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Without health workers, there is no health care say country's doctors and nurses

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Bill 96 public consultations...

"Bill 96 is not just a language law, it is a
fundamental restructuring of our society,"
said Anglo 'Task Force president
Colin Standish.

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CMA/CNA call for urgent action during emergency COVID-19 summit



MARTIN C. BARRY
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With COVID-19 infection rates stabilizing in certain areas of Canada but still out of control in places like Alberta and Saskatchewan, what Canada needs is a “functional national vaccine passport or certificate,” the head of the country’s largest professional medical advocacy group recommended last week following an emergency summit on the Covid crisis.

‘Not complicated,’ said Smart

“You know, we’ve been talking about this for months,” said Dr. Katherine Smart, president of the Ottawa-based Canadian Medical Association. “It’s not complicated. It’s unclear why that solution is not yet available for Canadians to make public spaces safer.”

While there is currently no comprehensive and nation-wide vaccine passport program, all provinces and territories, including Quebec, have implemented vaccine passport or proof of

vaccination systems on their own. Still, the CMA feels a more concerted effort would produce better results.

“We need to be reactive to situations as they evolve to make sure we’re increasing public health mitigation strategies in certain areas that aren’t doing well,” Dr. Smart said, noting the importance of keeping in place simple practices like masking to prevent Covid from spiralling out of control in some parts of the country.

Trying to see the light

The CMA held the webcast in conjunction with the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) to emphasize that health workers across Canada, including Quebec, are now past the point of exhaustion and are in need of seeing some light at the end of the seemingly endless tunnel during the COVID-19 crisis.

As the two groups noted, rising numbers of COVID-19 cases have brought the health system in many regions to a breaking point. Despite encouraging words from government officials, they say vaccination rates are at a standstill and public health measures are being reinstated in some places.

In the meantime, they add, health workers are exhausted and

demoralized, with many leaving the front line. At the same time, significant backlogs of surgeries are expected to affect the health system and quality of life of patients for years to come.

Workers at breaking point

“We can no longer ask our health workers to carry the load,” said Dr. Smart, (photo right), who was joined by CNA president Tim Guest and Dr. Abdo Shabah, the CMA board member for Quebec.

“Throughout the summit we heard common concerns and themes being shared on how to immediately support health workers in this crisis,” said Guest. “It is clear, that we need a multi-pronged intervention, one that addresses the critical short-term challenges and one that also looks at beyond the COVID-19 crisis.”

“While improved data collection and national health human resource frameworks are necessary, they do not fix the immediate issues,” he continued. “For our health system to make it through the fourth wave, governments and health organizations need to urgently work together to support our health workers. Without health workers, there is no health care.”



The battle’s not over yet

The summit brought together nearly 40 national and provincial health organizations, and included nurses, physicians, personal support workers, psychologists, educational institutions, and other health organizations.

Amid a growing fourth wave, they found, health care workers are burnt out, demoralized and exhausted as they care for patients. In addition, they noted that many Canadians are waiting for much-needed procedures that have been delayed due to increasing backlogs.

Short and long-term solutions

During the meeting, health care leaders identified both short-term and long-term actions to contain the fourth wave, lead an effective COVID-19 response and ensure Canada’s health system remains sustainable. These included taking decisive and urgent actions to address staff shortages across Canada, examining issues including recruitment, retention, workload and safety, and bringing immediate relief to workers in COVID-19 hot zones.

The suggested actions also included making immediate commitments at all levels of governments — municipal, provincial, territorial and federal — to avoid the collapse of the health systems at all costs. They suggested implementing stronger public health measures and empowering authorities such as school boards to intervene and protect the people they serve, while providing urgent and long-term mental health support for health workers who continue to work in dire conditions to care for patients and keep the health system afloat.

Mandatory vaxing announced

Whether by coincidence or not, the conference was held at exactly the same hour on Oct. 6 when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland were addressing Canadians on the COVID-19 situation and announcing the mandatory vaccination program for the federal workforce and federally regulated transportation sectors.

Under the new policy, federal public servants in the Core Public Administration, including members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will be required to confirm their vaccination status by Oct. 29. Those who are unwilling to disclose their vaccination status or to be fully vaccinated will be placed on administrative leave without pay as early as Nov. 15.

Travellers must also be vaxed

Employers in the federally regulated air, rail, and marine transportation sectors will have until Oct. 30 to establish vaccination policies that ensure employees are vaccinated. Effective Oct. 30, travellers departing from Canadian airports and travellers on VIA Rail and Rocky Mountaineer trains will be required to be fully vaccinated, with very limited exceptions. The government said it is working with industry and key partners to put a strict vaccine requirement in place for cruise ships before the resumption of the 2022 cruise season.

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School Board election update

Some facts and figures from the exercise in democracy that returned Paolo Galati to chairperson's post

RENATA ISOPO
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Contrary to popular belief prior to the election for chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board that the turnout would be far more numerous than in previous elections because of the Bill 40 controversy, the numbers at final count were disappointing, and in the minds of Anglophone leaders. Not the best of news.

The turnout

The numbers that were reported by Returning Officer Clifford Buckland, at final tally showed that 1412 people turned out. On the September 26, 2021 election day when they cast ballots for either incumbent Paolo Galati, or challenger Noémia De Lima. These 1412 taxpayers, who displaced themselves to show up to vote on either advanced polling day or election day itself represent 3.27% of the 43,131 registered eligible voters, leaving 96.3% at 41,721 as no-shows.

At final count, incumbent Galati received 1148 votes of the 1398 valid ballots cast, with De Lima picking up 250 in her favour. Mr. Galati's support amounts to 82.1% support, with Mrs. De Lima's share comes to 17.9%. Together, their vote totals represented 3.27% of all eligible voters.

Drop in numbers, but democracy served

A detailed analysis of the turnout level for the 2021 election reflects a lower voter-participation rate than in previous years. In comparison to past elections which attracted anywhere from 15 to 20% turnouts in the Laurier Board the 2021 turnout dropped by 500 to 700%.

As previously reported by TLN's Martin C. Barry in a post-election report which went to press the day after the vote, the 2021 board elections across Québec were the first in a good number of years. In Laurier Board, voters were called upon to cast ballots only for the chairperson, as all board commissioners had been acclaimed in September 2020, with no challengers to their candidacies.

