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Six Athletes Sign Rosemère's Golden Book

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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On February 1, six young athletes playing hockey, golf and volleyball respectively were invited to sign the Town of Rosemère's Golden Book in the library's atrium. The tribute paid to them was in recognition of their performances at two major sporting events in 2022—the Québec International Pee-Wee Tournament and the Québec-Laval Games. The athletes' relatives and municipal officials attended the signing ceremony.

Rosemère Mayor Eric Westram began the signing process with the following four hockey players who were named champions in the AA Elite category at the International Pee-Wee Tournament held in Québec City in May 2022: defenceman Alexis Bonin-Lallemant, forwards Alex Auger and Thomas Harvey, and goalie Vincent V. Desautels.

These four youngsters were part of the Seigneurs des Mille-Îles' M13 AAA Elite team.

In addition to being ranked to participate in this prestigious tournament, the team was selected to wear the colours of the Armada of the Québec Major Junior Hockey League during their games. The two other athletes honoured during the evening had taken part in the Québec Games held in Laval last summer: golfer Félix V. Desautels and volleyball player Léo Albert signed the Golden Book.

"With these official signatures, the town is showing that it attaches real importance to the achievements of young Rosemère athletes. And I mustn't fail to mention the contribution of their families. Behind every athlete are parents or family members who, week after week, drive their child to a practice or tournament. Without the help of parents or other family members, it would be very difficult for these young people to excel in a sport," stated Mayor Eric Westram.



The young athletes signed the Golden Book with Mayor Eric Westram, Councillors René Villeneuve and Stéphanie Nantel.

Boisbriand supports Blainville's bid



The Mayor of the city of Boisbriand, Christine Beaudette is surrounded by members of the municipal council and the Recreation Department, the MNA for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, Luc Desilets and citizens of Boisbriand, in support of the candidacy of Blainville.

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The municipal council of the city of Boisbriand ratified, at its January meeting, its support for the bid committee of the city of Blainville in its process of obtaining the Finals of the Quebec Winter Games 2026.

The city of Boisbriand thus undertakes to offer all the necessary support in the implementation of the competitions and to participate in the promotion of the candidacy and the mobilization efforts.

For the Mayor of Boisbriand, Christine Beaudette, it is only natural to support the city of Blainville in this mobilizing project: "This major sporting event offers a great opportunity for our young people to perform in their discipline in front of their community. In addition, it promotes

the practice of sport whose benefits on physical and mental health are well established. I also invite the residents of Boisbriand to support the application process or to volunteer."

The Jeux du Québec

According to their website description, the Jeux du Québec are a unique and still innovative social phenomenon more than 50 years after their creation, and the largest multi-sport gathering in Quebec. Through its various activities aimed at introducing sports, recreational practice, competition and high-level performance, the Quebec Games Program promotes sports practice among young people by supporting them in their journey towards excellence. It is a way to get young Quebecers moving and promote sport as a healthy lifestyle habit, in addition to being synonymous with fun.

Federal Immigration's Sean Fraser welcomes newcomers, but insists Quebec can act freely

The North
Shore News
EXCLUSIVE

'We need to embrace immigration,' he says, although province 'will make its own decision'

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Although federal Immigration Minister Sean Fraser insists Quebec is entirely within its constitutional rights to set limits on immigration into its territory, he says he personally favours higher levels of immigration for economic reasons.

Fraser was in Montreal last week to meet with business leaders belonging to the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal.

The C of C's view

In a statement issued following the Feb. 1 meeting, CCMM president Michel Leblanc noted that the federal ministry's current plan is to raise the number of immigrants entering Canada to 500,000 per year before 2023 comes to an end.

According to Leblanc, Minister Fraser revealed during his conversation that the federal immigration ministry learned from its experience processing Ukrainian refugees over the past year, and that Ottawa hoped to use those lessons to accelerate the processing of new arrivals from other areas of the world without compromising security.

Working with Quebec

Summarizing the exchange during an interview with Newsfirst Multimedia, Fraser said his message to the CCMM was that Ottawa wants to work together with the Quebec government as well as businesses in Montreal "to ensure that the immigration system is delivering for Canadians."

Expanding on that statement, he said it would mean "making sure that we can bring workers into essential jobs in the economy, whether we can reunite families, whether we can continue to play a leadership role on issues of a humanitarian nature."

Perhaps more importantly, Fraser continued, "We want to make sure the system works, that it respects the agreement we have with the province of Quebec and that we want to continue to do our part to protect the demographic weight of Francophones, that we continue to grow our immigration ambitions for economic and demographic reasons."

An economic challenge

Saying that he enjoys an excellent relationship with Quebec Immigration and Francization Minister Christine Fréchette, Fraser said, "we both have a unique focus on economic immigration to make sure that we're bringing the workers into communities..."

"... This is a major economic challenge. Businesses have just been through several very difficult years. We have spared no expense to make sure that we supported businesses and

households, to make sure that businesses could keep their lights on and their doors open and the families can keep food on the table and the roof over their heads."

Restrained immigration

Under Quebec Premier François Legault's immigration plan for 2023, the province could admit up to 52,500 new permanent residents this year. The target, which is exactly the same as Quebec's immigration plan for 2022, has come under fire, especially from the province's business community, which has serious ongoing concerns about acute labour shortages in the post-pandemic economy.

Newsfirst Multimedia asked Fraser whether he considered it possible that Quebec is missing opportunities by holding back immigration. "Look, it's a decision for Quebec to set their own immigration levels," he responded.

