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Honouring Brian Mulroney



Action taken against car thefts



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EXCLUSIVE

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Federal Treasury Board President Anita Anand launched a new initiative to promote the presence of Black public servants during the recent Black History Month.




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North Shore municipalities honour Brian Mulroney



MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News
info@newsfirst.ca

In a solemn gesture of respect and mourning, the Cities of Saint-Eustache, Lorraine, Sainte Thérèse and other North Shore municipalities announced their tribute to the late Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, whose death was declared Thursday February 29th. The flags at the Saint-Eustache City Hall have been lowered to half-mast in his honor, marking a period of reflection and commemoration for a distinguished figure in Canadian history.

Brian Mulroney, who served as the Prime Minister of Canada from 1984 to 1993, has left an indelible mark on the nation's collective memory. His tenure at the helm of Canadian politics was marked by significant economic and social reforms that have shaped the country's landscape for decades. Under his leadership, Canada saw the introduction of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, a precursor to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which redefined trade relations and economic policy in North America.

Mayor Pierre Charron of Saint-Eustache, alongside members of the municipal council, has extended their heartfelt condolences to Mr. Mulroney's family and close associates during this time of loss. The decision to lower

the flags until the day of his funeral serves as a symbol of the deep respect and recognition for Mulroney's substantial contributions to Canadian society and his lasting legacy as a prominent political figure.

Mulroney's political career was not without its controversies, but his vision for a united and economically robust Canada has been a cornerstone of his legacy. His efforts in environmental conservation and his stance on apartheid in South Africa are among the highlights of his commitment to global issues, reflecting a leadership style that transcended national boundaries.

As the communities of North Shore, and indeed the entire nation, come together to mourn the loss of such a pivotal figure, the lowering of the flags at City Hall stands as a poignant reminder of the impact one individual can have on the course of a nation's history. It is a time for reflection on the values Mulroney championed and the strides made under his leadership towards a prosperous and inclusive Canada.

In these moments of commemoration, Canadians across the country are reminded of the deep and lasting connections between leadership, community, and national identity. As the flags fly at half-mast, they symbolize not only the loss of a former Prime Minister but also the enduring respect and gratitude of a nation for his service and dedication.



Revenu Québec provides details on the sending of notifications

Revenu Québec would like to inform citizens that it always uses secure means to communicate confidential information to taxpayers. They never ask for personal information by email or text message, and never offer refunds or transfers through these channels.

Like many large organizations, Revenu Québec considers a notification service to be an additional tool in the fight against digital fraud, which is now ubiquitous. Aware of phishing attempts and acting as a responsible organization, Revenu Québec prioritizes the protection of confidential information and considers it its duty, in order to reduce the risk of fraud to citizens, to set up services to inform individuals quickly, particularly when a change has been made to certain sensitive data in their file or when they have been affected by an incident.

Revenu Québec has set up a test project that allows citizens to receive, with their consent, a notification when certain events occur in their file.

As of today, as part of this project, which is in the test phase, 99 notifications have been sent to people who have carried out an operation in their file, including 6 by text message. Revenu Québec has contacted these individuals by telephone to obtain their comments and will continue its analyses to optimize its procedures. Revenu Québec intends to strictly

comply with the government's rules in this area. The goal is to quickly inform citizens when Revenu Québec detects a change that may seem abnormal in a file.

As for the 99 notifications sent by Revenu Québec, they are informative and always ask citizens to consult their message in My Account. Notifications from Revenu Québec never contain clickable links, amounts of money, personal information or attachments.

Here is an example of a notification sent by Revenu Québec as part of this test project: "Preventive notification from Revenu Québec: Your file has been modified. If you, or someone you designate, have not made a change, please contact us. For more details, see the communication that has been filed in My Account for Citizens on our website."

Every year, Revenu Québec conducts cybersecurity campaigns to raise awareness of the risks of fraud and to prevent phishing, particularly during tax season and at other times. In particular, they aim to educate citizens on the right behaviours to adopt and on tips to recognize the main traps set by fraudsters.

If you have any doubts about a message received, Revenu Québec always invites citizens to check their mailbox in My Account for Citizens, to visit the section specially designed for this purpose on justepourvous.ca or to contact it.