Following the election, Mr. Galati publicly congratulated Mrs. De Lima on her campaign, adding that "A variety of opinions have been voiced and democracy has been served. I am pleased that the electors of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board have entrusted me with this second mandate and I am already back at work."

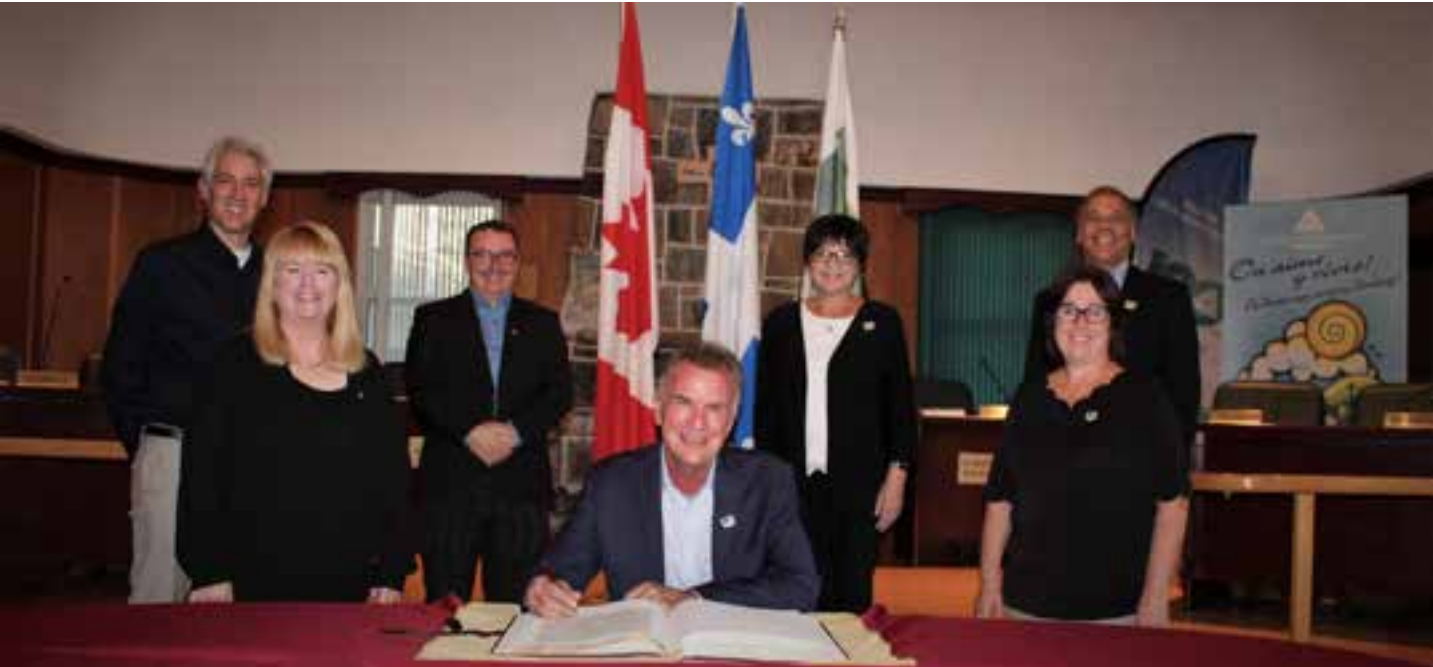
In a post-election statement of her own, to TLN, Mrs. De Lima said she was not surprised by the outcome. "Nothing has changed. The Board has been like that for many years."

Elections in other school boards

In points beyond the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board, throughout the nine English-language school boards 95% of all commissioners took their posts without having to go to the polls, earning acclamation prior to the voting day. At English Montreal School Board, the voter turnout for commissioner was at 9.8%; for Lester B. Pearson on West Island, 9.9%.

The Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board describes itself as the third largest English school board of the Province of Québec. Its territory comprises the administrative regions of Laval, Lanaudière, and the Laurentides, spanning over 35 000 square kilometers.

Deux Montagnes Denis Martin-team re-elected by acclamation



From left to right: Frédéric Berthiaume, Margaret Lavallée, Erik Johnson, Mayor Denis Martin, Micheline Groulx Stabile, Manon Robitaille and Michel Mendes.

MARIA DIAMANTIS

The returning officer and clerk of the City of Deux-Montagnes, Me Jacques Robichaud, proceeded on Tuesday October 5 to the swearing-in of Mayor Denis Martin and six municipal councillors, all re-elected, for a four-year term. The latter took an oath that they would exercise their functions in accordance with the Cities and Towns Act as well as the Code of ethics and professional conduct of elected municipal officials.

It should be noted that at the end of the candidacy period, on October 1 at 4:30 p.m., the municipal officials of the City of Deux-Montagnes were all re-elected by acclamation.

Mayor Denis Martin, who is starting a third term with his team, said he was grateful for the confidence shown in him by the Deux-Montagnaises and the Deux-Montagnais. "It is with honor that my team and I will continue to listen to our community and fully invest in the challenges that await us. Sound management of resources and responsible development will remain our leitmotif to guide our decisions and our actions," he said.

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- Mayor: Denis Martin
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- District du Lac, Erik Johnson
- District Olympia, Micheline Groulx Stabile
- District de la Gare, Frédéric Berthiaume
- District du Coteau, Michel Mendes
- District du Golf, Margaret Lavallée

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OPINION & Editorial



Systemic racism is embedded in our economy

*We pass laws for unjust taxes, reward unscrupulous businesses
and hold money back from our children*

In a 2016 interview, CBC journalist Peter Mansbridge confronted children's advocate Dr. Cindy Blackstock with this statement regarding public funding for Indigenous programs: "Billions of dollars have been spent in trying to come to grips with the situation that so many Indigenous Canadians face. And of those billions, it's on the record that some of them, a lot of them, have been misspent, not just by non-Indigenous groups but by Indigenous groups."

Blackstock didn't argue with Mansbridge but noted that the auditor general of Canada looked into this and found that the misappropriation of funds was not significantly different than it is in the non-Indigenous community. She then pointed out that this stereotype has been weaponized against Indigenous people, resulting in funds being held back – money that should be used to help children overcome the challenges they face.

Blackstock's point is quite valid and much more needs to be said with regard to corruption, not only in Canada but throughout the industrialized world.