Fraser's personal view

"The agreement that we have empowers them to do so and we will process the cases that they ask us to and we will meet the levels of immigration that they ask us to meet. That's part of the agreement that we have. This past year, despite the largest number of newcomers who were welcomed in Canada's history, despite record demands on our system across different streams, we were able to meet the levels that Quebec has set."

That said, Fraser added, "My own view is that Canada needs more people for economic reasons ... My view is that we need to embrace immigration in the short term to address some of these gaps in the labour force, but as importantly in the long term, we meet these skills gap that will exist over the next generation..."

'Embrace immigration'

"And my view is that we need to embrace immigration to help employers maximize their potential as we climb out of this pandemic, but also protect the ability of communities to continue to exist as they have for many years."

"Quebec will make its own decision for the reasons that it determines are most important. But my view is that it's an important moment in Canada's history when we have such demand in the world from people who would like to move to Canada and make their contribution, to have the skills we need. My view is that we should embrace immigration at this moment in time."

'If we don't change...'

He pointed out that 50 years ago, there were seven workers for every retired person in Canada, while today the number is closer to three, and that in a few decades the number will



Federal Immigration Minister Sean Fraser (centre), met last week with Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal officials to discuss immigration issues impacting Quebec.

be two across the entire country.

"If that's the case," he continued, "if we don't change the trajectory we are on with an aging population, our conversation a generation from

now will not be about labour shortages, it will be about whether we can afford to keep schools and hospitals, including in rural communities, including in Francophone communities."

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OPINION & Editorial



How to resolve the health-care deadlock in Canada

The Canada Health Act must permit more room for experimentation and innovation at a provincial level

The provinces say they need more federal money for health. The federal government says it wants to be assured of improved outcomes first.

In my view, adding money, even with various provinces and metrics, will not be sufficient. We will still have huge problems with inadequate staff, waiting lists, procedures that are simply not offered, and lack of innovation, among other problems.

The health-care system cannot be fixed within the rigidities imposed by federal policy that does not allow the provinces enough room to provide the best mix of public and private payment. Almost all other developed countries allow for a reasonable mix. We in Canada have to find our own hybrid. Otherwise, we will continue the paradox: Compared to many other countries, on a per capita basis, we pay more and get less.

Let me propose a way forward for Canada. The idea is to seek an approach that can be widely agreed upon by people with different political views, beliefs, and practical experiences. It would invite decision-making based on evidence, not ideology.

First, the Canada Health Act must permit more room for experimentation and innovation by provincial governments. Federalism is a fundamental value of Canada. Provinces have primary authority over health-care delivery. In different provinces, new ideas can be formulated and tested. They may involve some options where patients pay for care directly or through private insurance. We can see what works and what does not.

Second, the flexibility permitted by Health Canada could be guided by the "mutual reinforcement" principle. More private-pay options will be allowed to the extent that a provincial government has reasonably determined

that it will not harm the quality, timeliness, and accessibility of the publicly insured system. The standard is "a private-pay option can be permitted or facilitated by a provincial government if it does not damage, and preferably promotes, the publicly insured system."

So, the current publicly insured system remains the starting point. The aim is to make it as good as it can be in terms of accessibility, quality, timeliness, efficiency, and outcomes, given all the other constraints on public spending. But the provinces would be permitted to explore whether some private-pay options would, in fact (not merely under ideological presumptions), improve the publicly insured system.

For example, in some circumstances, it might make sense to permit a physician to practice in both the mainstream (publicly funded) and their own private-pay clinic. If the two roles are properly co-ordinated, the physician might end up doing more procedures overall and reduce the demand on the mainstream system. The private-pay clinic might be a space where innovation takes place in response to provider creativity and patient preference and may eventually be incorporated into the mainstream system.

Some freedom to practice outside the mainstream system might encourage the physician to remain in Canada or attract other physicians to locate here. Patients who might otherwise seek care outside of the country might instead take advantage of private practices here, with the taxes from private practices helping to support the mainstream system.

You can propose scenarios, of course, in which the private-pay option damages the mainstream system. For example, in some circumstances, it could result in fewer overall procedures being done in the mainstream system. In other scenarios, you might show that the private-pay option

substantially reduces voter or government enthusiasm for maintaining and improving the mainstream system.

The key point is that increased freedom and flexibility for provincial regulators, providers, and especially patients would not be ruled out or ruled in by a reformed federal policy. Instead, there would be a standard: Does an innovation help in some ways and either improve or at least not hurt the mainstream system? There would be requirements for applying that standard. Particular innovations would be introduced and monitored on a transparent and evidence-based method, not based on rigid ideology.

An analogy is relevant. It is widely accepted that economic development and environmental improvement can reinforce each other. There is no guarantee, however, that this is always the case. Instead, provinces and the federal government both do environmental assessments. Evidence is reviewed to ensure that a particular development is not, in fact, likely to harm the environment.

A more flexible federal health-care framework could – at least initially – include additional safeguards. Private-pay options might initially be limited to certain kinds of procedures or operations such as diagnostics, hip replacements, and other such elective surgeries.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the rigidity of the current health-care system is having a significant effect on some citizens' quality of life and, in some cases, even life itself. We can now proceed in a way that is evidence-based and reconciles different value systems.

The current stifling of debate and policy innovation is causing deadly consequences for Canadians. We can do much, much better for everyone in need.