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OPINION & Editorial



Trudeau/Singh pharmacare bill could slash prescription coverage

The Trudeau government's newly introduced pharmacare bill is under fire, with experts warning it could drastically reduce prescription drug coverage for millions across Canada. Montreal Economic Institute researcher Emmanuelle Faubert blasted the legislation as a potential federal takeover of drug insurance, endangering the quality of coverage for countless Canadians reliant on private plans.

"The New Democrats have been very clear about their intent with this legislation: they see it as a Trojan horse to implement a federal monopoly on drug insurance," Faubert said. "Unfortunately, as can be seen in every province, government-run prescription insurance plans cover only a fraction of what private plans do."

"There's a very decent chance that this federal pharmacare plan could lower coverage quality for the millions of Canadians who rely on private insurance plans for their prescription medication."

Should the proposed legislation pass, Faubert said, it would lead to the creation of a federal monopoly overseeing insurance coverage for key medications, including birth control and diabetes treatments. The legislation plans to set up the Canadian Drug Agency, responsible for formulating a national strategy for

the bulk procurement of these drugs and establishing a list of medications that will be reimbursed under the scheme. This development represents a major overhaul in the approach to prescription drug coverage in Canada.

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh has already hinted at plans to extend the range of drugs covered under this federal scheme even further. Historical data reveals a stark contrast in drug coverage, with private plans offering substantially more than public options between 2018 and 2021, particularly in Quebec, which has the broadest public coverage.

According to a recent MEI study, adopting a nationwide plan akin to Quebec's would still result in a downgrade for over 21 million Canadians. The study also highlights the probable delays in accessing new medications under the federal plan, a stark contrast to the more efficient private sector.

Alberta and Quebec are poised to reject the federal pharmacare program, insisting that healthcare falls strictly within provincial jurisdiction. The possibility for provinces to opt out of the program remains a contentious issue.

"Ottawa needs to start trusting provincial governments to take care of their own responsibilities rather than repeatedly overstepping into their jurisdiction," Faubert said.

Mulroney successfully navigated the intersection of his Catholic faith and politics

When Pope (now St.) John Paul II arrived in Ottawa in 1984, the first pontiff to visit this country, greeting him in Ottawa was Canada's 18th Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, one of 10 Catholics who have held that office since 1867.

The "little guy from Baie Comeau," raised by Irish Catholic working-class parents, had come a long way from his childhood job of distributing advertising flyers to receiving dignitaries of the Holy Father's stature.

From 1984 to 1993, Mr. Mulroney led the country as the Progressive Conservative Prime Minister after steering his party to a landslide victory and breaking 26 years of consecutive Liberal rule (minus the short-lived government of Joe Clark's PCs).

But now the booming baritone voice that famously broke into the song "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" with U.S. President Ronald Reagan has been stilled forever, and the smile that charmed friends and political opponents alike will become a distant memory.

The flag on Parliament Hill has been flying at half-mast since the announcement of Mulroney's death on Feb. 29 shook the nation. An outpouring of condolences and tributes is still flowing from across the country and around the world, while a state funeral will be held on Mar. 23 in Montreal.

"We join with so many from throughout Canada who are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. As with all those who are called to the vocation of political life, we give thanks to the Lord for his many years of service to our country, most notably as the 18th Prime Minister of Canada," read a statement from Toronto Archbishop Francis Leo.

Mulroney's religious and personal identities were forged by his upbringing as a Catholic of Irish descent. Born and raised by working-class Irish Canadian parents in Baie Comeau, a small, isolated town approximately 400 km from Quebec City, his daily life in his childhood home was centred on the Catholic faith.

Education received in Catholic schools further reinforced his Catholic worldview. The first school Mulroney attended was the Académie St. Amélie, a Catholic primary school run by nuns within easy walking distance of his home. An honour student, he also served as an altar boy in his parish.

At age 14, he was sent to St. Thomas College in Chatham, N.B., another Catholic institution. He later attended St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., where he excelled at public speaking and debating. After graduating with a degree in political science, he went to law school at Quebec's Laval University, where he built a network of friends who would play a prominent role in Canadian politics for years to come.

He achieved success as a lawyer and businessman before he was elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, leading the party to one of the biggest landslide victories in Canadian history in the 1984 election. Winning 211 of 282 seats in the House of Commons, including more than three-quarters of the seats in Quebec, was a remarkable breakthrough for the Progressive Conservatives. Riding a wave of popularity, particularly with Quebec voters, he won a second majority government in 1988.