Our democracies are rife with corruption; this is nothing new. We allow those who have the most to gain through unjust policies to influence our law-making. For example, English slave traders not only lobbied for the legality of the sale and enslavement of humans, they were also generously compensated by their government when slavery was made illegal in the British Empire in 1837.

The French were no better than the British. While slaves were freed in Haiti in the early 1800s after they forced their colonizers to leave, the French government required Haiti to pay exorbitant compensation. It wasn't until 1947 that banks were paid the last of these debts.

One can only imagine the benefit to the citizens of Haiti had their hard-earned money been used to build infrastructure in their country rather than increase the wealth of unscrupulous white men.

Even today, our laws allow the wealthy to profit from our most vulnerable citizens. We have, in essence, legalized loan sharks who give money to those who struggle with poverty and addictions and then charge exorbitant interest rates and unreasonable fees.

Isn't it ironic that we question funding social programs that will help these people while we pass laws that allow unscrupulous businesses to exploit them?

On a much larger scale, the military-industrial complex convinced us that it was a good idea to invade Afghanistan. Looking back 20 years later, it's clear they're the only ones who benefited from that decision.

Even our tax structure results in middle-class citizens paying far higher tax rates than their wealthy neighbours. Perhaps the most loathsome example of the impact of this philosophy of taxation happened recently in the United States, where a billionaire took a joy ride through the upper atmosphere while his underpaid workers on the ground were penalized for going to the bathroom.

No one will argue that Indigenous groups don't need to be held accountable for the use of public funds. The more important point is that, in reality, our efforts to focus on corruption in the Indigenous community while allowing obscene amounts of funds to flow into the pockets of wealthy individuals is arguably the very definition of systemic racism. We're passing laws that establish unjust tax structures and reward unscrupulous business practices while holding money back from children who need better schools and social programs.

Clearly, we need to find a way to deal with the conflict of interest that has existed in our democratic structures for hundreds of years. We can't continue to allow the rich to benefit from exploiting other humans and we need to find a way to make the rich pay their fair share in building a more just society.

Gerry Chidiac



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TOSH security chief meets with Thérèse de Blainville PD

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

In an effort for engagement and mobilization to prevent racial and social profiling as well as fostering an essential partnership to get to know and communicate better on a daily basis, Mr. Luc Larocque, chief inspector at the RIPTB and Mr. Isaac Weiss, responsible for the Shomrim, were invited to discuss during a provincial webinar on the importance to get to know each other among partners in order to offer services adapted to citizens.

“We have established a partnership that lasts over time. This partnership makes it possible to intervene and interact with members of the TOSH community on security issues, with a better knowledge of their habits and customs and a better knowledge of our role and responsibility on the part of citizens.” Said Luc Larocque, chief inspector at the RIPTB

Mainly involved in communication issues, these partners have learned over time to know each other, to separate the roles and functions of each other and to coordinate their actions. Proactive, they do not wait for the crisis to communicate and mobilize, on the contrary!

The Shomrim are organizations of proactive



volunteer Jewish civilian patrols which have been set up in Hassidic communities in neighborhoods across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom (among other countries) to

combat burglary, vandalism, mugging, assault, domestic violence, nuisance crimes, antisemitic attacks, and to help and support victims of crime. They also help locate missing people.

Shomrim volunteers are unarmed and do not have the authority to make arrests, other than citizen's arrests. They are effective in tracking and detaining suspects until police arrive.

Murder in Blainville

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
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The 26-year-old suspect arrested in Blainville for presumably killing his business partner is said to have made at least one incriminating call after the murder according to the media.

Simon Décarie was apprehended by investigators of crimes against the person of the Sûreté du Québec in Saint-Lin-Laurentides. He was to appear before a judge by videoconference on Friday the 8th, at the Saint-Jérôme courthouse, to be charged with murder.

If he wants to prove his innocence, Décarie will have a lot to do since he made incriminating remarks with at least one of his friends, about two hours after the murder.

“It looked like a goodbye call,” reported the boyfriend in question, who allowed the Journal de Montreal to relate the call, without disclosing his name.

“He told me that I would not see him again and that he was going inside. He told me he had done the right thing. This morning I saw the newspaper article and made the connection.

The police were on the 61st Avenue West in Blainville for part of the day Thursday the 7th of

October to investigate the crime scene where Maxime Villeneuve was killed.

According to relatives of the victim, a love triangle could be at the origin of this crime.

Maxime Villeneuve, who had no criminal record, was dating Simon Décarie's ex-girlfriend recently, reported several friends of the young men. The suspect was said to have been enraged when he learned about it on Wednesday the 6th.

A few weeks ago, Décarie was also arrested by the Mirabel police for breaking and entering and threatening the life of his ex.

In addition to being in love with the same person, Maxime Villeneuve and Simon Décarie were partners in a construction company specializing in roofing.

How the crime unfolded

The crime occurred shortly after 11 pm Wednesday the 6th of October when an individual appeared before the Maxime Villeneuve residence, located on the 61st West Avenue near Boulevard Curé-Labelle.

The gunman opened fire a few times before his vehicle, even leaving tire marks on the ground. The commotion caused several neighbors to alert the authorities.

Police and paramedics were dispatched to the scene.



Once there, they found the victim bloodied and hit by at least one projectile from a firearm. The young man, who was not known to police circles, was taken urgently to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during the night.



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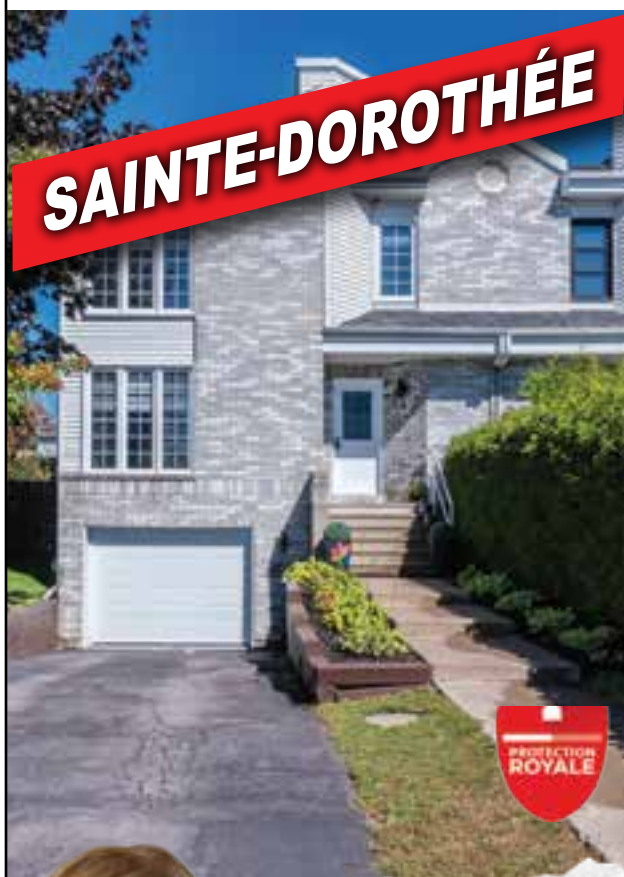
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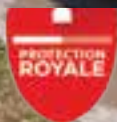
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Anglo 'Task Force' brief says Bill 96 'deinstitutionalizes the English language'

