scare him away by confessing my love and my hopes for a future, but I need to tell him how I feel!

Kira

**A** Kira, when we read your letter, we wondered what it was really about. Is it about nothing ventured, nothing gained? Is it about the power of first love? Or is it about something else?

Wayne & Tamara

Wayne & Tamara Mitchell are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))  
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# LPDBLUE

By Martin C. Barry

## 70-something bicyclist dies following car collision

A bicycle rider in his mid-70s was declared dead following a road accident on Oct. 19 during which he was struck by a car around the Samson Blvd. overpass over Autoroute 13.

Around 5 pm, for reasons accident investigators were unable to explain, the cyclist had gone off the roadside bicycling path into the

car lanes. Shortly after this, a woman in her 30s driving along struck the bicycle and its driver.

Although the victim was transported to hospital, he was declared dead by the end of the evening. The driver of the car was also treated for shock in hospital.

## Stolen cars driven by Laval men recovered in eastern Ontario

In a recent news release, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) said officers conducting a traffic stop intercepted a stolen vehicle, and that the investigation revealed that a male driver from Laval was in possession of a stolen 2019 Lexis SUV from Toronto.

Shortly after this, OPP officers stopped a second stolen SUV, a 2017 model from Toronto, being driven by an adult male. Both drivers were taken into custody.

According to a release issued by the Ontario provincial force, Jerry-Pierre Beau-Boeuf, 26, of Laval was arrested and charged with possession of property worth over \$5000 obtained

by crime.

The report said he was found to have been driving a motor vehicle without a license, while also failing to provide police with identification.

In the meantime, Jeanslee Alexis, 25, also of Laval, was arrested and charged with possession of property worth more than \$5000 obtained

by crime.

Both accused were released from custody and are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Alexandria, Ontario on Dec. 1.

### ◀ Continued from page 5

Bureau de la président d'élection (Office of the Chief Electoral Officer) contains not a word of English in its content – stipulating specific information such as Votre district (Your district), Votre section de vote (Your poll section), Vote par anticipation (Advanced voting), Endroit de vote par anticipation (Location of advanced voting), Vote du jour du scrutin (Election day), Endroit de vote jour du scrutin, (voting location, election day). As well, the CARTE DE RAPPEL DU VOTE also clearly and boldly cautions that Cette carte n'est pas une pièce d'identité. Il est suggéré d'apporter cette carte avec vous le jour du vote.

The above translations of the official documentation in ( ) are those of TLN and as such are not 'officially-authorized'. We provide them here for the benefit of English-speaking voters of Laval, whose numbers in 2020 totalled 95,159, an increase of 4184 from the 2016 Census figures, according to Stats Canada.

On further analysis, regardless of past policies implemented in Laval municipal elections, the facts for 2021 speak for themselves relative to the consideration that should be given to English-speaking eligible voters. They should receive at least minimal communication in English. Of Laval's 2020 population of 442,993 – the 95,159 English speakers constitute 21.5%, more than one-out-of-five residents who call the island home, a demographic reality that

would certainly justify at least basic communication from Élections Laval in English.

### French-only public notices

The apparent disregard of Laval English speakers in the French-only official documentation is further accentuated by the lack of any public notices conspicuously absent from English-language local newspapers such as The Laval News, while a full five pages of official notices, in French only, are published by Valerie Tremblay, présidente d'élection, in the city's only other local weekly newspaper, the French-language Courrier Laval.

The question then remains, why no communication in English in 2021 when more of the island's population is English-speaking, when in fact in previous elections with fewer English voters, notices were issued in English?

So, what is it that keeps voters away in droves, not only Laval but in municipal elections across Québec? Anyone with any insight into shedding light on this critical issue is invited to come forward and share their impressions with all eligible voters, especially those that have no intention of showing up on advanced voting days (Saturday, October 30, Sunday, October 31) or election day, Sunday, November 7, 2021. Covid-19 should not dissuade anyone from showing up as extreme measures of masking and social distancing will be in full effect at all voting venues, advanced and regular.