But his glory days came to a crashing halt shortly before the election of

1993. By this time, unpopular measures such as the Goods and Services Tax and the failure of the Meech Lake and Charlottetown Accords, intended to include Quebec in the constitution, had seen his approval rating plummet to an all-time low, inducing him to resign and hand over power to Kim Campbell, who took the heat for the former PM's unpopularity when the PCs were reduced to two seats.

Throughout his career, as he moved from the highest peaks of political and professional success to the deepest valleys of defeat and disappointment, Mulroney remained a steadfast Catholic in his private and family life. He did not, however, indulge in overt displays of his faith in his public life or allow his religious beliefs to override what he thought was good for the country.

"Compared to some other prime ministers, whatever faith he had was pretty private. John Turner was known to take his faith seriously, prioritizing attending Mass, for example, and I think the same can be said of Paul Martin," Jonathan Malloy, a political science professor and expert on prime ministerial leadership at Ottawa's Carleton University, said. "Pierre Trudeau was also a person of faith, though somewhat more in an intellectual sense."

Malloy added that Mulroney's approach to keeping his religion more as a private matter is best illustrated in how he approached abortion.

"Like his Catholic contemporaries Pierre Trudeau, Joe Clark, John Turner, Jean Chretien and Paul Martin, he felt that religion and politics were mostly separate and should remain that way," he said. "This is best seen in how each approached abortion, in most cases, expressing personal hesitancy and yet being more or less pro-choice politically. Mulroney was the only one (who) actually pursued abortion legislation, but only because the existing law was struck down; he pursued compromises that satisfied no one and eventually abandoned them."

Abortion and euthanasia, however, are not the only litmus tests of how a politician brings his religious values to the public square. Peace, social justice, and care for the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed are also central to Catholic social values. In terms of these, Mulroney was a highly consequential prime minister who supported Nelson Mandela's fight against apartheid in South Africa and launched the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People, the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, the Court Challenges Program and the Acid Rain Accords.

"Politicians have a unique opportunity: they can help individuals, yes, but they also have the power to create the very conditions by which people can flourish, which has a much larger impact," Pope Francis wrote in Fratelli tutti in 2020. "What we need is a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good."

Measured against this standard, Mulroney was one who sought the common good, and in so doing, changed the economic and social landscape of Canada.

He will take his place as a towering figure in Canada's history, having won the respect of Canadians regardless of party affiliation and of friends around the world.

Susan Korah

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CISSS des Laurentides celebrates first graduates from International Nursing Program

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News
info@newsfirst.ca

The Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides and Collège Lionel-Groulx proudly announced the graduation of the first five participants from the Nursing Integration Program for Internationally Educated Nurses. This program awards a college studies certificate (AEC) and marks a significant milestone in integrating these professionals into the Quebec nursing profession.

Since winter 2023, the five graduates, originating from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia, have been residing in Sainte-Thérèse. They are now candidates for nursing practice and are employed at the Saint-Eustache Hospital. Their next goal is to pass the Quebec Order of Nurses examination and obtain their professional nursing licenses. In pursuit of this objective, they are supported by the CISSS teams.

Recruiting internationally educated nurses is part of the strategy to address the shortage of nursing staff. “These professionals have quickly become integral members of our teams. We are proud of their academic journey, engagement, and determination over the past few months. We wish them continued success and a promising career with us,” stated Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides.

Philippe Nasr, the General Director of Collège Lionel-Groulx, emphasized the program’s alignment with the college’s mission and values, saying, “This AEC is a concrete way to promote knowledge sharing and advancement,



From left to right: Mr. Sylvain-Michel Paradis, Assistant Director, Integrated Workforce Management and HR Information Systems at the Human Resources Department of CISSS des Laurentides; Mr. Abderrahman Chaaibi, graduate of the AEC nursing care program; Mr. Ali Ben Massoud, graduate of the AEC nursing care program; Ms. Emna Hmila, graduate of the AEC nursing care program; Mr. Abdelwahab Ouafik, graduate of the AEC nursing care program; and Ms. Martine Guay, Director of Continuing Education and Student Affairs, Collège Lionel-Groulx.

fostering professional and personal development.” He added, “This collaboration allows us to maintain our leadership in higher education, engage socially within our region, and provide a meaningful and enriching experience for these students.”