Keith Henderson is a founding member



MARTIN C. BARRY

While maintaining that they enjoy "a pretty good relationship" with the Quebec Community Groups Network but remain independent of the larger anglophone interest lobby group, the Task Force on Linguistic Policy released a brief on the CAQ government's Bill 96 last week which goes far beyond the QCGN's analysis.

Following the federal Liberal government's enacting of Bill C-32 to reform the Official Languages Act and the provincial government's passing Bill 96, the TFLP was created "to enable concerned citizens to confront the excesses" in the two pieces of legislation, the organization states on its website.

They weren't invited

Although the CAQ government recently held public hearings at the National Assembly on Bill 96, the TFLP was not among the few anglophone lobby groups invited to submit briefs. Nonetheless, the organization prepared its own which was released last week during a webcast press conference.

While the QCGN is led by a board that includes former Liberal MP Marlene Jennings as president and former Liberal senator Joan Fraser who is a board member, the TFLP's list of founding members includes some seasoned veterans of the first wave of resistance to Bill 101 more than four decades ago.

Veterans back to contest

These include former Equality Party leader Keith Henderson, as well as constitutional lawyer Brent Tyler, a firebrand who filed many legal contestations of Bill 101 over the years on behalf of companies and individuals who were at odds with the Parti Québécois' 1977 Bill 101 language legislation.

Both were speakers during last week's webcast. Ben Huot, vice-chair and policy chair at the TFLP, said the brief was the culmination of an article-by-article analysis of Bill 96 which took place over several months, with university professors, lawyers, professionals and concerned Quebecers participating.

"Bill 96 is not just a language law, it is a fundamental restructuring of our society, our country, our province (not nation), the relationship between people and the state, and between each other," said Colin Standish, the Task Force's president.

TFLP accuses gov't of lying

"The CAQ government has said repeatedly, 'This Bill does not take away the rights of English-speakers,' added Standish. "Those statements are not opinions or biased observations... those statements are lies."

In an executive summary of its brief on Bill 96, the TFLP says, "The Bill serves to erode, erase and extinguish the fundamental freedoms of all Quebecers, be they French-speakers, English-speakers, newcomers or Aborigines. The Bill surgically excises the English language and its speakers and institutions from Quebec," and "in effect, Bill 96 deinstitutionalizes the English language and its speakers in Quebec."

Pet peeves with Bill 96

Here is a list of the Task Force's primary reservations about Bill 96:

It does not promote, "protect" or increase the French-language in usage, home language,

mother-tongue or first official language spoken (FOLS).

Bill 96 effectively erases the English-language, its institutions and individual speakers from civil society and public administration in Quebec.

The proposed unilateral Constitutional amendment is, in itself, unconstitutional and ill-advised public policy that will affect other aspects of the Canadian Constitution. (s. 159)

Changes to the interpretive framework for Bill 101 and the Quebec Charter and other laws will distort fundamental freedoms and human rights. (ss. 63, 65, 66, 120, 138, 133- 136) 5. Freedom of expression, commercial expression and practice, work and employment, contractual liberty and freedom of education are constrained for all Quebecers, of all linguistic groups.

The use of provincial and national notwithstanding clauses will suppress basic human rights for all Quebecers in extreme and illegitimate ways at home, at school, the workplace and in their commercial transactions.

Children's names and Bill 96

Among the more extravagant measures the TFLP claims to have found in Bill 96 is an article which amends the old language legislation by striking out the word "English" in a section pertaining to the naming of a child. This, the TFLP maintains, would force some people to use francized names.

"Where a name contains characters, diacritical signs [accents etc.] or a combination of a character and a diacritical sign that are not used for the writing of French, the name must be transcribed into French," reads the new article as it would supposedly appear in Bill 96.

"It's sort of outlandish. If people from around the world or indigenous Canadians, if they have anything that's sort of not an Anglo/Celtic name, they would be forced to be solely in French going forward," said Standish.

"It's a very bizarre little change. I don't know why we can't let people name themselves for themselves or what their parents decide."

Fines from \$21,000 – \$90,000

Describing some of the monetary penalties imposed upon those who violate Bill 96, the TFLP claims that a fine ranging from \$21,000 (individual) to \$90,000 (corporate) could be levied upon any person or company found guilty of allowing a child to be instructed in English when they are legally ineligible.

Standish gave the following example (although he suggested he wasn't completely certain, as the government has yet to explain in detail the exact impact of the law which hasn't been passed by the National Assembly yet).

Bill 96 and Story Time

"If you let your child in your home read a story book in English to a neighbour's child, who lacks a Section 23 right – let's say they're a new Canadian or a French speaker without the right to English education – you can have a \$21,000 fine," he said, while adding that if you are running a business from home, the fine could be up to \$90,000.

"This is actually in Bill 96. This is not a ridiculous example where I'm trying to distort and pervert what's actually in the law. You could have a \$21,000 to \$90,000 fine for merely tolerating a child's receiving instruction in English if they don't have a Section 23 right. That's how far this law goes in perverting and distorting our rights and freedoms."

Green-thumb winners announced in Rosemère

MARIA DIAMANTIS
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The winners of the 2021 virtual edition of the Rosemère in Bloom contest were announced on September 29 at an awards ceremony held at the Memorial Community Centre. The contest, which was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, is now in its 32nd year. The Rosemère community is very fond of this annual horticultural tradition.