## 18-year-old female hurt in Chomedey police chase

Quebec's investigative Bureau des Enquêtes Indépendantes (BEI) has launched an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding a car chase last week involving the Laval Police Department, which ended with a crash and injuries near the corner of Cartier Blvd. and 70<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Chomedey.

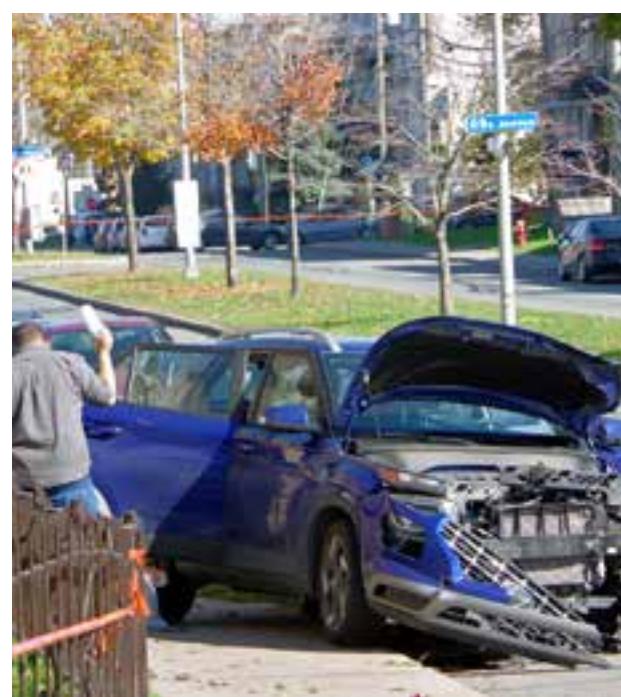
At around 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday Oct. 20, officers from the LPD believed they had located a vehicle that had been reported stolen in a commercial parking lot on Curé-Labell Blvd. earlier.

When the officers tried to stop the vehicle, the driver refused to stop, according to the BEI. Following a brief chase that lasted around a minute, the driver of the car reportedly lost control and struck at least one parked vehicle and then a lamppost.

An 18-year-old female passenger was seriously injured in the collision, according to the investigators. The injured woman was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

In accordance with BEI protocols, the Sûreté du Québec is conducting a parallel investigation.

Working under the supervision of the BEI, SQ investigators are looking into the circumstances leading to the crash. Five BEI investigators were on the scene last week, assisted by the SQ.



Seen here on the morning of Oct. 20 near the corner of 69th and 70th avenues. and Cartier Blvd. in Chomedey are the remains of the vehicle badly damaged during the brief police chase that took place near there around 1:30 am. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

# Laval Police and Saint-Maxime students connect on the basketball court

*Police, high-schoolers played for the first time since start of pandemic last year*



**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
For The Laval News  
[marty@newsfirst.ca](mailto:marty@newsfirst.ca)

With new and easier measures for Covid prevention announced recently by the Quebec government, officers with the Laval Police Service finally got a chance last week to resume their friendly sporting activities with some Chomedey high-school students for the first time since the start of the pandemic early last year.

### Friendly matches

SPL officers met at École secondaire Saint-Maxime on Lévesque Blvd. West to play volleyball, basketball and soccer in friendly but determined matches with the high-school students.

Dressed in shorts, sneakers and a sports top, SPL director Pierre Brochet joined them during the early afternoon for a fun game of basketball on a court on the grounds behind the school.

### Curious onlookers

The lively and competitive activity was followed from the sidelines by spectators, including Saint-Maxime students and staff during class breaks, while sparking some curiosity among a few students about police work as a profession.

According to LPD spokesperson Cst. Chantal Moreau, officers with the force had been getting together for similar sports-oriented events with students from Laval in the past, but had to stop in the spring of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic started.

"We're in a position now to start over," she said, noting that the students who were taking part were between the ages of 12 and 17.

### Maybe other schools

Last week's gathering which centered on basketball was just one of three sports events the police and the students were taking part in over a period of three days. They were also playing matches of volleyball and soccer.

As it turned out, the weather was perfect for basketball on Wednesday last week when the sun was high in the sky and the air was crisp. Cst. Moreau said the SPL officers had arranged only to play students from École secondaire Saint-Maxime, but added that "the door remains open" to other schools possibly also taking part in the future.