The project’s success, a key driver for training and integrating future nurses in the Laurentides, was made possible through concerted efforts among various partners, including the community organization Accès Accueil Action Basses-Laurentides. Local municipalities and regional

county municipalities (MRCs) also played a crucial role in facilitating their integration, underscoring the community’s commitment to supporting these internationally educated professionals as they transition into their new roles within the Quebec healthcare system.



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MARCH 8 International Women's Day



Employment: why are women penalized?

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), women face significant challenges in securing decent employment opportunities globally, placing them in a vulnerable position. Various factors contribute to this phenomenon, which, unfortunately, will unlikely improve any-time soon.



MULTIPLE BARRIERS

Barriers to employment differ depending on whether the woman lives in a developing, emerging or developed country. The main reasons why millions of women aren't active in the labour force include:

- Being in a relationship with a man with a paid job while she looks after the

housework and children.

- Being the mother of a single-parent family. In Canada, most lone-parent households are headed by women.
- Having difficulty balancing family and work, including atypical working hours or caring for children with special needs.
- Not having a means of transport to get to work.
- Being at risk of harassment or sexual assault while travelling.
- Not having childcare resources nearby or enough money to pay for childcare.
- Living in a family where women's work is viewed negatively.
- Having a low level of education.

STUBBORN CONFORMITY

Even in 2024, traditional gender roles continue to persist in many countries. Men remain the breadwinners while women stay at home. Although women's work, such as preparing meals and looking after children, is undeniably essential, it's neither valued nor paid. What's more, according to the ILO, 20 per cent of men and 14 per cent of women worldwide consider it inappropriate or even unacceptable for a woman to work outside the home.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Although it's not easy to change attitudes, there are several strategies and solutions to promote women's access to decent employment. Offering flexible and affordable childcare, providing access to more generous parental leave, promoting shared domestic tasks, taking a serious look at equal pay and introducing meas-

ures against discrimination in recruitment, for example, can make a real difference.

March 8 is International Women's Day. Use this day as a reminder to fight for gender equality. By taking more concrete action and raising public awareness of injustice, you can help create a world where all women can choose a suitable, safe and well-paying job.

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Local newspapers produce game-changing coverage

“We have boots on the ground, and often our stories get picked up by larger media.”

Nikki Mantell, publisher, Low Down to Hull and Back News

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS do a lot with a little. The result is game-changing coverage that not only informs the immediate regions they serve, but reflects the issues that contribute to the public conversations on a provincial and national scale.

While large media outlets were debating the possible ramifications of Bill 21, Quebec’s so-called secularism law that prohibits civil servants and other public-sector workers from wearing religious clothing or jewelry, the editor of *The Low Down to Hull and Back News* was interviewing Grade 3 teacher, Fatemeh Anvari, in the little town of Chelsea, Que., in the Outaouais region. She had just been fired for wearing a hijab.

“That’s one of the stories that wouldn’t get picked up if we wouldn’t do them,” said *The Low Down*’s publisher Nikki Mantell.

The story, broken by a newsroom with a staff of three, was picked up by the *Ottawa Citizen*, *The Globe and Mail*, the *National Post* and international outlets, including *Newsweek* and *The Guardian*.

It put a human face on Quebec’s often-virulent secularism debate. And, as Mantell put it, “changed the discourse.”

Mantell continued: “Before *The Low Down* published Ms. Fatemeh’s story, support for Bill 21 was hovering around 64 per cent. Following the story, which every major news outlet in Canada picked up, support for the bill dropped to 55 per cent.”

In another corner of the province, in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region west of Montreal, when Bill 96 threatened to strip small bilingual towns of their dual-language status, the mayor of one of those tiny communities appeared set to let the deadline for the municipal council to affirm its will to keep the status expire. The local English-language paper in the region, *The 1019 Report*, questioned the mayor. On repeated occasions that spanned months, the mayor refused to commit whether council would vote on the needed resolution.

In response to the coverage, residents in the tiny town of 120 grew concerned. Two reporters with *The 1019 Report* started working the phones and going door to door. By the time they were done, the paper reported on the results of an exhaustive survey: a clear majority of residents of the island community of Île Cadieux wanted the town to keep its official bilingual status.