“Despite the public health measures, we are happy to have been able to hold the contest this year, in an adapted yet original format. Rosemerites are creative, proud and concerned about their environment and this is reflected in the aesthetics and composition of their landscaping and floral arrangements. Through their passion for horticulture, they contribute toward enhancing our neighbourhood and urban landscape. I would like to warmly congratulate all the participants and winners of the 2021 edition as well as the members of the Rosemère in Bloom Committee, who have brilliantly and inventively risen to the challenge of this special edition,” said Eric Westram, Mayor of Rosemère.

This year, the format was transformed into a virtual photography contest. Participants were invited to send in photos of their gardens by entering them in one of the contest categories. The Rosemère in Bloom Committee served as the panel of judges and organized the contest.



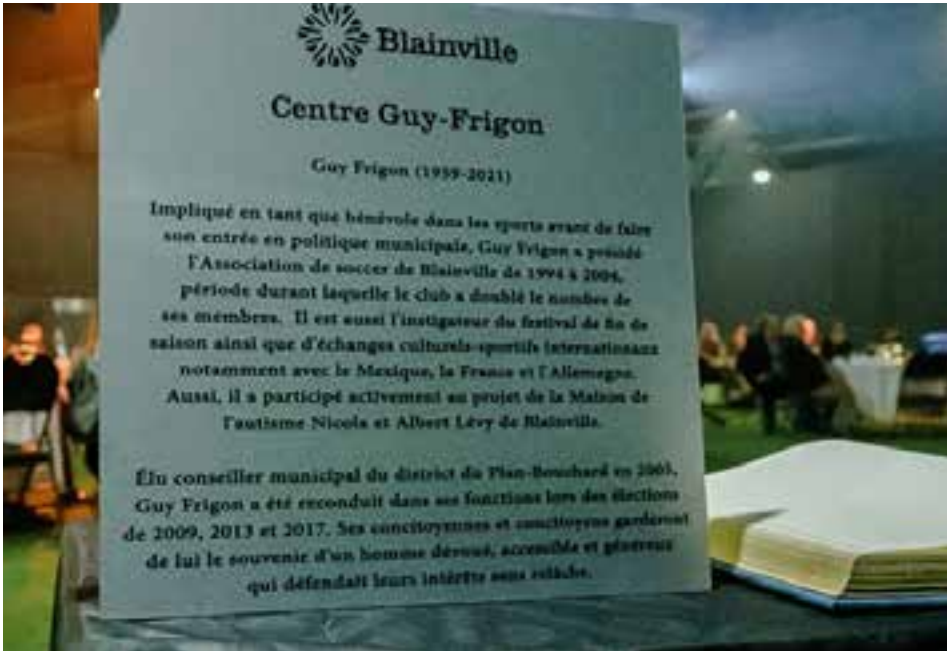
Here are the grand-prize winners in the five different categories (residential only):
Front in Bloom: 296 Rose-Alma Street
Cosy Corner: 277 Willowtree Street
Vegetable Garden: 273 De la Clairière Street
Environmental Action: a tie between 258 Labonté Street (drought-resistant landscaping with perennial cactuses) and 244 Northcliffe Street (green roof on shed)
Backyard: 273 De la Clairière Street

2021 virtual edition of the Secret Garden Tour

Like the Rosemère in Bloom contest, the 21st edition of the Secret Garden Tour was also held virtually. Thanks to drones, high-definition video images of eight landscaped areas were captured during the summer, with the consent of the owners who had expressed their interest,

in advance, in participating in this event. These images were used in the recent production of eight video clips that will be broadcast on the City’s communication platforms. The first video will be posted in the next few days. Once all eight video clips are released, they will be accessible and archived on the Town’s website. Mayor Westram took the opportunity of the ceremony to thank the participants of the 2021 virtual edition of the Secret Garden Tour.

Equestrian school named after Plan-Bouchard district councillor in Blainville



MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

During a touching ceremony that took place on October 2, the City of Blainville paid a heartfelt tribute to the former Plan-Bouchard district councillor, Mr. Guy Frigon, who died suddenly on April 17, 2021.

“If we decided to give a name to the riding school of the Equestrian Park, that of “Guy-Frigon center”, it is to honor the memory of a man deeply committed to his city and his community. A commitment which went beyond the political framework and which was manifested at the sporting and community level. It is this commitment and the life of Guy Frigon that we are celebrating with this gesture,” said

Blainville Mayor Richard Perreault during the ceremony.

Mr. Frigon, in addition to being a city councillor much appreciated by his fellow citizens for nearly sixteen years, was involved for many years in soccer and chaired the Soccer Association from 1994 to 2004. One of his successors to the presidency, Mr. Sylvain Pereira, paid tribute to him.

Guy Frigon was also recognized for his generosity and community involvement. Until the end of his life, he supported the cause of autism in the Laurentians region and he is at the origin of the Nicola and Albert Lévy Respite House project in Blainville, which must also be enlarged during the next few months. The general manager of the Société Autisme Laurentides, Ms. Karine Brunet, testified to Mr. Frigon’s unwavering support for this cause.

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Pandemic impacted economic development of English communities in Quebec

Ottawa, Quebec failed to halt Anglo community's economic decline, says CEDEC



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

There was a collective failure on the part of federal and provincial governments to prioritize and take the necessary steps to address the economic decline of the English-speaking community of Quebec, the head of an economic development agency with concerns for the province's anglophones claimed during an online consultation on Oct. 5.



"In the context of post-pandemic recovery, addressing this challenge must be at the centre of any constructive and productive dialogue with federal institutions with the responsibility for the economic development of the English-speaking community," John Buck, president and CEO of the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), told federal government officials who hosted the webconference.

Economic vitality

"It is important to emphasize that a community's health and well-being is a function of its economic vitality," he added. "The economic development of the English-speaking community,



ity, especially in a post-COVID-19 recovery context, must ensure the continued vitality and resilience of the English-speaking community of Quebec in the years ahead."

Buck said the English-speaking community

of Quebec is experiencing economic decline in many quarters, examples being economic disadvantages related to employment, poverty, median incomes and a shrinking middle-class. He said that success in being able to deal effectively with these problems will be "essential to the long-term health and vitality of the official language minority community in Quebec."

'Ready and willing,' CEDEC CEO said

In spite of his criticisms, Buck said that effective economic development that will benefit the English-speaking community of Quebec can only be achieved through collaboration and innovation.