Bryan Schwartz

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Montreal PR expert Jonathan Goldbloom named to Hockey Canada board

National association's last board resigned over sex assault and payout allegations

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For someone who has spent a considerable amount of his life slumped over a computer keyboard dealing with words while honing his communication skills, Jonathan Goldbloom is no stranger to the very physical world of ice hockey.

Goldbloom, one of two Quebecers appointed in December to the new board of Hockey Canada following the national sports organization's implosion last year, is self-deprecating as he describes his initiation into the sport while attending Montreal's private Selwyn House School during his teenage years.

A hockey player and fan

"Not well, but yes," he says, referring to his relative lack of skill on the ice, although he later also played on the Harvard University freshman team while completing undergraduate studies in the U.S.

To this day, Goldbloom continues to be active as an amateur in the sport of hockey, playing within a league of Montreal-area business executives who face off regularly in matches at the Westmount municipal arena.

He refers to ice hockey as "a passion of mine," although he acknowledges he's not as sharp on his skates as he used to be. "As I was saying to someone the other day, I know what to do, I just can't do it anymore. I play my wing, but I'm just not as agile or as fast as I once was. But I still love the game."

Hockey Canada meltdown

Last October, Hockey Canada's previous board resigned amid blistering criticism, including reactions from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), related to the scandal-plagued organization's handling of sexual assault allegations and secretive payouts to victims using funds from player registration fees.

As a result, Hockey Canada saw its federal and corporate funding drastically cut back, as Canada's parliamentarians launched an investigation, while the organization's last CEO, Scott Smith, was left with little choice but to resign. In addition, Henein Hutchison, a Toronto-based law firm known for its criminal defence work, has also completed a report on the allegations.

The Goldbloom dynasty

When announcing the appointment of the incoming nine-member board led by a new chairman, retired Ontario Court of Justice judge Hugh L. Fraser, Hockey Canada described the new directors as "custodians of the game who want nothing more than for this game to prosper."

Descended from a family that included his father, Victor, who served in the Quebec Liberal cabinet from the early to mid-1970s, as well as his brother, Michael, former publisher of the Montreal Gazette and the Toronto Star, Jonathan Goldbloom made his name as a public relations specialist in Montreal, and as a member of the board of some distinctly Canadian institutions, including Via Rail and the Stratford Festival.

'Disturbed' by handling

Asked whether he was shocked by the revelations, Goldbloom said, "Disturbed would probably be a more accurate word. It's not as if these revelations were not out there for some time. Disturbed in the sense of how they were investigated and how they were handled."

"I think that the issues of mistreatment and abuse are something, you know, that have become more in the forefront of society across all different sectors. So, it's hard to say shocked. Disappointed, disturbed and a feeling that these need to be addressed."

Regarding his role on the board, Goldbloom said, "I wouldn't be on the board if I didn't think there was a crisis and that it needed to be addressed. Yes, there was a lack of trans-

Bank of Canada ignores inflation data and widens class divide

The Bank of Canada's decision to impose a quarter-point interest rate hike last week "willfully ignores inflation data, unfairly jeopardizes workers' jobs and fails to address the root causes of price increases," according to at least one Canadian labour union official.

"The Bank's stubborn and aggressive rate increases are already having an impact on the economy contributing to increased costs for working families while at the same time corporate profiteering has been given a free pass," said Unifor national president Lana Payne.

"Workers jobs and incomes are at stake here. It's time to stop the rate hikes before the economy is pushed into a deep recession." The decision was the eighth consecutive interest rate hike by the bank, raising interest rates from 0.25 to 4.5% in less than a year.

"At the last rate hike, the Bank of Canada Governor pointedly stated the next rate decision would be data driven," said Payne. "The data clearly shows that inflation is slowing and that sources, namely supply chain bottlenecks and soaring gas prices, are easing."

Between December 2021 and December 2022, inflation was 6.3% while wage growth failed to keep pace at 5.1%. Meanwhile, corporate profits continued to soar. In Q3 2022, profits were more than 20% of GDP, up from the 15% average in the five years before the pandemic.

The Unifor head said that instead of recognizing corporate profiteering as a source of inflation, the Bank of Canada continues to focus on wages as the most worrying indicator of entrenched inflation.

"The Bank of Canada remains hell-bent on its recession creating strategy to stifle wages, putting the onus on workers while continuing to ignore blatant corporate profiteering," said Payne. "Corporations are taking advantage of inflation hysteria, using it as cover to increase profit margins and extract even more of workers' hard-earned cash."

Unifor is calling on the federal government to address corporate profiteering by expanding the excess profits tax and to prepare for a potential recession by fixing Employment Insurance.



The North Shore News
EXCLUSIVE

Montreal-area communications specialist Jonathan Goldbloom, who was selected in December to sit on Hockey Canada's new board of directors, is also chairing the search committee to recruit the national association's new CEO. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

parency. Yes, there should have been a proper investigation from day one and it should have been followed through with whatever ramifications there are.

'It's complicated,' he says

"To the credit of Hockey Canada, the investigation by a Toronto law firm is completed and it's now before a panel and we're waiting for the panel's recommendations on how to move forward," he continued.

"It's complicated because there's also a police investigation at the same time. So, it's finding

the balance of all of that." In addition to sitting on the Hockey Canada board, Goldbloom is chairing the search committee which is working to recruit the association's next CEO.

In this regard, he said he's been choosing representatives from all the different stakeholders at Hockey Canada, including former athletes and representatives of hockey associations from across the country. "It's one of the ways of building the stakeholder unity that we're looking for," said Goldbloom.