“Most of the residents credit the paper” when the resolution was finally renewed, said *The 1019 Report*’s editor Brenda O’Farrell, adding that large media outlets would never have bothered to do the legwork.

“We spread ourselves thin. We work really hard. And we’re good at stretching a buck,” said Mantell. “We put our hearts and souls into this.”

This is the type of journalism the Local Journalism Initiative helps produce. The federal funding program provides resources to hire journalists who produce civic content – coverage of health, education, rights, public policy and other essential issues.

It also ensures that members of Quebec’s English-speaking community continue to be informed. As Lily Ryan, publisher of *The Aylmer Bulletin* and the *West Quebec Post*, points out, as the province’s language of business and politics is French, English-language papers offer the minority community the opportunity to stay in touch with what is going on in their communities and government decisions.



BY THE NUMBERS	10,815	Number of LJI articles on civic issues produced at QCNA publications between April 2019 and February 2024. SOURCE: QCNA	4	Number of community newspapers launched in Quebec serving the English-speaking community since 2020. SOURCE: QCNA	518	Number of local news operations that closed between 2008 and Feb. 1, 2024 SOURCE: LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH PROJECT
					547	The number of job cuts announced by Quebec television network TVA in November 2023. SOURCE: TVA
					800	The number of job cuts announced by CBC in December 2023. SOURCE: CBC
					1269	Number of media jobs eliminated in Canada during first year of the COVID pandemic. SOURCE: LOCAL NEWS RESEARCH PROJECT
					4800	The number of job cuts announced by Bell Media in February 2024. SOURCE: BELL MEDIA



Community newspapers emerging as last journalistic soldiers standing

LAST MONTH, Bell Media announced its largest workforce restructuring in 30 years, laying off 4,800 workers.

In December, CBC/Radio-Canada announced plans to cut 800 jobs.

One month earlier, Quebec television network TVA cut 547 jobs.

Earlier in 2023, Postmedia, one of the largest media companies in Canada with a daily newspaper in almost every major city in the country, announced it was cutting 10 per cent of its staff, just the latest in a long string of downsizing moves that has spanned more than a decade. The cuts planned for Quebec went much deeper.

Almost every month, evidence of the continuing shift in the media landscape can be seen. And the result is fewer and fewer journalists reporting the stories that keep Canadians informed.

But in many communities a singular journalistic soldier remains standing: The community newspaper. These small, often privately-owned outlets are the last providers of reliable, professional local news.

“Community newspapers aren’t just filling the gap, they’re the whole fabric,”

said veteran journalist and president of the Quebec Community Newspaper Association Brenda O’Farrell.

That is why support for community newspapers is so important, O’Farrell says. As the media landscape continues to shift, the role these news outlets play is not only crucial, but gaining importance.

And they need to be supported by initiatives like the federal government’s Local Journalism Initiative, O’Farrell explains, referring to the funding program that helps qualified outlets hire reporters in communities across the country. But readers in these communities, have to do their part, too, she added, by subscribing to papers that offer that option, especially in Quebec where the minority-language community needs to maintain access to information in English.

Without programs like LJI and reader support, many community papers would struggle to survive.

Since 2012, journalist Marie-Ève Martel has tracked community news outlet closures across Quebec.

“For the moment, I’ve counted more than 80,” she reported late last year, af-

ter the abrupt shuttering of the Montreal daily *Metro* and its offshoots in several Montreal suburbs and Quebec City.

Each closure represents not only jobs lost, but “a hole in our social cement,” as Martel describes it.

Local media “makes us more informed, more aware and more likely to vote,” she said.

“CBC and the *Ottawa Citizen* aren’t going to cover a byelection in Chelsea,” said Nikki Mantell, the publisher of *The Low Down to Hull and Back News*, which covers the small towns in the Gatineau hills. “We have boots on the ground, and often our stories get picked up by larger media.”

“Local papers are where you hear about the most important things — health care, schools, getting your roads paved, the environment,” said Sharon McCully, publisher of *The Record* in Sherbrooke and the *Brome County News*, two papers that cover about 30 municipalities for the English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships. “These are stories that impact people directly.”

“Community newspapers aren’t just filling the gap, they’re the whole fabric.”

