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Exclusive Interview with Minister Pablo Rodriguez



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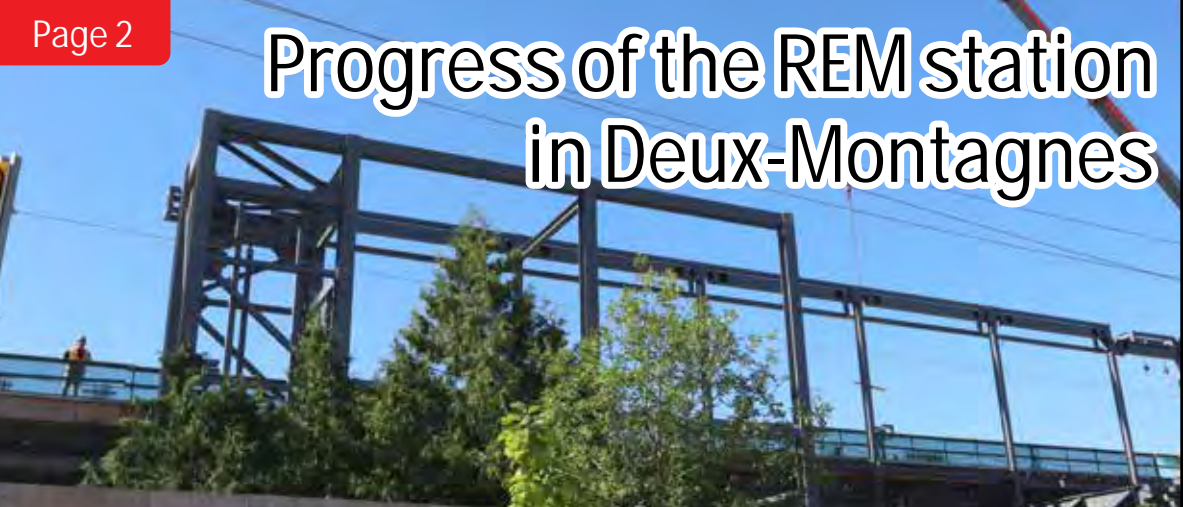


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Progress of the REM station in Deux-Montagnes





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Deux-Montagnes: Repaving work on Henri-Dunant, started on September 19th

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

The City of Deux-Montagnes in a recent communiqué announced that it has started to carry out paving work on rue Henri-Dunant, between 20th and 14th Avenue. The public works started on September 19.

According to the City's press release, work will be completed on Wednesday, September 28, except between 14th and 15th Avenue which is the REM construction site. That section will remain closed until mid-October. The REM will indeed complete all of its work on rue Henri-Dunant.

Local automobile traffic will be permitted during the works, with the exception of next Monday, September 19, when the asphalt was removed. Local traffic will also be limited on September 26 and 27 during the paving operation. During these two phases, citizens can park their vehicles in the adjacent streets.

Pedestrian traffic

Pedestrian traffic will not be possible on Henri-Dunant at the work site, except between 15th and 14th Avenue, where a pedestrian crossing will be installed so that the railway tracks can be crossed safely.

Temporary reopening of chemin d'Oka

The city of Deux-Montagnes has also announced that to make it easier for citizens to get around, the chemin d'Oka (between 11th and 12th Avenue) will be reopened temporarily, between September 17 and 23. It will be closed again on September 24, before its permanent reopening on October 8. Citizens are invited to consult the REM Info Works for more details: <https://rem.info/en/works-info/> complete-closure-Chemin-Oka

REM works

From its side REM also announced their current work progress announcing a "Blitz of work this fall in the Deux-Montagnes sector" for the construction of the REM

According to REM, their work continues to progress in the Deux-Montagnes sector. For the Saint-Eustache maintenance center and the Grand-Moulin station, the installation work of the steel structure is now completed. The installation of the glass panels that will close off the exterior of the station is well underway, and the interior work has begun. At the Deux-Montagnes station, work on the steel structure is currently underway. In addition, the installation of the rails in the Deux-Montagnes sector on the old commuter train line began in the last few weeks.

	September			October		
	10	17	24	1	8	15
Deux-Montagnes Boulevard						
Between the station and Ovila-Forget						
Henri-Dunant Street						
Between 15 th Ave. and 20 th Ave.*						
Between 14 th Ave. and 15 th Ave.						
Chemin d'Oka						
Between 11 th Ave. and 12 th Ave.						
du Lac Boulevard						
Between 8 th Ave. and 10 th Ave.						

* Works carried out by the City of Deux-Montagnes

Open to traffic One lane per direction Closed to traffic No access to pedestrian and cyclist

A summary of the works carried out by the city and REM

North Shore cities united for a cleanup of the banks of the Rivière des Mille Îles



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

In an effort to preserve the natural beauty of the Rivière des Mille Îles, 1022 pounds of waste were collected on September 10th during the third annual cleanup of its banks.

This year, residents of the cities of Rosemère, Blainville and Sainte-Thérèse, in collaboration with the organization Mission 1000 tons, joined the initiative of the Commission de l'environnement of the City of Boisbriand. For the first time, two sites were cleaned, several kilometers in Boisbriand (483 pounds of waste collected) as well as the site of the Sainte-Thérèse water purification station located in Rosemère (539 pounds of waste collected).

"I am proud that the citizens of Boisbriand and those of neighboring towns are once again investing in cleaning up our common source of drinking water. This chore is consistent with one of our intervention strategies included in our environmental policy, namely to promote the preservation of aquatic environments. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of all the members of the Environment Committee, chaired by my colleague Maude Whittom," said the Mayor of Boisbriand, Christine Beaudette.

"The citizens of our cities are consumers of river water. It is important that its quality remains and we have to carry out this cleaning, which is a good citizen gesture," commented Francis Allaire, Councilor for the Environment and Ecological

Transition at the City of Blainville.

"This cleaning effort is proof that citizens are ready to unite and mobilize to keep our river clean and welcoming, but also to preserve this wealth that contributes to the protection of the natural environment," said the mayor of Rosemère, Eric Westram.

"Rivière des Mille Îles is home to a rich and diversified biodiversity that benefits a large number of nature enthusiasts. It is also our only source of drinking water. For this reason, we are proud to have taken part in this major clean-up," said Mr. Christian Charron, Mayor of the City of Sainte-Thérèse.