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Valentine's Day

Valentine's gifts to match your partner's love language

Have you and your partner ever talked about your love languages, the unique ways you each like to receive and express love? This Valentine's Day, try giving a gift that resonates with your lover's personal love language.

QUALITY TIME

If your lover responds to quality time, they appreciate it when you give them your undivided attention. Consider planning a road trip to a destination your partner adores. You could also book a weekend at a hotel or cabin in the woods.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

If your sweetheart responds to acts of kindness, focus on selfless gestures to make their life easier. For example, make a special meal or serve them breakfast in bed. Is there a job your partner's been meaning to do around the house? Perhaps you can finish it discreetly and then surprise your lover with the big reveal.

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

Are words of affirmation your partner's love language? If so, verbal expressions of your love and appreciation are essential. Write a love letter or create a playlist of meaningful songs. If writing long letters isn't your strong suit, try short notes for each day in February.

PHYSICAL TOUCH

If your other half is the touchy-feely type, chances are their love language is physical touch. For Valentine's Day, look for ways to give your partner sensual pleasure. Book a couple's massage or plan a romantic bubble bath at home. For something more adventurous, take a dance class together.

RECEIVING GIFTS

Does your partner regard physical tokens of affection as the ultimate way to communicate your love for them? This expression of love may seem a no-brainer, but don't shift into autopilot. Valentine's Day is your opportunity to pull out the stops and make an extra effort to choose the perfect gift and present it meaningfully.



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Statistics Canada

Postsecondary students received payments from the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) in 2020

by Melissa Van Bussel, George Marshall and Eric Fecteau

In 2020, the federal government implemented the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) to provide financial support to employees, self-employed individuals and students directly affected by COVID-19.

The CERB was available for individuals who stopped working or were working reduced hours because of COVID-19, and who met various other eligibility criteria. CERB applicants received \$2,000 for an initial four-week period and could reapply for additional periods, eventually extending to 28 weeks, for a maximum benefit of \$14,000. The benefit covered the period from March 15 to September 26, 2020.

The CESB was available to students enrolled in a postsecondary educational program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate, who were ineligible for the CERB or EI benefits, but met various other eligibility criteria. The benefit was active between May 10 and August 29, 2020. Eligible CESB applicants received \$1,250 for an initial four-week period and could reapply for additional periods, up to 16 weeks, for a maximum benefit of \$5,000. Additionally, applicants with a disability or dependant(s) could receive a benefit top-up, in which case they were eligible to receive \$2,000 every four weeks, up to a maximum benefit of \$8,000.

The CESB addressed a gap left by the CERB, which excluded students who were not employed at the start of the pandemic but would typically be looking for work during the summer of 2020. In 2019, for example, the Labour Force Survey showed that 69% of persons aged 20 to 24 who were full-time students in March 2019 and planned on returning to school in the fall were employed in August 2019.

This paper provides insights into the differences in the rate of receipt of CERB and CESB of postsecondary students who received emergency benefit payments in 2020. Emergency benefit receipt is examined along various educational and socio-demographic characteristics to highlight some of the key differences. The analysis is limited to Canadian citizens and permanent residents who were enrolled full-time or part-time in a public postsecondary institution in the fall of 2019 in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate.

In this paper, “emergency benefits” is the general term to refer to either CERB, CESB, or both.

The majority of postsecondary students received emergency benefits

Almost two-thirds of postsecondary students (65.4%) received emergency benefits. This is likely because, at the start of the pandemic, students worked in industry sectors that were heavily impacted, and, by the summer, these industries had not sufficiently recovered so as to allow students to find summer jobs. The number of students aged 20 to 24 who were employed in May 2020 (276,200) was 42.3% lower than in May 2019 (478,600).

More students received CERB (41.9%) than CESB (28.7%), due, in part, to the fact that one of the eligibility requirements for CESB was that the individual could not apply for, receive, or qualify for CERB during the same eligibility period, but could qualify for different types of benefits in different eligibility periods. Therefore, only those students who were ineligible for CERB could apply for CESB. It was uncommon (5.2%) for students to receive both benefits.

For those who received CESB, the average amount (\$4,200) corresponds to students receiving CESB benefits for between three and four of the four CESB eligibility periods. For those who

received CERB, the average amount (\$8,200) corresponds to students receiving CERB benefits for between four and five of the seven eligibility periods.

On average, students who only received CERB received twice as much (\$8,800) as students only having received CESB (\$4,400).

Women received CERB more than men, but men received CESB more than women

A higher percentage of female postsecondary students received CERB (43.0%) than their male counterparts (40.3%). By contrast, a higher percentage of male postsecondary students received CESB (30.6%) than their female counterparts (27.4%). This may be due to women having been more severely affected by employment losses in the service sector than men during the COVID-19 pandemic; therefore, more likely to be eligible for CERB.

Additionally, according to the Labour Force Survey, younger workers were hit harder during the early stages of the pandemic. Younger students were more likely to receive emergency benefits. This may be partly due to older students having had a stronger attachment to the labour market and being less likely to have had their employment status affected by the pandemic.

Students in graduate-level degree programs were less likely to receive emergency benefits

For all selected educational qualifications, except for doctoral degrees, students received CERB payments at higher rates than CESB payments. Graduate-level degree program (master's and doctoral degrees) students were less likely to receive emergency benefits than students enrolled in an undergraduate degree or a college-level program. However, students in graduate-level degree programs received CESB at a higher rate than students enrolled in college-level certificate programs. Undergraduate degree students received CESB payments at the highest rate (34.4%), while college-level diploma students received CERB payments at the highest rate (48.3%). A recent study demonstrated similar trends for CERB payments by educational qualification for recent graduates.