"We are ready and willing to work with the federal government and its institutions, especially ISED and CED-Q, to strengthen economic growth and development of the English-speaking community, to develop and adopt a policy on the economic revitalization of the English-speaking community of Quebec in the context of the government's immediate post-COVID-19 recovery plan, and to extend these efforts into the next official languages action plan."

Anglo groups consulted

The CEDEC was just one group that Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and Canada Economic Development for Quebec Region (CED-Q) had invited to participate in the first "Virtual Dialogue Day" with the English-speaking Communities in Quebec (ESCQ).

The purpose of the meeting was to measure the impact of the pandemic on the economic development of the communities, more specifically to reflect on main issues relating to the economic development of the ECSQ in the context of the pandemic, and to build and strengthen collaboration and partnerships between community stakeholders and federal institutions.

New consultation strategy

"This dialogue is a unique occasion for federal departments and partners that brings together English-speaking communities in Quebec and

the federal government to reflect on experiences and challenges relating to the pandemic," said Francis Bilodeau, senior assistant deputy minister for innovation strategies and policies at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

"These events, this one and other events we've launched, support a new consultation strategy put forward by the department," he said, noting that a second consultation in November will concentrate on the pandemic's impact on Quebec's tourism sector, while a third will focus on sharing best practices and collaboration between communities and federal institutions.

Survey results released

Released during the meeting were draft key findings from a pre-consultation survey conducted over a period of 10 days in early September by the Association for Canadian Studies to assess the economic impacts of the pandemic on the English-speaking minority communities in Quebec and whether the federal programs/measures helped to effectively mitigate the impacts.

According to the survey results, 98 per cent of the respondents were from non-profit organizations, the remaining two per cent being from small businesses. The results also showed that nearly one-third of the respondents (29 per cent) used news outlets (local, national and international) as their primary source of information on COVID-19 programs.

More survey findings

In other findings, 80 per cent of respondents said their organization didn't benefit from COVID-19 economic recovery programs offered by Canada Economic Development (CED), with half saying they had no need for support, and nearly a dozen organizations maintaining they didn't meet the program criteria.

"The majority of those surveyed (64 per cent) responded that their organization didn't benefit from any other COVID-19 programs offered by the federal government," stated the survey's authors, Paul Holley and Stefan Stefanovic. "According to the majority of the respondents, there was no need for support."

Residential and commercial asphalt



BEFORE



AFTER

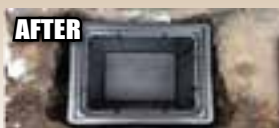
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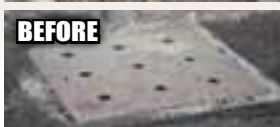
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News from the CISSS des Laurentides

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The North-Shore News • info@newsfirst.ca

University affiliations

The Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) des Laurentides announced its affiliation with the University of Montreal and the University of Quebec in Outaouais. These partnerships will help develop research and teaching activities that take place in hospitals, CHSLDs, CLSCs and rehabilitation centers in the region.

Affiliation to these two universities, recognized for their quality of teaching, will have several positive effects, in particular by making it possible to:

Participate in the development of knowledge and methods of intervention;

Integrate new recognized practices for the benefit of patients;

Attract future professionals to work in the Laurentians;

Promote learning and innovation within teams;

Strengthen commitment to training the next generation in health and social services.

For the President and CEO of the CISSS des Laurentides, Ms. Rosemonde Landry, this was excellent news. “These affiliations are the logical continuation of an already existing collaboration with these two educational institutions. The University of Montreal has been our main university partner for internships for a very long time. As for the Université du Québec en Outaouais, it is an essential ally in our region, whether in research or teaching. It is with great pride that we make a significant contribution to the training of the next generation and to the advancement of knowledge, which are key assets in providing the best health care and social services to the community,” she said.

The contracts recently approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Services thus consolidate the links already well established with these partners.



Critical situation continues at Saint-Eustache hospital

Due to the high occupancy rates in its emergency rooms in Saint-Eustache and Saint-Jérôme, the Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) des Laurentides asks the population with non-urgent health problems to opt for other solutions than going to the emergency room, particularly in these two places.

Patients whose situation is not urgent are invited to consult their family doctor, pharmacist, a doctor in a walk-in clinic or

to contact Info-Santé, by dialing 811, where a nurse can contact them, advise and direct them to the appropriate service. The President and CEO, Ms. Rosemonde Landry, however, assures the population that urgent cases will be taken care of quickly throughout the region, including in Saint-Eustache and Saint-Jérôme. “A person in a critical and unstable situation is of course always invited to go to the emergency room. In no way do we want to deprive a person of the essential care they need,” said Ms. Landry. Several actions are in place to support the care teams, including collaboration with our partners to reorient some people who do not need immediate care.

A2 AUTO

1385, Boul. des Laurentides local 103, Vimont, Laval 514 476-4565



To Grandmother's House

Q I've been married five years. Last year my husband's son from a previous marriage showed up on our doorstep suitcase in hand. His mother had thrown him out.

His ex-wife fought my husband tooth and nail for years trying to keep this kid from him, and now, at 18, she sends him to us on a silver platter.

My husband and his son battle over everything. The boy is disrespectful, mouthy and lazy. He is in high school until June, and then he plans to move three hours away to his grandparents.

We told him he needs to get a part-time job so he can save for a vehicle.

He told us straight out if he got a job he would make sure they fired him the next day.

He will not follow our simple house rules. He is mean to my dogs, bordering on cruelty. Since he can't be trusted with the dogs alone, I took away his key. I am afraid he will hurt them.

Last week I asked him to do a chore for money towards his car, and he screamed profanities at me and told me to screw off. My husband wants him to finish school, which he cares nothing about. He has never studied a day in his life.

I can't take the abuse anymore.

Tasha

A Tasha, in the past, the classic answer for a boy like this was to send him to military school or force him to join the army. But he's too old for one and the other one probably won't take him.

What do you do with a lost cause? You break the problem into parts. Part one is your husband, part two is your stepson.

Part of your husband's tolerance for his son's bad behavior is based in guilt,

because he was not around to be a father. That doesn't mean letting the boy remain out of control is a viable strategy, either for your husband or for his son.

If your stepson can stay with you and be as he is, his reward is he doesn't have to change. Give him six more months and it will prove to him his strategy works. Who says he will leave then or get a job? It's just kicking the can farther down the road.

This problem child may change your relationship with your husband, but you can't avoid taking a stand.