### United by three sports

Rhizlaine Chebani, a community liaison official at École secondaire Saint-Maxime, said the school administrators decided, after being consulted by the SPL, that since the school's three most popular sports are basketball, volleyball and soccer, they could be the basis for some friendly play between the students and the police.

Cst. Moreau agreed that the three sports formed the perfect medium to bring together exuberant youths and the much older and staid adults. "They get to see us as police officers, but also more informally so they can also see that we are real people like them," she said.



**SPL police officers and students from École secondaire Saint-Maxime shot some hoops on the court behind the school on Lévesque Blvd. West in Chomedey last week as part of a renewed effort by the SPL to resume building rapport with teens after being prevented since early last year by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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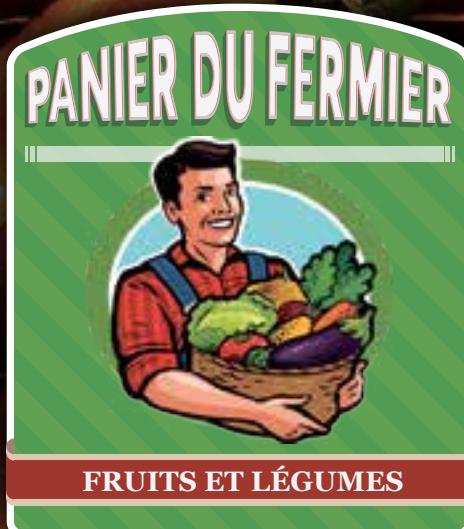
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2. They subscribe to strong values. Family businesses are generally driven by strong values such as reliability, trust, respect, solidarity and transparency. These values are reflected in the way they treat their customers, suppliers, partners and employees.

3. They tend to endure for a long time. Since family businesses are passed down from one generation to the next, they continue to develop and grow over the years. This changing of hands keeps things fresh and ensures the company continues to thrive.

4. They have a good reputation. Family businesses have a strong interest in protecting their reputation to encourage pride in the family name. They not only want to present a positive image to their customers, but they also want their employees to speak well of them.

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# In Memoriam & Obituaries

## Dearly departed

MOURNING • REMEMBERING • COMMEMORATING

### Three modern funeral trends

There's no one right way to approach a funeral and today's ceremonies are increasingly stepping away from long-held traditions. Given that each individual leads a unique life, it follows that when a person passes away, he or she is commemorated in an equally unique fashion. Here are three ways forward-thinking families are customizing funerals for the modern age.



#### 1. NOT WEARING BLACK

Some families ask guests to forego the traditional garb and instead sport bright colours. This practice encourages people to regard the ceremony as first and foremost a celebration of the deceased's life.

#### 2. THEMED FUNERALS

This is another way of putting the accent on celebration and commemoration. A funeral can be themed around a personal passion, a special achievement, a favourite colour, a choice book or film — you name it.



#### 3. GREEN FUNERALS

Environmentally conscious individuals are increasingly opting for eco-friendly funeral practices. Green funerals may include a burial in the forest, using remains to grow a tree and choosing sustainably sourced wood for the coffin.

These are just a few ways to personalize the funeral of your loved one. There's nothing stopping you from expanding on these ideas or using your own, so long as the wishes of the deceased are taken into account.



**FRIGON, Serge**  
1954 - 2021

It is with dignity that Mr. Serge Frigon, at the age of 66, passed away on October 21, 2021. Accompanied by his relatives and medical staff, he was serene and at peace with his decision. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Ginette Gingras, his children Jean-François (Anne-Marie), Vincent (Marilyne), Étienne (Mélissa), his grandchildren William, Alyce, Jade, and Mary-Jane. He is also survived by his mother Mrs. Rita Bérubé, his brother Pierre (Marjolaine), his sister Danielle, his brother-in-law Claude (Lyne) as well as many relatives and friends.