Since college-level diplomas and undergraduate degrees represent the most numerous of all educational qualifications in Canada, and since students pursuing these educational qualifications accessed emergency benefits at the highest rates, the remainder of the analysis focuses on students enrolled in these two educational qualifications during the fall of 2019.

A higher percentage of postsecondary students received CERB than CESB in all provinces of study and for nearly all fields of study

For all provinces and territories, students in a college-level diploma or an undergraduate degree were more likely to receive CERB than CESB. The percentage of students receiving emergency benefits varied by the province of their educational institution. For both educational qualifications, students attending postsecondary institutions in Prince Edward Island received CERB at the highest rates. Individuals pursuing undergraduate degrees in Ontario received CESB at higher rates than students attending institutions in other provinces and territories. The differences between provinces may be due to differences in public health measures or differences in job opportunities in different parts of the country at specific points

during the pandemic. Statistics Canada has developed the COVID-19 Restrictions Index to measure the stringency of the public health measures by province. The index reveals that Prince Edward Island had among the most stringent public health measures at the initial onset of the pandemic, which overlaps with the first two eligibility periods for CERB. Additionally, during part of the summer of 2020, when students were able to apply for CESB, the COVID-19 Restrictions Index was the highest in Ontario.

Students pursuing college-level diplomas were more likely to receive CERB than CESB for all fields of study. For undergraduate degrees, students were more likely to receive CERB than CESB, except for those pursuing studies in “physical and life sciences and technologies”, “mathematics, computer and information sciences”, and “architecture, engineering, and related technologies”.

Students enrolled in undergraduate degree programs received CESB payments at a higher rate than college-level diploma students for all fields of study.

Conclusion

Among students enrolled in postsecondary studies during the fall of 2019, almost two-thirds (65.4%) received emergency benefits in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is due in part to the difficulties they experienced in the labour market. Students were more likely to receive CERB than CESB, regardless of gender, age group, and the province of study. Of the selected educational qualifications, students in college-level diploma programs were the most likely to receive CERB payments while doctoral degree students were the least likely. Additionally, CESB payments were received at the highest rate by undergraduate degree students and the lowest rate by students in college-level certificate programs. The rate of received CERB payments was comparatively high in Prince Edward Island. Future research could attempt to further understand why the identified groups accessed emergency benefits

at different rates than others.

Melissa Van Bussel, George Marshall and Eric Fecteau are analysts with the Canadian Centre for Education Statistics at Statistics Canada.

Notes to readers

This report uses the Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP), which is an environment where the administrative data from the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) can be integrated with the Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS). The CESB data used in this release come from the 2020 T4A slip from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The CERB data used in this release come from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and contain information on initial payments from both streams of the program, one administered by ESDC and the other by CRA on its behalf.

The study population is restricted to: “Canadian citizens” and “permanent residents”; students who were enrolled full-time or part-time in a public postsecondary institution in the fall of 2019; students in a program that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate; and students not in a “basic education” or “apprenticeship” program. Individuals with insufficient information to create an anonymous key to integrate the CERB and CESB data to PSIS were removed from the analysis.

Only one record was retained for each individual. Since students can be enrolled in multiple programs at once, a set of sequential rules were applied in the following order to choose the most relevant record to retain for the analysis: 1) keep the record with a graduation flag (i.e., prioritise graduation over enrolments); 2) keep the record with the highest program type (e.g., graduate program level is retained over undergraduate level); 3) if program types are the same, then keep the record with the highest credential type (e.g., degree is retained over diploma). If after this process an individual still had multiple records, one record was selected randomly.



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Winter festivities in Saint-Eustache



MARIA DIAMANTIS

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info@newsfirst.ca

As of January 28, the city of Saint-Eustache has been transformed into a real winter paradise, with many activities for young and old.

"Everything is thought out in this program to remind us that winter is a wonderful and invigorating season when you know how to take advantage of all its amenities. For the second year, the activities are held simultaneously in Vieux-Saint-Eustache and in various city parks. It will therefore also be possible to enjoy the many pleasures offered by these winter festivities just a stone's throw from home. The best part? Everything is free. We are waiting for you!" said the mayor of Saint-Eustache, Mr. Pierre Charron.

The Snow Maze

Thanks to the support of the Caisse Desjardins Saint-Eustache – Deux-Montagnes, part of the gardens of the Globensky manor (235, rue Saint-Eustache) will be transformed into a large snow maze at the end of January, weather permitting. Children will have fun getting lost in the twists and turns of our snowy maze and trying to find their way to the exit according to the city's press release.

For lovers of skating and sliding

Mont Saint-Eustache (360, rue Boileau) remains the ideal place for lovers of skating and sliding in winter. Indeed, the snow cover of the mountain, makes it possible to create sliding corridors of different levels. With friends or family, one can discover the joys of skiing. There will also be on-site supervision, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on weekends.

For skating enthusiasts

Skating rinks with boards will be available in various city parks. New this year: the Clair Matin, Jean-Guy-Mathers and Rivière-Nord parks will be equipped with ice rinks for free skating, in addition to the path laid out in the gardens of the Globensky manor.

Cabins and trailers remain accessible during supervision hours, both for sliding and skating. To find out all the details as well as the condition of the slides and skating rinks, visit the outdoor skating rinks, skating path and sliding page on the city's website: saint-eustache.ca, or contact the Service du sport et du plein air at 450 974-5111.