Let your husband know, firmly, I don't feel safe here and my dogs aren't safe either. We have simple rules. Those rules must be enforced. This boy thinks he is the boss of the world, and we must be prepared to enforce consequences for his bad behavior. That's the way the world works. To do this we need to present a united front.

Cruelty to animals is a marker for antisocial behavior. It's hard to evaluate at a distance, but your stepson may be doing this to give himself power in the house, similar to his mother's behavior in withholding access from your husband. It's blackmail.

You must protect your pets, but removing the dogs tells the boy he has the power and has you on the run. Let your stepson know the first time either of you catch him harming a dog, he will be penalized, and that includes legal punishment if it is warranted.

What this boy lacks is a map of where to go and how to get there. Where is his life plan? Your husband needs to address that with him, again and again, even if he doesn't appear to listen.

You and your husband must stick with a consistent strategy. Expectations, consequences, and where is your life plan?

The best solution is to have this young man stay with his grandparents, if they are willing, and finish school there. But if he stays with you, he lives by your rules or he packs his suitcase.

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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The pros and cons of contract work

In today's job market, it's common for employers to hire people for a fixed amount of time or to complete a particular project. Are you wondering whether contract work is right for you? Here's a look at the benefits and drawbacks.

Pros

Temporary employment opportunities tend to be more widely available, and it's fairly common for contract work to turn into a permanent position. In the meantime, you'll be able to broaden your skill set. You can also sample various roles and employers before you make a long-term commitment. Plus, you're free to take time off between contracts to travel or pursue a passion project.



Cons

There's no guarantee that your contract will be extended or that you'll immediately find a new position. This lack of job security can lead to financial instability. Additionally, your income won't be taxed upfront, and you won't be eligible for entitlements like vacation time, sick leave, severance pay and health and retirement benefits. Plus, it can be hard to get to know your colleagues if you're only around for a few months.

To find out about the positions available in your area, reach out to local job recruitment and temporary staffing agencies.

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The soft skills employers are looking for in today's job market

When you apply for a job, your personal qualities are usually what set you apart from other candidates who have the same technical skills and industry experience. Here are the top characteristics that employers are looking for.

• **EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE.** You're self-aware. Your empathy makes you good at resolving conflicts, and you remain calm in high-pressure situations.

• **CREATIVITY.** You're an avid problem-solver. You question assumptions, think outside the box and strive to find innovative solutions.

• **GROWTH MINDSET.** You're naturally curious. You embrace new challenges, welcome feedback and view setbacks as opportunities to learn.

• **ADAPTABILITY.** You face uncertainty head-on. You're resourceful, willing to experiment and open-minded about change.

• **CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE.** You treat everyone with respect. You understand that your perspective is different from others, and you welcome diverse points of view.

• **COLLABORATION.** You're a team player. You like working with others toward a common goal, and you offer support and encouragement to those around you.

Contact job recruiters in your area to find out about professional development programs that can help you hone your soft skills.



In Memoriam & Obituaries



FORGUES LEVASSEUR, NOLAN 1921 - 2021

At his home, on October 3, 2021, at the age of 3 months, passed away baby Nolan Forgues Levasseur, son of Mrs. Valérie Levasseur and Mr. Jean-Sébastien Forgues. He lived in Baie-Comeau.

A hymn of the Angels in memory of baby Nolan Forgues Levasseur will be celebrated in privacy.

He is survived by his parents, his sister Samantha and brother Michael as well as his paternal grandmother Nathalie Forgues.



GHISLAINE SYLVESTRE COLLIN 1944 - 2021

At the CISSS of Port-Cartier, on October 7, 2021 passed away at the age of 77 years Mrs. Ghislaine Sylvestre wife of Mr. Romuald Collin. Survived by her husband Mr. Romuald Collin, her children: Joël (Julie Drouin), Sylvie (Michel Berthelot), Tony (Marie-Claude Gagné) and Diane, her grandchildren: Vanessa, Dhalia, Pier-Luc, Caroll-Ann, Raphaël, Virginie, Jonathan, Zachary, Karl and Simon, her great-grandchildren: Loïk, Logan, Anna and Noah, her brothers and sisters: Béatrice (Jean Camus), Isidore, Julien, Augustin (Christiane) and Henriette, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as his nieces and nephews.

After you're
GONE

Funerals. Burials. End-of-life services.

Green burials: how death is becoming more environmentally friendly

Increasingly, people who adopt ecologically sustainable practices during their lifetime are forgoing traditional burial practices in favour of those that are more environmentally friendly. Here's what you should know.

Natural burials

Traditional burial practices rely on coffins and urns that release toxic chemicals into the soil. Plus, the carcinogenic compounds used in embalming and treating wood are likely to end up in the water table.

In contrast, natural burials are interment practices that return the deceased's body to the Earth with a minimal amount of environmental impact. They use either biodegradable shrouds, or coffins made of cardboard or untreated pine wood.

If cremation is preferred over burial, biodegradable urns that grow a tree can be used.

Eco-friendly cemeteries

An increasing number of cemeteries are eliminating environmentally damaging practices, such as using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to maintain their grounds. Many are also opting to use small, flat grave makers made of locally sourced stones or plants instead of large headstones.

If you want to be buried in such a graveyard, you'll have to respect fairly strict rules. For instance, some green cemeteries prohibit the use of coffins altogether, or won't allow embalmed remains to be interred on their grounds.

In order to help limit carbon emissions, it's also common for these places to restrict the ways bodies can be transported to their final resting place.

If a natural burial is right for you, consider pre-planning your funeral to ensure your wishes are respected.



CRÉPEAU LOUIS-GEORGES 1945- 2021

In Chicoutimi on October 7, 2021, passed away at the age of 76, Mr. Louis-Georges Crépeau, son of the late Mr. Paul Crépeau and the late Mrs. Simone Rock. He is survived by his daughters: Renée (Sylvio), Geneviève (Guy) and Émilie (Mathieu), his grandchildren: Zacharie, Dorinna, Emmy, Gustave, Shanny-Kim, Mathias, Vicky-Kate, Ally-Rose, Samuel and Anaïs, his great-grandchildren: Isaac, Océanne and Milan, his sisters: Aline (Jean-Marie), Huguette, Virginie, Danielle (Étienne), Colette and France (Steeve), his nephews and nieces as well as other relatives and friends.