The four cities thanked all the participants who volunteered to collect waste and protect the banks, as well as Mission 1000 tonnes for its contribution to the success of the event.

Mission 1000 tonnes

The Mission 1000 tonnes goal is to organize the removal of 1000 tonnes of waste from the planet's waterways. 1 waste removed = 1 less hazard in nature. Their initiative also aims to mobilize and educate citizens, businesses and politicians worldwide in order to take concrete action to save the oceans and protect aquatic ecosystems. With the Mission 1000 tonnes, they want to highlight and raise awareness of various eco-responsible products and lifestyles in order to reduce the amount of waste, particularly plastic, generated by our lifestyles. The Mission 1000 tonnes works in collaboration with many partners and citizens to stimulate the creation of concrete initiatives for the protection of ecosystems.

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Ottawa unveils triple-headed strategy to soothe average Canadian's inflation pain

Quebec Lieutenant Pablo Rodriguez defends new approach – and mounting Liberal spending



MARTIN C. BARRY
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As families in Quebec and other areas of Canada increasingly feel the pinch of inflation in the post-Covid economic era, last week the Trudeau government quietly announced new measures they claim will make life easier and more affordable for Canadians before the current year is finished.

During an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia earlier this week, Montreal-area Liberal MP Pablo Rodriguez, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Quebec Lieutenant in the Trudeau government, maintained that the series of proposed measures had already been well received by economists.

Justifies new dental program

He cited the beginnings of a new dental insurance program as an example of something that could pay off in the long run by providing support so that families wouldn't have to give up some of their most important priorities to be able to afford others.

"I went to the dentist not too long ago, and my friend, you probably know this, it's expensive," said Rodriguez. "So sometimes people can't afford it. Quite often, actually. So, they make that decision, then you know what? They're going to sacrifice other stuff."

Regarding the Liberal government's rent subsidy program, he said they estimate it will help about 2 million people, who can expect to receive a "top up" of about 100\$ very soon from Ottawa. "We're working on the mechanism," said Rodriguez. "We'll have more details soon, but that's what it is."

Denies influence by Poilievre

According to recent news reports, newly-selected Conservative Party of Canada leader Pierre Poilievre claimed that his election was what actually motivated the Liberal government into finally taking decisive action against the country's mounting economic problems, including inflation.

"We started way before the election of mister Poilievre," Rodriguez responded. "We don't govern based on who's the leader of the Conservative parties. We govern based on the needs of Canadians. So, some of the programs that I've mentioned, like the increase of the pension, like the kind of workers benefit that the help of housing, you know, before the top up and many other programs were put in place way before mister Poilievre."

Defends spending record

Despite the new Conservative leader's further claims that the government's massive spending over the past two and more years may actually have been feeding inflation, Rodriguez defended the Liberal record, comparing it to the results obtained in the United Kingdom, following that country's strategy involving restrained spending.

"England, which is led by a Conservative party, didn't spend that much, okay?" he said. "Compared together, okay, well, they have an inflation around 22 per cent. It's crazy inflation. So no, we invested in Canadians view because we had to."

"We invested in our businesses because we needed them to stay alive. How do you want to rebuild the economy if your businesses are not there anymore, especially in small and medium

size fences? So, we invested. It wasn't perfect, we know that. But I think we invested smartly and Canada is considered among the top."

Three new measures

According to the PMO, the government's first pieces of the new strategy, to be introduced in the upcoming parliamentary sitting, would include the following measures:

- **Double the Goods and Services Tax Credit (GSTC) for six months**, delivering additional financial help to roughly 11 million individuals and families who receive the tax credit, including about half of Canadian families with children, and more than half of Canadian seniors. Single Canadians without children would receive up to an extra \$234 and couples with two children would receive up to an extra \$467 this year. Seniors would receive an extra \$225 on average.
- **Provide a Canada Dental Benefit to children under 12 who do not have access to dental insurance, starting this year.** Direct payments totalling up to \$1,300 per child over the next two years (up to \$650 per year) would be provided for dental care services. This would be the first stage of the government's plan to deliver dental coverage for families with incomes under \$90,000, and would allow children under 12 to receive dental care while the government develops a comprehensive national dental care program, as previously pledged following an agreement the Liberals made with the NDP in exchange of support in Parliament.
- **Provide a one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit to deliver \$500 to 1.8 million Canadian renters.** This element would more than double the Liberal government's Budget 2022 commitment, reaching twice as many Canadians as initially promised. The new one-time federal benefit would also be in addition to the Canada Housing Benefit currently co-funded and delivered by provinces and territories. The federal benefit would be available to applicants with an adjusted net income below \$35,000 for families, or below \$20,000 for individuals, who pay at least 30 per cent of their income on rent.

According to the Liberal government, doubling the Goods and Services Tax Credit for six months will provide \$2.5 billion in relief to those who qualify for it. As well, the Canada Dental Benefit would deliver over \$900 million to support dental health, starting in 2022-23.

National dental coverage

The Canada Dental Benefit would provide direct payments to eligible applicants totalling up to \$650 per year per child for dental care services for applicants with a family income under \$70,000, \$390 for those with a family income of \$70,000 to \$79,999, and \$260 for those with a family income of \$80,000 to \$89,999. However, parents or guardians of eligible children would need to apply to access payments.

The government said that a new national dental program is under development, with the goal of expanding dental coverage to under 18-year-olds, seniors, and persons living with a disability in 2023, with full implementation for all families with incomes under \$90,000 by 2025.





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OPINION & Editorial



On International Day of Older Persons 2022, let's stop treating seniors as if they have one foot in the grave, the other on a banana peel

We are, all of us, aware that time does not exclude anyone from its impact on mind, heart, and soul. On the timeline of life, everyone transitions from "growing up" to "growing older". It's hard to pinpoint when that happens, but like terrorism, porn, or plain old creepiness, even if you can't describe it, you will know it when you see it. But to prevent getting down, we must be optimistic.

And this, despite the prevailing informed opinion on the part of many, that days or weeks designated to mark specific aspects of the human condition, are more sizzle than meat, as too much of the hullabaloo is just a smoke screen to distract from problems that plague the people being celebrated. Yes, the problems will forever persist in varying degrees of gravity, but there are lights at the end of the tunnel, beams of hope that the future will be better than the past.