Participate in the Snow Castle Challenge

Once again this year, the city of Saint-Eustache encourages its citizens to participate in the Quebec contest "Défi château de neige". To participate, all you have to do is build a snow castle at home or in a park, and send a photo of your creation to the defichateaueneige.ca website, by clicking on the "Registration" tab, "Châteaux". Then enter the requested information with the "Laurentides" region, the "Deux-Montagnes" MRC and select the "Ville de Saint-Eustache" event. The contest will end on March 13. The prizes to be won are detailed on the "Snow Castle Challenge" website.

Activities not to be missed at Parc Nature Saint-Eustache

"It goes without saying that the Saint-Eustache Nature Park is a magical and essential place to enjoy nature in winter. Come and take advantage of its snowy trails to practice many outdoor activities, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or walking, to discover magnificent landscapes, trees covered with frost, and perhaps even to see various species of birds. A very special rally has also been developed to entertain the children, not only as part of the festivities, but all winter long," said the municipal councillor responsible for outdoor activities, Mr. Yves Roy.

Indeed, until March 31, 2023, families will be able to discover, on the squirrel trail in the Nature park, a literary rally which offers them the opportunity to answer 12 questions related to characters from children's literature, a perfect activity to explore the trail while challenging their literary knowledge!

Winter Carnival at Rosemère



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Not to be outdone by the other North Shore municipalities, the city of Rosemère is also planning a great winter outdoor activity in the form of a winter carnival.

The city invited all its residents to celebrate the joys of winter at the 2023 Carnival on Saturday, February 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Charbonneau Park.

One of the activities promising to be a hit among the young ones is the brand-new Snow Maze in which explorers young and old are

challenged to stroll through the icy walls and try to find the exit.

The Carnival will also feature outdoor skating for which the residents must bring their own skates. There will also be sliding for the lovers of super downhill speeds who again must bring their own slides. To replenish lost calories the city promises Maple taffy on the snow as well as snacks and hot beverages which will be sold on site by the 49th Lorraine-Rosemère Scout troop.

Music, inflatable games and skill games will also be there for everyone to enjoy, as well as snowskate and a fatbike initiation for winter lovers who must protect themselves by bringing their own helmets.

Spring break: fun in Sainte-Thérèse!



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From February 27 to March 3, spring break will be fun for Teresian families, since a host of activities will be offered to them free of charge. This year, the theme of the week will be A Thousand and One Bubbles for Spring Break. By participating in the activities, residents will receive a small bottle to blow bubbles.

"This week off is fast approaching, don't be caught off guard and sign up for city activities. The advantage is to create your schedule piece-meal according to your preferences. There will be no reason to be bored during the break!" said the mayor of Sainte-Thérèse, Mr. Christian Charron.

Daily activities

Every day of the week, several activities will be offered to the children. Each more amusing than the other, here is an overview of what awaits them according to the city's announcement:

- Stimulating workshops (LEGO, DJ), reading

- and writing)
- Sports activities (soccer, touch tennis, pickleball)
- A winter family beach party

Unless otherwise indicated, all daily activities are reserved for residents of Sainte-Thérèse and registration is mandatory as of February 8 online at inscriptions.saintetherese.ca or in person, at the library or at the Maison du citoyen.

Continuous activities

There will also be continuous activities during the period such as a Teen Rally in which teenagers can solve puzzles at the comic book-themed library and could win a gift basket worth \$75, a Cartoon contest where kids can download the template from the city's website and create their own comic book featuring their favourite winter activity with a chance to win a bubble machine and a gift card from the Special Project store and finally the Revisit photo exhibition where at the library people can admire the exhibition put on by students from the Sport-études program at École Saint-Gabriel.

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DOMESTIC HELP

Q I am so fed up with my husband I am ready to strangle him. He is totally lazy, selfish and self-absorbed. We both work, and we have two children ages two years and 10 months. Chores are difficult with two little ones. I do all of them by myself on the weekends while he lays on the couch "watching the babies."

I have to ask him to change diapers, put away his dishes, or pick up his clothes. I am trying to set a good example for my boys, but he is hindering this. He doesn't even mow the lawn. He pays someone to do it. It seems the less he has to do, the less he wants to do.

He makes such a mess I dread walking in the door. He never completes a task. I make \$1000 more a month than he does, work more hours, and come home two hours later than he does. Still, I have to do most of the work. We cannot afford to pay someone to clean the house.

I have been struggling with a root canal for the last two weeks, and he can't manage to take care of the boys, so I can take pain medication and rest. I can't take this. Please help me before I am arrested for spouse abuse.

LeAnn

A LeAnn, you cannot afford to let this problem continue year after year. It is time to budget for a solution.

Look at all your bills and decide which items you can reduce or live without. Plan economies which fall equally on you both. If there are chores you don't mind or actually enjoy, reserve those for yourself, then make calls to find out how much it would cost to hire out the rest.

Talk to your husband, tell him what you have in mind, and set a deadline for a solution to the problem. With his attitude, he may totally agree with you, or he may be willing to contribute more effort. Either way, it is time for him to decide to do, or to do without.

We know. You are going to say you cannot afford this, but this is the only solution which is under your control. There is a price for enjoying a clean house and having some leisure time. If you fantasize about divorce, the money may not seem like too much a price to pay.