Brenda O’Farrell, journalist and QCNA president

Ottawa is acting against car thefts, says Treasury Board's Anita Anand

Vehicle theft is leaving its mark on thousands of Canadian and Quebec households

The North
Shore News
EXCLUSIVE

MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

With auto theft incidents across Quebec and Canada soaring as never before, federal Treasury Board President Anita Anand tells *Newsfirst Multimedia* that the Trudeau government is raising Canada Border Services Agency funding by \$28 million for more stolen vehicle investigations – including some that will be using artificial intelligence (AI).

Anand was one of the five Trudeau cabinet ministers who recently took part in the Liberal government's National Summit on Combatting Auto Theft in Ottawa.

The issue is impacting the portfolios of several Quebec-based cabinet ministers, including Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez, and Innovation, Science and Industry Minister François-Philippe Champagne.

Ministers' SUVs stolen

The *New York Times* reported last month in a piece looking at how Canada has become a "candy store" for car thieves that two government-issued Toyota Highlander SUVs were stolen three times in Ottawa from the current and previous justice ministers.

Auto theft is leaving its mark on thousands of Canadian households every year, particularly in urban centres. Discussions held at the summit focused on finding solutions to the growing challenge of auto theft in Canada.

Federal, provincial and municipal police have concluded that the car theft wave increasingly involves organized crime groups, who are using the proceeds of those thefts to fund other illegal activities.

In a press release, Public Safety Canada, which organized the national summit, said the gathering "advanced work to keep Canadians safe and prevent auto theft from happening, to recover vehicles that have been stolen, and to ensure the perpetrators of these crimes are brought to justice."

Significant gathering, says Anand



At the conclusion of the summit, participants endorsed a Statement of Intent, committing to work together to combat auto theft, and to finalize an action plan that will be released before the end of this winter.

"The auto theft summit was significant because it brought together stakeholders from across the country, industries, border services agents, frontline police, as well as the auto manufacturers, with federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments," said Anand.

"Never before have we had a conference like this to convene a conversation about how we can each do better to combat auto theft," she added, noting that 54 cars were recently intercepted by the Sûreté du Québec at the Port of Montreal before they could be clandestinely exported out of the country. "That just highlights how we are making progress, but there's much more



Anita Anand, Treasury Board President in the Trudeau cabinet, says the Liberal government is boosting police presence and effectiveness in order to combat the rising wave of car thefts across Quebec and the rest of Canada.

work to do – together and individually."

What Ottawa is doing

Recent immediate actions undertaken by the federal government to combat auto theft include:

- A \$28 million injection to the CBSA to conduct more investigations and examinations of stolen vehicles, as well as to enhance collaboration on investigations and intelligence sharing with partners across Canada and internationally. This would include exploring detection technology solutions, and exploring the use of advanced analytical tools, such as artificial intelligence.
- Pursuing all avenues to ban devices used to steal vehicles by copying the wireless signals for remote keyless entry, such as the Flipper Zero, which would allow for the removal of those devices from the Canadian marketplace through collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

More tools against car theft

Additionally, the government says it is using the following tools and authorities to further curb auto theft:

- Establishing a means of better information sharing between local police and railway police, including through the use of advanced data tools, to identify and find stolen cars before they get to ports.
- Public Safety Canada, the CBSA and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) will work with partners across Canada and internationally to increase collaboration and information sharing.
- Transport Canada will modernize the Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to ensure they consider technological advancements to deter and prevent auto theft. The department will also work with public safety partners to identify cargo handling vulnerabilities through targeted security assessments of port facilities.
- The Department of Justice Canada will examine potential amendments to the criminal code to further strengthen the

legal framework related to auto theft, including by reviewing existing offences and penalties.

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) will work with Canadian companies, including the automotive industry, to develop innovative solutions to protect vehicles against theft.

Black public service initiative

In February during Black History Month, Anita Anand presided at the launch of a new Treasury Board of Canada initiative, an Action Plan to support Black public servants in federal government workplaces.

In Budget 2023, the Trudeau government committed an additional \$45.9 million to complement initial funding in Budget 2022 for a Black mental health fund.

As a result, nearly \$50 million is supporting the creation and development of the Action Plan for Black Public Servants, to establish career development programs and mental health supports for Black public servants.