Consider that for bad things about aging, there are counter-balancing good things. Our body deteriorates? Upon waking up in the morning, we're ahead of the game! Living on fixed income? Two words: compound interest! No one takes us seriously? We don't care! People tired of hearing talk of the way things used to be? It doesn't matter. Getting set in our ways? Chalk it up to character traits through the filter of time. Get the point? Besides, it isn't so bad maturing along with buddies who, for the most part, are getting older at about the same rate. Yes, it would be nice to be able to bend down to pick up quarters, or eating ice cream without wondering whether that will be the one to make you diabetic. But if living best is sweet revenge, just enjoy the ride, see what life brings, a pretty good philosophy no matter what the age. Keep it simple, don't over-think this whole thing.

Whether older or not, it's a blessing to have people of all ages around us, and that includes folks that come from family, friends, or simply general acquaintances. But much-too-often, because of circumstances beyond their control, too many older people's needs and rights are neglected or ignored at best, and sadly, denied at worst, by a world that seems to care only about

them as consumers. Despite lip-services uttered by politicians, business leaders, institutions and some, but certainly not all, churches synagogues, mosques, community organizations and younger generations – older people are not helpless souls who have one foot in the grave and the other on slick and thick banana peels.

Grandparents should be fully recognized, appreciated, and sought for their priceless wisdom, hard-earned experience, and delightful storytelling. If given time-of-day, even occasionally, older people can inspire peers and others to continue striving for better ways to live, in celebration of the gift of life. They can also help turn lives around by warning of perils which are not in the viewfinder of most, if not all, younger people.

Very often, with little or nothing to lose because they've been here, there, everywhere, and back, older people are a rich source of guidance on myriad realities that they have confronted, challenges which now stare younger generations in the face, rosy-cheeked and unlined as those faces may be.

What a terrible thing it is to waste older minds, hearts, souls, out of avoidable, preventable disregard bordering on disrespect. But make no mistake, it doesn't have to be this way. Yes, it's grand that the world has marked International Older Persons Day for 31 years, but it's time for older people to be welcomed into all lives every single day, lest it be forgotten that without them, none of us would be here.

Shout out to the United Nations for establishing International Day of Older Persons, proclaiming, in 1990, its intentions to promote "the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons," following that seminal initiative with adoption of October 1 as the day on which the international community would annually highlight older persons, world-wide, starting with the first-ever International Day of Older Persons 1991.

On the happy occasion of the 31st anniversary of International Day of Older Persons, The North Shore News gladly and proudly reminds

its readers and friends that we've been here for you, are here for you, and will be here for you as we have been for 17 years in service to the minds, hearts, and souls of the multiple hundreds of mature and maturing men and women who have relied on us for support through editorials and informative reports that relate to and respect the needs and rights of people of senior age, always in the spirit of giving, receiving, sharing, and promoting the hopeful realization that the best is yet to come.

Please accept our best wishes for another year, and many more after, in celebration of the richness of life in the company of family and friends. Rest assured that at The North Shore News you will find friends among staff and management and, more enriching than that, you will vicariously share with other readers the benefits of friendship – a blessing you have earned and a privilege joyfully provided by our editorial board. As you will recall, we were honoured to celebrate the life-long contributions towards making the world a better place in which to live, learn, and love - in our Mature Life Series of 2020-21.

For this, all members of The North Shore News Older Persons Family are granted a well-earned Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of your valiant efforts to stay focused on truth, self-awareness, and a warm sense of humour, placing these virtues at the forefront of your hopes and aspirations for what lies ahead for them:

In celebration of International Day of Older Persons 2022, you're invited to rejoice in these undisputed truths: You're only young, but you can stay young forever. The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon, but that we wait too long to begin it.

As this is the first day of the rest of your life, welcome it and the rest of days with open arms and smiles that brighten the world. Getting older must not be regretted, for it is a privilege and gift denied to many.

Renata Isopo
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Rosemère Harvest Day: 4th Edition Highlighted by Rosemerites' Generosity

There was a good turnout among residents last Saturday to take part in the fourth edition of Rosemère Harvest Day. As in previous years, the event was held in front of the library, on a stretch of Grand-Côte Road, which was transformed into a pedestrian zone for the occasion. This event, which brings together exhibitors from the region, serves as an opportunity to mark the fall harvest and also to give a helping hand to Moisson Laurentides, a major provider of food aid in the region.

With ideal weather for the exhibitors and the people who came to meet them, Harvest Day gave the region's producers a chance to present and sell their seasonal products. The objectives of this event were achieved: to enable the community to celebrate this period of abundance, to meet producers from the region, to stock up on food for the winter and to help Moisson Laurentides build up its reserves for the next few months. People were very generous with both cash donations (over \$180) and vegetables and food items (50 kilos).

"Once again this year, people answered the call by giving generously. This help will be invaluable

for those in need, especially when we know that the cost of groceries is becoming more and more expensive," stated Eric Westram, Mayor of Rosemère.

On the entertainment side, the honey extraction workshop, conducted by the company À la joie des abeilles, highly delighted the visitors. The street entertainers—with "vegetables" as their theme—attracted the attention of the public and amused both children and adults alike. A DJ completed the atmosphere of the day with a variety of lively music.

A dozen local exhibitors

Visitors were able to meet nearly a dozen local agricultural producers, farmers and artisans who presented their mostly organic products. Organic fruits and vegetables, local products made with blackcurrant alcohol/wine, natural body care products and herbal teas made from wild medicinal plants, wild mushrooms, coffee and pastries, a 0-waste item, food, household and body products, candles, home fragrances and soaps, and lastly, honey and other beehive products were among the products offered by the exhibitors.



Works to redevelop rue Dubois into an urban boulevard at Saint Eustache



Mr. François Bélanger, Deputy Director General, Mr. Marc Lamarre, City Councillor, Mr. Pierre Charron, Mayor, Mr. Yves Roy, City Councillor.

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
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The City of Saint-Eustache will begin the redeveloping of rue Dubois this fall, a major project comprising two phases that will take place on two years. The work of the first phase will take place between rue des Ancolies and 25e Avenue and will run from September 26 until the end of November 2022.