Wayne & Tamara

CRYING WOLF

Q My husband of 20 years left me for another woman. I began dating again and met what seemed to be the perfect match. After three months of dating, he tells me he loves me and responds to my needs in every way.

He has a female friend who calls him daily. When they hang up, they close by saying, "I love you." This woman is living with another man, and I have been told she is just a friend. I may be naïve, but I am not stupid. It's been a long time since I dated, and although times have changed, I don't think they've changed that much.

Cecily

A Cecily, in Wales, there is a monument in tribute to an Irish wolfhound named Gelert,

who belonged to a prince named Llywelyn. One day, as Llywelyn returned from a hunt, Gelert greeted his master covered in blood. The prince, alarmed, hastened to look for his infant son.

Finding the crib empty, Llywelyn thought the wolfhound killed his son. He plunged his sword into the dog. Just then, the prince heard a child's cry and discovered his son unharmed. Nearby lay the body of an enormous wolf Gelert had slain.

Time will help you decide if your ex-husband's betrayal created your doubts, or if there is more to this relationship. In the meantime, remember the story of an Irish wolfhound named Gelert and keep an open mind.

Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF (www.yourotherhalf.com)

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In search of a golden ticket!

Rosemère invites all to the library for contest

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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Willy Wonka was not the only one to issue a Golden Ticket wrapped in his chocolate bars. The Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) and its partners BIBLIOPRESTO, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and the Réseau BIBLIO du Québec are inviting residents of Québec to take part in the Great Contest: *A visit to the library could make you a winner!*, which will be held February 12 to 25, 2023 inclusively. This first-ever event in Québec aims to remind everyone that libraries are lively places to (re) discover.

"We sometimes underestimate all the services that our library can offer us. Of course, in Rosemère, we can borrow books, but also board games, films, vinyl records, seeds, and soon video games as well. Spaces are set up for studying and reading, and a variety of activities are available. This contest is an opportunity for our residents to reconnect with their municipal library and discover what it can do for them on a daily basis," stated Eric Westram, Mayor of the Town of Rosemère.

To thank Quebecers for using their public libraries or to encourage them to drop by for a visit, the Great Contest invites them to come and search for Golden Tickets and to register online at greatlibrarycontest.ca. Seventeen regional grand prizes awarded by Québec personalities and 200 instant prizes to be won! Guylaine Guay, Mélissa Bédard, Fabien Cloutier, Samuel Piette, Louise Penny, Marianna Mazza and many other celebrities will represent the

administrative regions of Québec and will present a personalized gift to the winners. In addition, iPads and gift cards from Leslibraires.ca, Rabais Campus and Chocolats Favoris may be won by filling out the online form. Keep your eye out, because a new Golden Ticket will be hidden every day in your local Rosemère library for the duration of the contest!

"As is the case for many cultural institutions, the pandemic has had a significant impact on public library visits. Now it's time to reconnect with the libraries and come back to visit them," stated Eve Lagacé, Executive Director of the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ). "Public libraries are present and well rooted in their communities, offering residents free services that are adapted to their needs. The Great Contest encourages users to rediscover these very valuable places that local libraries truly are!"

For the H.-J. Hemens Library, participants in Rosemère have a chance to win Guylaine Guay's award. This is a very special prize developed by the artist herself to promote Québec culture. It will also allow the lucky winner to enjoy a special moment thanks to the Great Contest!

About the ABPQ

The Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec is the main association of public libraries in Québec. Since 1984, it has provided leadership to ensure the development, strategic positioning and outreach of Québec's public libraries. The ABPQ raises awareness among decision-makers about the importance of quality library services to give the public democratic and universal access to knowledge and culture.

Carbon monoxide, the silent killer

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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Faced with the severe cold during the winter months, the Health Department of the Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) of the Laurentians, is reminding all the residents about the public safety advice related to the use of fireplaces, stoves or heating systems supplements to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

Heating systems and ashes can give off carbon monoxide. If you use a fireplace, a wood stove or a supplemental heating system, make sure the room is well ventilated to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

It is important that your devices are cleaned regularly and are in good condition. When you remove the ashes, it is essential to put them outside in a metal container with a raised bottom and fitted with a metal lid.

This toxic, invisible and odourless gas can cause permanent damage or even death. Only one carbon monoxide detector can alert you to the presence of this gas. It is therefore important to provide one, preferably one that remains functional during a power outage. Remember that a smoke detector does not detect carbon monoxide.

For more information and general prevention recommendations, visit Quebec.ca in the



sections: Preventing carbon monoxide poisoning and Winter storms and extreme cold.

Homelessness solidarity

In addition, people who are homeless or in a state of great vulnerability are particularly at risk in extreme cold. Out of social solidarity, The CISSS des Laurentides is inviting everyone to encourage these people to contact community organizations to access resources. In addition, line 811, available 24/7, can also inform them. Citizens should not hesitate to contact 911 if someone seems to be in difficulty.

The CISSS des Laurentides maintains its Healthy Enterprise certification

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The Laurentians Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) had one more reason to celebrate as it announced that it maintained its Healthy Enterprise certification.

For several years, the organization has continued to be recognized for implementing initiatives that have a significant impact on the mobilization, health and well-being of the personnel in its employ. Focusing on the prevention and promotion of practices conducive to health and well-being in the workplace, the Healthy Enterprise standard focuses on four spheres of activity: lifestyle habits, management practices, work-life balance, personal life and work environment.

Last December, during the virtual audit of the entire process, auditors from the Bureau de normalization du Québec (BNQ) pointed out that the initiatives deployed are recognized and appreciated by staff.