**MARKETOS, Christos (Chris)**  
1970 - 2021

After a long and heroic battle with cancer, it is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we announce the loss of our beloved son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend, Christos (Chris) Marketos on October 22, 2021 at 8:15 pm. Chris is survived by his loving parents: Spyros and Helen, his adoring siblings: Gerry (Elizabeth) and Maria, and his caring nephew: Jacob. Chris also leaves behind close cousins, extended family, and many supporting friends.



**SAJOUS, Marie-Thérèse M.**  
1934 - 2021

In Laval, on October 21, 2021, at the age of 87, passed away peacefully Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Sajous, wife of the late Mr. Otacy Gustave. She is survived by her children Guilaine, Jean-Patrick, Vonette, Charles, Rodney, Viergeline, Kamus, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.



**Violette Desgagné**  
1926 - 2021

In Laval, on October 19, 2021, passed away Mrs. Violette Desgagné, wife of the late Jean-Paul Riverin and mother of the late Sylvie Riverin. She is survived by her children, Chantale and Louis (Sylvie Geoffrion), her 7 grandchildren, Mélanie, Anne-Marie, Vincent, Émilie, Geneviève, Laurent-Alexandre and Antoine as well as several great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother and sisters, Huguette, Thérèse, Carole, Michel and their spouses as well as several relatives and friends.

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## HOROSCOPE

Week of OCTOBER 31 TO NOV. 6, 2021

The luckiest signs this week:

**SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS**



### ARIES

You'll find yourself with quite a bit of work to do, and a minor cold could slow you down. Make sure you get enough sleep. You'll also need to pay more attention to your health in general.



### TAURUS

You'll find yourself in the spotlight for some reason. Fortunately, you'll be able to lighten the mood with your quick wit. Someone may share a secret with you that will leave you wondering what to do.



### GEMINI

You might have some work to do on your house before winter. A family member will be a source of concern. If you plan on moving, you'll need to prepare well in advance if you want to make things easier on yourself.



### CANCER

Don't forget to use a GPS app when you hit the road so you don't wind up driving in circles. You'll finally get confirmation on certain matters, and you'll return calls from important people.



### LEO

You'll finally receive a sum of money that's been owed to you for quite some time. You'll win the battle for a re-fund or insurance claim. Justice will be on your side this week.



### VIRGO

You'll have a front-row seat to an interesting event. Your initiatives will get things moving. In your professional life, everything is falling into place for that funding or raise you've been after.



### LIBRA

The week will begin with confusion. You'll need a second cup of coffee to keep you alert. You'll have your head in the clouds on several occasions, but this will encourage creativity.



### SCORPIO

Colleagues and relatives will put you in charge of numerous activities when you would prefer to play a supporting role. Have faith in yourself, and you'll impress many people.



### SAGITTARIUS

If the company you work for is restructuring, you'll feel a little bit anxious about keeping your job. Fortunately, you'll have the opportunity to move up the ladder to a senior management position.



### CAPRICORN

You may suddenly be inspired to start a training program that could lead to some exciting new career opportunities. As for your spiritual side, you'll find that you need to strengthen your convictions.



### AQUARIUS

You'll be more sensitive than usual and easily moved. Change could generate some anxiety, but you'll find the outcome to be quite liberating. You'll begin the process of buying property.



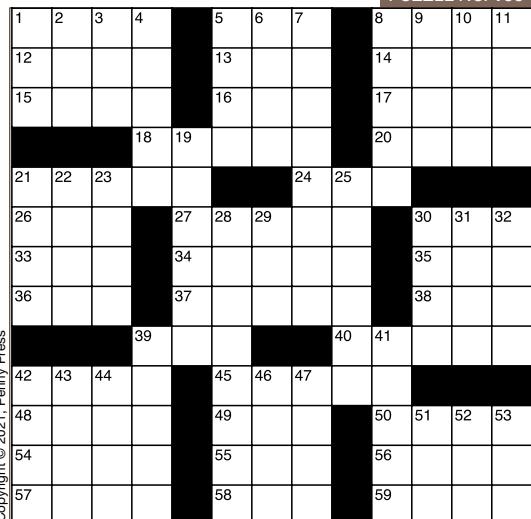
### PISCES

It's important to gather all the necessary information before making a decision, even if you feel rushed. Take the time to reflect on your choices before you show your hand to others.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 100