The work in brief

The redevelopment of rue Dubois includes, among other things, the asphaltting and widening of the roadway, addition of a traffic light, general improvement of lighting, planting of plants, new configuration of intersections, provision of an additional safe turning lane towards 25th Avenue and an improvement in active transportation thanks to the addition of multipurpose paths 3 meters wide, on either side of the artery.

"In harmony with the findings from the public consultations carried out in 2021 and 2022 for the Saint-Eustache Urban Mobility Plan, this redevelopment responds to the challenges of active mobility, both for cyclists and pedestrians, and the difficulty of crossing the physical barrier of Highway 640 in a safe way. Indeed, in the long term, the project will make

it possible to create a safe cycling link to reach the south of 25th Avenue. ", said the mayor of Saint-Eustache, Mr. Pierre Charron.

"Rue Dubois is home to large businesses to which two residential complexes are attached, namely the Jardins district and the Urban Gardens. As an important transit route for motorists, it becomes even more essential to make traffic flowing safe for current and future residents of nearby neighborhoods. », underlined Mr. Yves Roy, municipal councillor.

Impact on traffic and work schedule

During this period, traffic on the section in question will alternate with the help of flaggers between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday. This should have a significant impact on road traffic throughout the area. It is therefore strongly recommended that motorists take this into account when traveling. At all times, emergency vehicles may circulate in the work area. The work will be carried out between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday. If the weather conditions required it, there could be work outside these hours.

Moreover, some work, such as paving, could be carried out at night to minimize the impact on traffic, which would require the complete closure of the work area. Signage will be installed beforehand and flaggers will be on site to direct road users.



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ELECTIONS 2022



Québec solidaire wants public health independence



(NEWSFIRST) National Public Health has experienced “difficult” times and lacked efficiency during the COVID-19 pandemic, analyzed recently, a candidate for Québec solidaire and former regional director of public health. The party proposes to improve the independence of health authorities by reopening the Public Health Act.

“National management was a bit difficult,” agreed Dr. Yv Bonnier-Viger, who until recently held the position of regional director of public health for Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine. “The independence of National Public Health is critical to being able to provide autonomous advice to decision makers.”

The co-spokesperson for the political formation Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois was flanked by seven candidates, including Mr. Bonnier-Viger and the former regional director of public health in Estrie, Méliissa Gagnéux.

In the eyes of Dr. Bonnier-Viger, the decisions of the national director of public health – first Horacio Arruda, then Luc Boileau – during the two years of the pandemic “were not effective”.

“You may remember that at a press conference,

the Legault government announced that it was going to make vaccination compulsory [for health network employees]. We have experience based on several years of good practice, and persuasion gave better results in terms of prevention”, he underlined.

Mr. Nadeau-Dubois intends to “give back all its letters of nobility” to this apparatus of the Quebec state. “The perception of a lack of distance between political power and public health is widespread in Quebec,” he said, flanked by his “health team”. A united government would therefore modify the law so that the General Directorate of Public Health of Quebec reports to the National Assembly rather than to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

811 and CLSC's as the first line

Québec solidaire also pledged to make 811 the new first line for health care, in particular by allowing it to be used for making appointments. According to this model, Quebecers could call “811 2.0” to be directed to the appropriate establishment.

QS is also reiterating its long-standing promise to open CLSCs 24 hours a day and “upgrade” their use by patients.

The party promises to recruit more nurses to achieve this, and estimates the cost of these measures at \$500 million a year.

“The quality of health care in Quebec is good.

The problem is access to care: it's too complicated to enter the health system,” said the Mr. Nadeau-Dubois.

Mental health and dental coverage

Public coverage of mental health services would be offered so that all Quebecers have access to psychosocial intervention members. The party would also set up a public, universal and free dental insurance.

Implementation of a public and universal prescription drug insurance plan

Québec solidaire is committed to setting up Pharma-Québec and a public, universal prescription drug insurance plan. Pharma-

Québec would create a local production center for vaccines, generic drugs and health equipment.

Free contraception

Québec solidaire is committed to making contraception free and eliminating the “pink tax”. Access to menstrual hygiene products would also be free.

Making mental health services accessible

QS would invest \$280 million so that mental health care “is no longer a luxury”. These sums would be used to increase the salaries of psychologists in the public sector and to hire 900 new psychologists and 1,000 professionals who can provide psychotherapy services (social workers, psychoeducators, sexologists, etc.).

Conservative Party of Quebec health plan



(NEWSFIRST) The health presented until now by the Conservative Party of Quebec, has more promises than any other party.

Changing how hospitals are funded

The PCQ would change the method of financing several hospital centers in Quebec by putting an end to the system of fixed budgets and by allocating resources to them based on the number and quality of cases treated in previous years.

Digitize the healthcare system

The PCQ is committed to computerizing the health system, with technology that will be based, among other things, on the Alberta Netcare Portal (ANP) system.

Decentralize the health system

A Duhaime government would establish competition between health establishments and make more room for the private sector to improve the efficiency of care. It also plans to significantly reduce the number of deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers in the Department of Health.

Privatize part the health system

The Conservative government would allow mixed practice for doctors. It would set up pilot projects to entrust the administrative management of certain hospitals to private institutions and would launch a pilot project for an entirely private hospital.

Reimburse private medical care

Under the Conservatives, the RAMQ could reimburse medical care provided by the private sector after waiting times in the public deemed unreasonable or if they are less expensive than

in the public. Quebecers would also be allowed to voluntarily subscribe to private supplementary insurance covering medical and surgical procedures.

Increase the number of doctors

Éric Duhaime would increase university medical admissions from 300 to 500 per year in addition to increasing the number of super nurses to reach a ratio similar to that of Ontario in his first term.

Home care insurance

Quebecers would be offered insurance coverage for home care and long-term care through state or private insurance.

Protect civil rights

The PCQ intends to include in the Public Health Act the primacy of the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms over any other legislative provision. The continuation of the state of health emergency beyond 30 days would require the agreement of 80% of the elected members of the National Assembly, a commitment which would be renewed every 30 days.

Transparency of contracts

Contracts without a call for tenders would be made public each time the state of health emergency is renewed.

Promote access to gymnasiums

The PCQ promises a tax credit of \$500 to anyone who buys a gym membership or a sports team. The political party also intends to make 30-minute physical education sessions compulsory every day of the week, from kindergarten to the end of secondary school. The Quebec sales tax (QST) would finally be suspended on sports equipment and subscriptions to a sports activity.