In addition to a multi-level governance structure, the proximity management of managers as well as awareness of physical and psychological work-related risks emerged as elements that make the difference.

"Our organization is currently deploying its new action plan aimed at promoting employee mobilization, health and well-being. This excellent news encourages us to continue the efforts invested in these actions and to advance our organizational practices at all levels. At the CISSS des Laurentides, the Healthy Enterprise approach remains a guarantee of success, both to focus on the well-being of employees at work and to offer the best quality care and services to the population," said the President-Director General of the CISSS des Laurentides, Ms. Rosemonde Landry.

The Bureau de normalization du Québec (BNQ) is a Quebec public organization founded in 1961 whose purpose is to develop standards in Quebec. It therefore makes it possible to develop consensual standards up to national standards and the development of regional standardization activities.

Thefts of catalytic converters

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On the night of January 18th, the Thérèse de Blainville police department, arrested two suspects in possession of Mitsubishi brand catalysts, which had obviously just been stolen.

Vigilance of the police

It was around 2:00 a.m., during a patrol, the police noticed a Nissan vehicle that had just committed a traffic safety code violation in the Des Mille-Iles boulevard sector in Sainte-Thérèse. They therefore intercept the vehicle, driven by a woman, resident of Laval. She was then accompanied by a man residing in Montreal. The officers quickly noticed through the windows of the vehicle's cabin that the two occupants were in possession of two catalysts, as well as burglary tools.

Arrests

The various findings of the police therefore make it possible to proceed to their arrest. They were questioned and will have to answer charges of theft, concealment and possession of burglary

tools before the Court.

Wave of similar flights in the region

It is important to remember that the catalyst is a component of the vehicle exhaust system. For several weeks, there have been several thefts of this nature in the region.

The police asks the residents if they witness this type of theft or if they notice that someone seems to be slipping under a vehicle in their neighbourhood, or in a commercial parking lot, to not hesitate to call 9-1-1.

A national problem

Ironically enough, it isn't the catalytic converters themselves that are valuable, but the precious metals inside them that are. "It's not a new issue... catalytic converters have been stolen for years," says Bryan Gast, national director of investigative services at the Insurance Bureau of Canada. As the value of these precious metals has risen, so have the thefts with, intentions of being sold on the black market. These types of valuable metals include palladium, rhodium and platinum, which are "more valuable than gold right now," according to Gast.



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The luckiest signs this week:
CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES



ARIES

A strange event could disturb your peace of mind. Have faith that your loved ones will help you discover the joy in life. Perhaps being more trusting would help.



TAURUS

You must weigh the pros and cons before making a decision. You may be asked questions to which you don't have the answers, which could leave you perplexed.



GEMINI

You'll have many details to sort out at work and at home. You'll feel a sense of accomplishment for completing the tasks you've been putting off.



CANCER

Big plans are in order when it comes to your home life. Your relationship could go in an entirely new direction after an in-depth conversation. A family member or friend may announce they're expecting.



LEO

This week will be hectic. You may have to work overtime or manage demanding family obligations before you can relax.



VIRGO

If you're making changes at home, in your work or even in your decor, you'll find good deals, and your property will increase in value. Don't hesitate to ask for a raise.



LIBRA

You could face some unexpected expenses. Fortunately, you'll get something lasting in return. You'll negotiate an arrangement that benefits you if you must borrow.



SCORPIO

Although you're expecting a quiet week, you'll be busy. There's a lot of action and surprises ahead. Fortunately, there's also some fun in store.



SAGITTARIUS

Significant changes are on the horizon, both professionally and personally. It would help if you learned how to relax to lower your stress level and enjoy the novelty.



CAPRICORN

You'll develop a more active social life this week, even if it's only on social media. You and your friends will sign up for art classes, yoga or another kind of wellness program.



AQUARIUS

Your boss will offer you a promotion as if on a silver platter. You'll be excited about taking on new professional and personal projects, even if you're short on time.



PISCES

A getaway or trip is on the agenda. You're in the mood for a party and will organize a celebration get-together. You'll also start a new spiritual practice.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 142

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15				16				17		
18						19	20			
				21	22	23		24	25	26
27	28	29	30				31	32		
33					34		35		36	
37				38		39		40		
41				42	43					
	44	45					46	47	48	49
51	52				53	54	55			
56					57			58		
59					60			61		

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ACROSS

- Lag behind
- Santa's suit color
- Small quarrel
- ___ Grey tea
- Rowing implement
- So long, in Liverpool: 2 wds.
- And so forth: 2 wds.
- Applied
- Darn again
- Breathe quickly
- Bothered
- Spoil
- Girl Scout
- Extra
- Aged
- Cherry seed
- Prayer finale
- Legal excuse
- Visitor
- Urge
- Alter slacks
- Like coffee, at times

DOWN

- Picture
- Horse command
- Passed on rumors
- Charged atoms
- Elongated fish
- Chip's cartoon pal
- Sparrow's shelter
- Arid
- Additions
- Split
- Baseball's Hernandez
- Raw metals
- Campground item
- Donkey's comment
- Provoke
- Views
- Spider's parlor
- Duffer's goal
- Foot end
- Bad humor
- Refs' kin
- Bordered
- Fling
- Put out of sight
- October stone
- Narrate
- Works by Keats
- Gain victory
- Weed tool
- Not neath
- Slick

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.**

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

PUZZLE NO. 867

Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS

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

Sudoku

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

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