### ACROSS

- 1. Stick around
- 5. That girl
- 8. Final
- 12. Confederate
- 13. King Kong, e.g.
- 14. Yodeling sound
- 15. Howl
- 16. \_\_\_ service
- 17. Track competition
- 18. Notable period
- 20. Chances
- 21. Mexican sauce
- 24. Baseball's Swoboda
- 26. Deadlock
- 27. Small piece
- 30. Also
- 33. Lyric poem
- 34. The ones there
- 35. Admit for a visit
- 36. Part of mph
- 37. Devoured
- 38. Elongated fish
- 39. Swiss peak
- 40. Avoid
- 42. Elated
- 45. Baseball-card deal
- 48. Dilly
- 49. Tin \_\_\_
- 50. Royal garment
- 54. \_\_\_ tradition
- 55. Cup part
- 56. Soft light
- 57. Choicest
- 58. Sneaky
- 59. "Jagged \_\_\_"
- 10. Discard
- 11. Tykes
- 19. Soft hue
- 21. Eight-sided sign
- 22. Deputy
- 23. Impolite look
- 25. Unlocked
- 28. Book divisions
- 29. Decay
- 30. On a voyage
- 31. Shortcoming
- 32. Remove from print
- 39. Mature
- 41. Brink
- 42. Droplet
- 43. Bait
- 44. Oh, woe!
- 46. Amtrak travel
- 47. Military force
- 51. Not young
- 52. Marsh
- 53. Lamb's mother

### DOWN

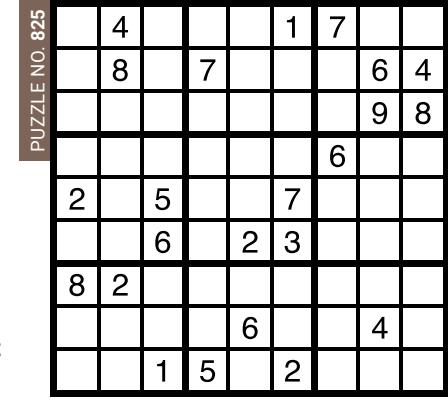
- 1. Manner
- 2. Foamy brew
- 3. Unwell
- 4. Kinds
- 5. Crown of light
- 6. Saga
- 7. Word another way
- 8. Defective auto
- 9. Did better than a B

# Sudoku

### HOW TO PLAY:

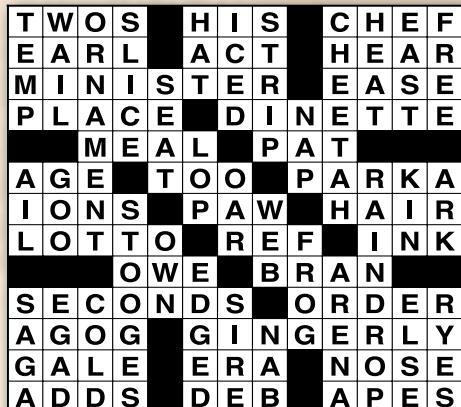
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**

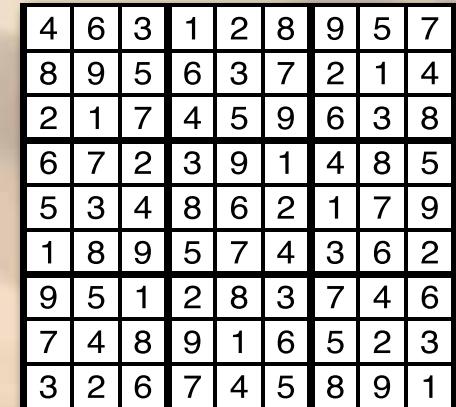


### Last Issues' Answers

## CROSSWORDS



# Sudoku



Your Company Name  
Address  
City/Prov/Zip

YOUR COMPANY NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY/PROVINCE/ZIP

PAY  
To the order of \_\_\_\_\_

DATE  
YY YY MM DD

000001

000001

DATE  
YY YY MM DD

000001

000001

DATE  
YY YY MM DD

000001

000001

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