A Mental Health Summit

A PCQ government will hold a Mental Health and Youth Summit within the first 100 days of its first term.

\$500 million for CLSCs to put an end to private agencies



(NEWSFIRST) The Parti Québécois wants CLSCs to once again become the gateways to the health care system and promises to increase their budget by \$500 million. He believes he can thus be able to completely stop the use of private agencies, and this, in a first mandate.

The party intends to improve the resources of these health facilities located throughout the province to relieve emergency room congestion and facilitate access to primary care. At the same time, the working conditions of nurses would also be improved.

The party also promises to abolish mandatory overtime and would adopt a law defining professional/patient ratios.

“Under the CAQ, the CLSC model has been undermined,” says Chief Paul St-Pierre Plamondon, who adds that François Legault’s party was unable to maintain services in rural CLSCs

Moreover, the party proposes to create a special status for rural regions. “You have to give incentives,” the chief explained. This status would make it possible to grant specific bonuses or negotiate collective agreements differently.

He wants to put an end to the “wall-to-wall” approach and return to an approach adapted to each region.

Reform of salaries for doctors

A PQ government would reduce doctors’ compensation to reinvest the funds elsewhere in the health care system.

PQ leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon is counting on a drop in the salaries of practitioners, in addition to a better use of resources.

“It will lead to lower costs. And therefore, we will have more money to reinvest in the health care system,” said Mr. St-Pierre Plamondon.

For the moment, in Quebec, doctors make most of their money by performing medical procedures. In 2019, general practitioners in Quebec earned an average of \$274,000 per year, according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information. In 2021, more than 7.5 billion dollars have been invested to pay the medical profession.

“In Ontario, part of the remuneration is linked to the care of patients. The caquist leader, François Legault, had pledged in 2018 to imitate Ontario by establishing a mixed system; he hasn’t done it yet. The fee-for-service system has never been reformed”, observes “PSPP”. “It costs us a lot more than if we [operated] by capitation.”

A PQ government would negotiate new agreements with the professional orders of physicians to set new coverage rates, without however completely abandoning fee-for-service. Such a proposal would not discourage professionals who wish to enter medicine. “There are several doctors in favor of a public and accessible system,” he notes.

The leader of the PQ, also plans reduce the share of the private sector in the health network.



ELECTIONS 2022



A family doctor for all, promises Dominique Anglade



(NEWSFIRST) A Liberal government promises to offer a family doctor to all Quebecers who want one.

This is what the leader of the Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ) is promising making this issue a “flagship commitment” of its electoral platform in view of the elections of October 3.

Denouncing that the fact that the waiting list for a family doctor has increased from 400,000 to one million people since 2018, Dominique Anglade criticized the government of the Coalition avenir Québec (CAQ) for having “abandoned Quebecers” on this issue and to have “changed the rules of the game”.

“The CAQ is simply trying to circumvent the problem by offering consultations without an appointment, without guarantee of care and follow-up,” says Ms. Anglade.

“We cannot give up like François Legault does simply because the objective is difficult to achieve,” she insisted.

Ms. Anglade criticized the Legault government for allowing the health system to deteriorate. Referring to the disruptions in services and the emergencies that had to close for lack of personnel, the leader of the PLQ stressed that

the pandemic, on its own, could not explain the setbacks of public health.

Health access

Anglade, proposes a model that she calls Health Access, thanks to which people will have “their” family doctor, nearby, in a team of health professionals including nurses and social workers.

To succeed where the model of family medicine groups (GMF) does not seem to succeed, the Liberals first intend, unlike the CAQ, she underlines, to recognize that there is a shortage of doctors and nurses and speed up recruitment.

The Liberals also want to re-evaluate the activities of family doctors in hospitals, reduce the administrative burden on nursing staff, increase the number of medical clinics in the regions and work on the attractiveness of the profession.

Dominique Anglade recognizes that the commitment is ambitious. She did not give a horizon to empty the waiting list of the access counter to a family doctor.

However, it targets three clientele as a priority, namely seniors, mental health cases and chronic illnesses, which it estimates represent a third of the million Quebecers currently waiting.

Access to a family doctor is in her eyes the most essential problem to be solved, Ms. Anglade promised the addition of 1000 doctors over the next five years. Her party also wants to

increase the number of specialist nurse practitioners from 1,000 to 3,000.

It is sure that it will require to reopen the agreements, in particular with the family doctors, she explained. Some of the specific activities carried out today in hospitals [...] could be carried out in the clinic, she argued.

“We must give ourselves a horizon of at least one term,” she added, announcing her intention to reach out to the Federation of General Practitioners of Quebec.

More beds

To remedy the problems of hospital capacity, the PLQ has undertaken to add 2,000 beds in hospitals to the 2,000 already planned by the outgoing government, for a total of 4,000. A Liberal government would thus add 6 billion dollars in infrastructure in the Quebec Infrastructure Plan (PQI) to fulfill this promise.

Asked about the means that the PLQ intended to deploy to finance these measures, Ms. Anglade assured that she was able to fit into the envelope.

You don’t need extra money; we need reorganization, she suggested. With a different approach, we will use the same amount of money to achieve this.

End to compulsory overtime

In order to ensure that it has the necessary

personnel to welcome these new patients, the PLQ intends to put an end to compulsory overtime and adopt a law for the implementation of a professional-patient ratio.

The Liberal leader also intends to act to increase the number of registrations in medicine and nursing programs and accelerate the recognition of diplomas.

The political party also promises to make a big catch-up of the surgeries that have been postponed, in particular by having recourse to the private sector, and this, at no cost to patients.

Telemedicine accessible to all

The Liberal Party would set up a mobile application that would allow patients to interact with the professionals of its Health Access Team. This new tool would be free and “easy to use” for everyone.

Facilitating organ and tissue donation

The Quebec Liberal Party intends to establish a presumption of consent in the event of death.

A public psychotherapy program

A Liberal government would establish a public psychotherapy program to ensure universal access.

CAQ promises funding and a health care agency reform



(NEWSFIRST) CAQ Leader François Legault promised an additional \$400 million to recruit 660 doctors and 5,000 health professionals if he’s re-elected premier. He also blamed the COVID-19 pandemic for his failure to implement last election’s health-care promises — such as ensuring all Quebecers have access to a family doctor.