BACON, Gertrude 1931 - 2021

The family and loved ones are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Mrs. Thérèse Truchon, wife of the late Oscar Levasseur, who passed away at the age of 90. Mrs. Truchon is survived by her children: Jacques (Christine), Suzanne (late Michel), Alice (Maurice), Madeleine (Clément), Yves (Lisette), Sylvie (Jean-Pierre), Ghislain (Brigitte), Josée, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, her brothers and sisters, as well as many relatives and friends. She was preceded by her son Richard.



LAROUCHE, Richard 1930 - 2021

In La Vallée des Roseaux, on October 5, 2021, at the age of 91, passed away Mrs. Marie-Anne Collin, wife of Mr. Robert Turbis. She lived in Baie-Comeau. She is survived by her husband, her children: Sylvain, Mario and Paul-André; his grandchildren: Kaven, François and Anne-Marie, his sister Diane and his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

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HOROSCOPE

Week of **OCTOBER 17 TO 23, 2021**

The luckiest signs this week:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



ARIES

You'll be handed all the urgent problems at work. At home, you'll have to trust other family members with the housework. Your great strength is to bring loved ones together and lighten the mood with your smile.



TAURUS

Before you get started on a new project, it's important to acquire all the necessary information. Even if you don't have a romantic weekend planned, you won't be able to resist temptation if the occasion presents itself.



GEMINI

A few changes are needed if you want to experience growth or stability at work. Be bold enough to sign up for training that will lead to a more interesting position. Any changes will be good for you right now.



CANCER

It's all about the details. How you dress and present yourself will have a significant impact on how your career unfolds. You have a tendency to spoil yourself, and your friends will be quick to encourage you.



LEO

In terms of your health, you should receive some excellent news. You'll finally find the right treatment or medication to suit your needs and improve your quality of life. At work, the emergencies always fall on your desk.



VIRGO

Your powers of seduction will increase exponentially, and very interesting people will be attracted to you. You'll easily expand your client base, to the delight of your boss, whose turnover will double thanks to your interpersonal skills.



LIBRA

You'll discover that you're an exceptional and irreplaceable person in the eyes of your boss. This will increase your salary and allow you to imagine a better future. In your love life, the scope of your plans will match the depth of your feelings.



SCORPIO

You'll turn long days at work into moments of happiness. You'll burn off some excess energy by having dynamic conversations with loved ones. You always have the best ideas to improve discussions with others.



SAGITTARIUS

Whether it's to settle a precarious financial situation or make a major purchase, you'll successfully negotiate a loan that will provide you with a better quality of life. As for matters of the heart, a more sustained demonstration of love would be welcome.



CAPRICORN

When it comes to matters of the heart, you may have to adjust your goals with your significant other. In your relationship, and elsewhere, be careful not to hog the blankets and always look for ways to share. At work, keep an eye on the details.



AQUARIUS

Avoid missing out on sleep this week. If you're tired, your concentration will wane and your health will be more fragile. You'll be struck by creativity, and you're sure to complete a great masterpiece.



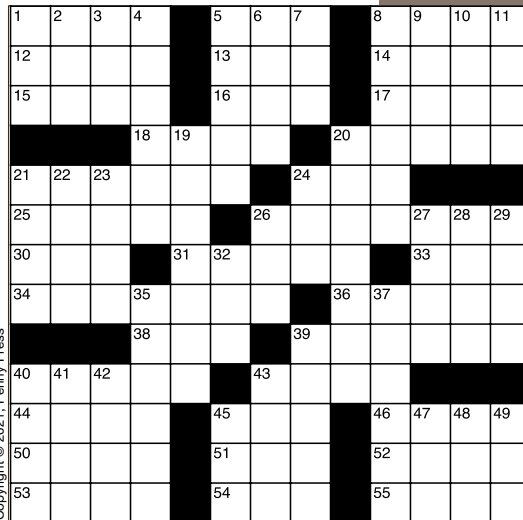
PISCES

You'll spend a lot of time on social media, and many friends will try to connect with you. A family obligation will get you back on track. You'll discover a new art form that completely captivates you.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 098



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ACROSS

1. Fades away
5. Foreign agent
8. Gentle
12. Dancer's jump
13. Sock part
14. Amiss
15. "Cape ____"
16. Over there, poetically
17. Seep
18. Froster
20. Sew loosely
21. Rocks
24. Fruit spread
25. Cuban line dance
26. Entered in a ledger
30. Circle segment
31. Like a chimney
33. "No ____ Out"
34. Requiring
36. Nutmeg, e.g.
38. ____ and outs
39. Origins

DOWN

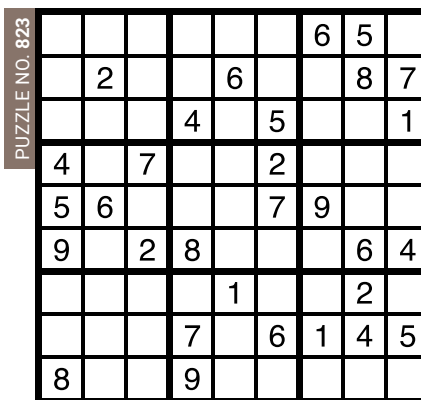
1. Gremlin's kin
2. Spelling ____
3. Lamb's call
4. Bed coil
5. Eye ailments
6. Meager
7. Itch
8. Sandwich sausage
9. Has bills
10. Campus gp.
11. Tot
19. Halting
20. Watch a tot
21. Thumb through
22. Ripped apart
23. Previously
24. 707, e.g.
26. Hound
27. Tease
28. Every one
29. Stains
32. Not offs
35. Banquet
37. Explored
39. Pierre's headwear
40. Galahad and Gawain
41. Cloak
42. Tiny particle
43. Weakness
45. Groupie
47. Distinct period
48. Coat sleeve
49. Put to work

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.**

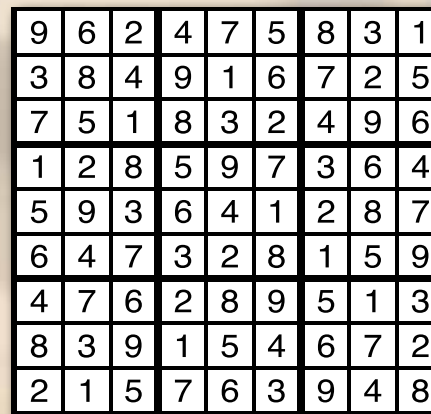


Last Issues' Answers

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Sudoku



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