“It’s only normal that with the pandemic we weren’t able to do what we would have if there hadn’t been COVID, and I think everyone understands that,” he told reporters.

“It’s not unique to Quebec; we see that in other provinces and other countries.”

He was joined by several candidates including outgoing Health Minister Christian Dubé, who said the party is avoiding making false promises on health care to voters. Dubé says voters have become jaded from politicians who have made big health-care commitments and failed to follow through.

“In health care, there have been a lot of promises that have been made that were not achieved,” said Dubé, who announced a health reform action plan earlier this year.

Labour reform

One of the keys to that plan is labour, and he said the CAQ will intensify efforts to counter the shortage of health workers by winning them over with small successes that will help bring workers back to the network. He said the goal

is to make the public system the first choice for health workers.

There are 11,000 positions unfilled in the public health-care network, but the CAQ says it will hire 27,000 people over the next four years to address retirements and departures.

“There’s no magic solution, but if Quebecers, the patients and health employees see small successes, these successes bring about others that will permit us to bring people back,” he said.

Legault defended his promise to cut income taxes, despite the problems in health care. “I think we need to do both and we’re able to do both,” Legault said.

New health care agency

Outgoing health minister Christian Dubé has promised to “de-bureaucratize” the province’s health-care network by creating a new government agency to co-ordinate operations, if his ruling Coalition Avenir Québec party is re-elected Oct. 3.

Dubé, who is seeking re-election in October, made the announcement to journalists.

“We’ve all seen the shortcomings of our health system during the pandemic. Everyone agrees we must change the way things work in health and social services,” Dubé said.

The agency would be called Santé Québec and “will have the mandate to co-ordinate the operations of the health system while the Ministry of Health and Social Services will focus on its role of planning, orientation, measuring the system’s performance and budgeting.”

Dubé, who is the MNA for La Prairie, said the agency would help “de-centralize” and “de-bureaucratize” the system, giving as an example the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Quebec.

Agency is not a reform...

While the Quebec Immunization Committee provided clinical guidance for the campaign, a separate team was in charge of operations, he explained.

“The idea is not to embark on a major reform of structures that would upset everything on the ground.”

He said the agency would empower local health board directors to act on decisions more quickly. The Health Ministry’s response to COVID-19 at the beginning of the pandemic was heavily criticized, namely for its lack of decisive actions.

Quebecers and health-care workers have become wary of big and ambitious projects, after several large-scale reforms meant to streamline operations ended up creating large-scale disruptions and worsening staff shortages.

Creation of the “Votre Santé” platform

The “Votre Santé” platform will allow

Quebecers to obtain a medical appointment in person or via telehealth in a single step. The service will be available on the Internet or accessible by telephone for those less comfortable with technology.

Creation of private medical centers to reduce pressure on hospitals

If re-elected, the CAQ would set up a new concept of private medical centers in the East of Montreal and in Quebec in which medical services would be reimbursed by the Régie de l’assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

Home hospitalization

A future CAQ government would make home hospitalization accessible in all healthcare facilities by 2026. The first five home hospitalization units would be deployed in the Greater Montreal and Capitale-Nationale regions by the end of 2023. All health facilities would offer this new service by 2026.



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Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board: We need more money for busing

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

In order to avoid a deficit, the SWLSB called for adequate funding of transportation services to avoid a deficit. In a press release dated September 6th 2022, the board announced that after a long series of negotiations, an agreement was finally reached on Friday, September 2, with the remaining bus carriers that had refused the offers made by the Québec Government and yet accepted by the Fédération des transporteurs par autobus (FTA). As of the time of the publication of the press release by the board, all students were receiving transportation services. However, the driver shortage continues to be a reality for all school boards and school service centres, with the carriers who had refused the Government of Quebec that the Bus Carriers Federation (FTA) had nevertheless accepted.

The board maintains that the government's offer to end the talks does not represent a one-size-fits-all solution. "Given the unique reality of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (CSSWL), it is insufficient and will lead to underfunding of our budget envelope allocated to school transportation. Unlike other school boards and school service centres, the SWLSB covers an extremely vast territory, ie 35,000 square kilometres, making our bus routes longer and more costly to manage. Consequently, the establishment of a contingency fund as a means of financing did not meet the expectations of each of our carriers." This, according to the board, is why adequate funding is of paramount importance to the it. This is what would allow them to provide transportation for all their students throughout their territory without ending the year with a deficit which, according to their calculations, will amount to more than

half a million dollars annually for the next six years, for a total deficit of nearly \$4 million.

"This situation puts our school board in a difficult position. At the SWLSB, we maintain rigorous budget management and achieve a balanced budget year after year. The Government of Quebec must fund our transportation services adequately because it is its duty to meet the needs of all our students. Otherwise, we will be faced with a budget deficit and a lack of funding which will unfortunately have direct repercussions on student services," said Paolo Galati president of the SWLSB.

The President of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board has contacted the Minister of Education, Mr. Jean-François Roberge, in the hope of resolving this urgent matter as quickly as possible.



"The Government of Quebec must fund our transportation services adequately because it is its duty to meet the needs of all our students," said the president of the SWLSB, Paolo Galati.

Rosemère's Culture Days

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

The city of Rosemère is welcoming the beginning of autumn with a variety of cultural events which it hopes will attract residents and non residents.

An evening of tales and legends

On Friday September 30th, from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Francis Désilets will bring back to life the best traditional tales of the time, mixed with history and songs at the Recreation Department lawn, 325 Grande-Côte Road (inside church in case of bad weather). Storyteller, decorator, backpacker



Accompanied by three musicians, Luce Dufault will present her show "Dire combien je t'aime" in a very intimate atmosphere.

Francis Désilets is passionate about history, roots and origins. A native of Drummondville, Francis Désilets first studied history at UQAM before being transported by stories where the past and the present rub shoulders with the imaginary and the fantastic. The tale in the mouth of Francis Désilets, it is the tradition which does not mince its words. With his speech, this experienced storyteller takes the auditor on board and encourages him to travel.

A Library gone wild !

On Saturday October 1st from noon - 4 p.m. at the H.-J.-Hemens Library 339 Grande-Côte Road the city invites its residents to come and discover their program for the fall and winter. Video game tournament, introduction to ceramics, popcorn, board games, chess and history club, a draw and many other surprises are in store for everyone.

Luce Dufault in concert

Finally on Sunday, October 2nd at 7 p.m., accompanied by three musicians, Luce Dufault will present her show "Dire combien je t'aime" in a very intimate atmosphere. This event will take place at the Salle Lévis-Fortier of the Externat Sacré-Cœur in Rosemère. Born in Orléans, Ontario, her artistic journey, spanning two continents, is dotted with experiences and successes. It all started in Aylmer, at the age of fifteen, in a shopping center. She was singing with her back turned to the audience! It was with Stable Mates, her first group, that she toured the sanctuaries of Montreal blues. Her rhythm'n blues repertoire glued to her powerful voice has already earned her the esteem of the public.



DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

CUTTING THE CORD

Q I am of Indian descent and come from a very good family background. A boy from abroad has asked for my hand in marriage, and my parents accepted his offer. We are expected to marry early next year.

My parents say I will finally get to love this boy, but in my heart I know I never will. I am madly in love with a boy no one knows about. Our relationship is a secret. I love only him and no one else, and if my parents found out I would be in big, big trouble.

If I sat down and talked to my parents, they would explode because they are old-fashioned people. Wayne and Tamara, I love my parents as well as this boy no one knows about. I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but I don't know who to please.

The reason why I write to you is because I think only the two of you could help me. I am 18 years of age, and my parents don't want me to work so I am still a minor.

Devi

A Devi, whether one believes in arranged marriages or not, one thing is clear. Arranged marriage belongs more to the human past than the human future.

Slavery was a common feature of the ancient world, but it is an unusual one of the modern world. In the same way, arranged marriage is becoming less common. In marriage, as in other areas, things are

moving toward more choice, more freedom, and greater self-determination.

Some people argue that arranged marriages are more successful than freely chosen ones, but it is not a fair comparison. Arranged marriage is often enforced by the threat of expulsion from the family, the social group, and the culture. How does a young person stand up against that?

To be put in this position in itself means you are now an adult woman, not a minor child. You must make a choice and that choice, though difficult, will give you the solution. But you must be willing and prepared to accept the consequences.

The first thing we suggest is don't marry your boyfriend to prevent this forced marriage. He may, or may not, be the right one for you. Then decide whether being pushed into a marriage by your parents is an act of love on their part, or simply the desire to have their own way. Finally, consider what it would mean for a woman to be intimate with a man she does not love.

People are more than breeding stock, and going against your parents' wishes doesn't make you a bad child. It is not a reason to disown you, though that may happen. You are simply a woman who needs time, and the freedom, to decide on her own future.

Wayne & Tamara

MALPRACTICE

Q I am a 32-year-old male, married for five years. My married life has not been happy because I daily regret marrying the woman I married. Even as I said the vows, I knew I was not being honest. Our values and loves are vastly different.

Stupid as it sounds, I went through with it. Perhaps as a consequence, I never felt committed and cheated throughout our marriage. I often think we are merely meeting a social expectation by remaining married.

I went to a counselor, but ended up having an affair with her. Now I feel I need to find

happiness, but have no idea how to end my marriage.

Sergio

A Sergio, you stood at the altar and spoke what you knew to be a lie. You sought counseling as if a counselor could undo this lie.

It is poetic justice your counselor proved by her actions she doesn't have one of what she is selling. Both of you need to go back to where you made your first mistake. You to the courthouse. She to her academic advisor.

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

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'Notte In Bianco' raises \$250,000 for youth mental health initiatives

Guzzo family's dress-white fundraiser supports children's psychological well-being



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

The 13th annual edition of *Notte in Bianco*, held on Sept. 8 in support of the Guzzo Family's foundation for youth mental health, raised more than \$250,000 for youth mental health initiatives.

Nearly 400 guests mingled, dined and danced the night away during the late-summer, dress-white fundraiser held at the Terrebonne home of Maria and Vince Guzzo of Cinémas Guzzo fame.

Mental health research

Maria Guzzo, vice-president and head of charitable donations for the company, specializes in youth mental health at McGill University. Her husband, Vince Guzzo, president and CEO



Vince and Maria Guzzo, seen here during the 2022 Notte in Bianco on Sept. 8, hold the event each year as a fundraiser for youth mental health initiatives. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

of Cinémas Guzzo, became well-known across Canada and elsewhere as a Dragon on the hit TV show *Dragon's Den*.

Both have directed their philanthropic energies in support of youth mental health research, hoping to offer children and teens a better outlook on life through new research funded by their charitable organization.

Each year, several hundred guests pay \$1,000 a ticket to take part in the *Notte in Bianco* event, which is regarded by many prominent Montrealers as a must-attend on the city's social calendar.

Dressed for the occasion

Based partly on a summertime party tradition the Guzzos brought back to Montreal from the Hamptons on the ocean coast of New York State where they have spent many of their summers, dress white is considered 'de rigueur' each year at *Notte in Bianco*.

If not for the Covid pandemic, the year 2022 would have marked year 15 for *Notte in Bianco*. "I think we're coming back pretty quickly," Vince Guzzo said in an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, referring to the more than two-year-long pandemic.

Returning to normal

Regarding the family's business, Guzzo was guardedly optimistic about its prospects – especially with the pandemic now retreating. "I think things are coming back pretty quickly – a quick return to normality," he said, while noting that Tom Cruise's summertime hit, *Top Gun: Maverick*, delivered well at the box office. He was hoping for business to be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the last quarter of 2022.

Although Cineworld, the second-largest movie theatre chain globally after AMC Theatres, filed for bankruptcy protection on Sept. 7, and



Vince Guzzo (second from left) is seen here with Foodtastic restaurant chain president and CEO Peter Mammis, along with Nicky Didaskalou (far right) and Shireen Morrissey.

Guzzo expected AMC to follow suit despite their insistence otherwise, he suggested the downturn for these giants may lead to opportunities for medium and small players in the industry.

"We want to see what the opportunities are with the bankruptcies of those theatres, how many theatres they're going to let go if any, what are the landlords going to do, can we strike some deals," said Guzzo.

A keen interest in films

Following his arrival in Quebec from Italy in 1967, Vince Guzzo's father, Angelo, became one of the pioneers of independent multi-screen movie theatres in Canada. As a business person, he built a solid reputation for himself in the screening of movies, earning widespread respect in the industry.

Vince Guzzo started going to the movies with his parents when he was four and soon became fascinated with the selection of films to be seen.

He developed what he calls a flair for a good film. During his teens, he was actively involved in the family business. His father took him along on many business trips to the United States to select movies for their programming.



This year's Notte in Bianco supporters had a chance to sample some of the exotic offerings of Paris-based women's fragrance maker Guerlain.



Some of the evening's entertainment was provided by the Montreal-based jazz band The Showmen.



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The luckiest signs this week:
SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS



ARIES

You'll witness an injustice and take it upon yourself to resolve the situation. You'll play the judge and jury. You may need to approach a complex issue with delicacy.



TAURUS

You'll work hard to reach a fair agreement or conclude a transaction at work. You may feel anxious and suffer from insomnia this week. Fortunately, success is on the horizon.



GEMINI

You'll be offered a promotion at work. However, you should think twice before accepting it. You must learn to manage and express your emotions to avoid feeling physically unwell.



CANCER

A new diet combined with regular exercise will give you the results you're looking for. You'll be proud of yourself for making your health a priority.



LEO

You'll be very articulate and express what others are thinking. However, you may be just as easy to criticize. Beware of making comments that could hurt or shock someone.



VIRGO

Your financial situation is complicated; make sure you double-check all your bills. After discovering an error, you'll feel a deep sense of relief and recover a considerable amount of money.



LIBRA

You'll be involved in an activity that will bring out your competitive nature. You really don't want to come second and must take all the credit. You'll be congratulated for your efforts.



SCORPIO

If fatigue has gotten the best of you, you may need to change your lifestyle. Having a more active social life or trying a new diet should give you the energy boost you need.



SAGITTARIUS

Stress will be good for you this week. It will give you the motivation you need to achieve brilliant feats. Finding a balance in all areas of your life will help you channel positive energy.



CAPRICORN

Everything will fall into place for you to start your own business or accept a position of power at work. You'll discover new talents within yourself.



AQUARIUS

You'll be going on holiday soon. Even if the trip is a few months away, start preparing now. For example, get your passport, vaccination record and other details in order so you don't forget.



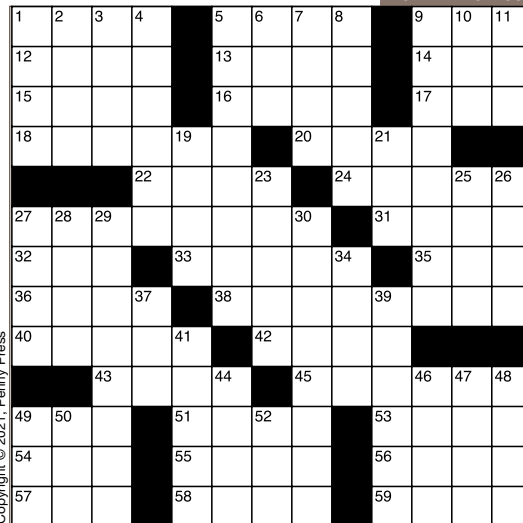
PISCES

You'll witness an injustice that will awaken your chivalrous spirit. You'll play an important role in reaching a fair resolution and make helpful suggestions.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 133



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ACROSS

1. Undergarment
5. Meaning
9. Tango need
12. Ponder, with "over"
13. Yodeling sound
14. Spat
15. Group
16. Sign gas
17. Skinny fish
18. Dwell
20. Mama's spouse
22. Period
24. Rodeo rope
27. Student's pad
31. Deaden
32. Wood-chopping tool
33. Radio receiver
35. Fish eggs
36. Heal
38. Method
40. Door sign
42. Household
43. To another place

DOWN

1. ___ of the moment
2. Only
3. Eye part
4. Small
5. Benevolent
6. Break the ___
7. Mart
8. Of sound
9. Value deeply
10. Misery
11. Bird that gives a hoot
19. Liability
21. Frying utensil
23. August, e.g.
25. Haze
26. Follow orders
27. Designate
28. Yoked draft animals
29. Octopus's arm
30. Coal oil
34. Sloped walkway
37. Morning drop
39. Tempest in a ___
41. Speedy
44. Time past
46. Nucleus
47. "The River's ___"
48. Leak
49. Previously
50. Green
52. "Do, re, mi, fa, ___ ..."

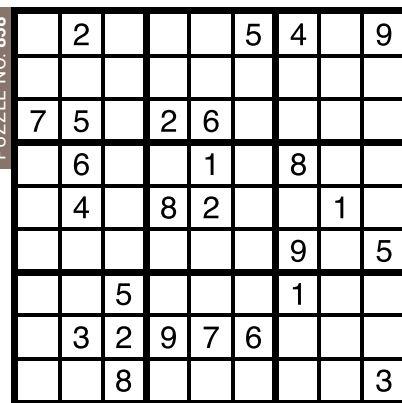
Sudoku

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.

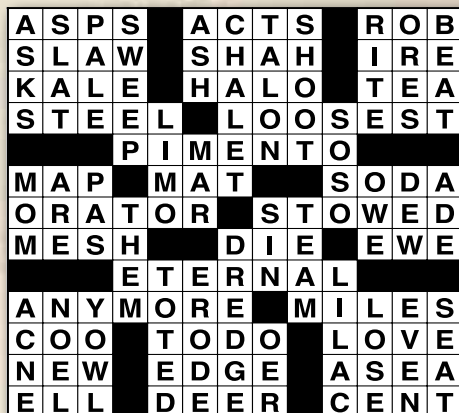
Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: **You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.**

PUZZLE NO. 858

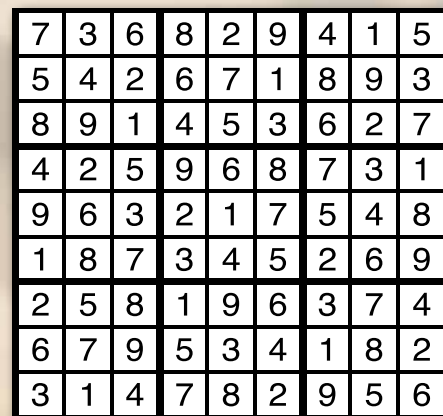


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Sudoku



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