Some specifics of the program:

- Health Canada is receiving funding for Black-centric enhancements to the Employee Assistance Program provided to more than 90 federal departments and agencies.
- The Canada School of Public Service is receiving funding to launch an executive leadership program for Black executives to support their career advancement.
- The Public Service Commission (PSC) is receiving funding to provide individualized assessment, counselling and coaching services to Black public servants.

"These and future investments will continue to be guided by the lived experiences of Black public servants," said Anand.

"We will keep working with Black public servants to address all forms of anti-Black racism and discrimination because a diverse, inclusive, safe, and rewarding public service not only benefits employees, but it also strengthens our organizations and improves our service delivery for Canadians."

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"Harmony and Serenity"

A Collective Artwork Displayed at CHSLD Hubert-Maisonneuve

MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News
info@newsfirst.ca

The Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS) of Laurentides proudly highlights the generous contribution of the Rosemère Artists' Group in the creation of a collective artwork by eight residents of the CHSLD Hubert-Maisonneuve, in Rosemère. Initiated by CHSLD Hubert-Maisonneuve, and quickly embraced by the Rosemère Artists' Group upon invitation from the CHSLD's recreational technician, the project has become a testament to community and creativity. Artists Lise Boilard, Caroline Foley, Edwige Kloeckner-Lapeyrie, and Élyse Munger joined forces with the residents, blending their expertise and enthusiasm to bring the collective vision to life.

The creation spanned several months, with weekly workshops where mixed techniques on wooden panels were explored. Residents were introduced to a variety of materials, including paint, eggshells, and even quinoa, fostering an interactive and dynamic creative process. The result of this collaborative effort

is "Harmony and Serenity," two series of five canvases each, symbolizing the unity and peace fostered through the project. These canvases are now displayed in the living room areas of the first and second floors at CHSLD Hubert-Maisonneuve, spaces frequented by residents and their families, enhancing the environment with art that speaks to the heart.

Julie Delaney, CEO of CISSS des Laurentides, expressed deep gratitude towards the artists for their dedication and talent, "It is through partnerships with the community, like the one with the Rosemère Artists' Group, that our housing centers evolve into warm and human living environments. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the four artists who devoted their time and talent to make these magnificent canvases a reality."

This project stands as a shining example of how art can bridge communities, inspire collaboration, and create spaces of warmth and humanity within healthcare settings. The "Harmony and Serenity" exhibition not only beautifies the CHSLD Hubert-Maisonneuve but also highlights the importance of cultural and artistic engagements in enriching the lives of its residents.



Several guests attended the opening, including the MP for Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Luc Désilets, artists Caroline Foley, Élyse Munger, Edwige Kloeckner-Lapeyrie, and Lise Boilard, as well as site manager Mélanie Roy. At the front, residents who contributed to the creation of the artwork: Jude Révolus, Denise Huot, Thérèse Beaulieu, and Reina Vachon.

New collective agreement signed for the Deux-Montagnes/Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac Intermunicipal Fire Service



From left to right: The mayor of Deux-Montagnes, Denis Martin; Mr. Steve Charron, vice-president of the union; Mr. Jean-François Chartrand-Daoust, president of the union; and Mr. Benoit Ferland, city manager of Deux-Montagnes.

MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News
info@newsfirst.ca

After just over three months of negotiations, the City of Deux-Montagnes announced the signing of a new collective agreement for the Deux-Montagnes/Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac Intermunicipal Fire Service. Spanning five years, the agreement is retroactive to January 1st and will expire on December 31, 2028.

The administration and the union reached an agreement following a brief negotiation process conducted with respect and openness. "I want to thank all the participants at the negotiation table for their commitment and valuable collaboration throughout this process, which allowed us to quickly conclude an agreement and continue our common objectives," stated

Denis Martin, the mayor of Deux-Montagnes. Jean-François Chartrand-Daoust, president of the Quebec firefighters' union (SCFP 7191), Deux-Montagnes local section, also expressed satisfaction with the new collective agreement. "The Deux-Montagnes firefighters' union is very proud of the agreement reached, which was accepted by a large majority of the members. I thank, on their behalf, the city's general management and the union executive for the work accomplished and the smooth process."

This marks the second collective agreement since the implementation of a full-time firefighter structure three years ago. It covers 16 permanent firefighters and 8 temporary firefighters. The City of Deux-Montagnes provides its fire safety services to the City of Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac under an agreement.

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THE NORTH SHORE
News





DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

LIKE FATHER

Q I was married for 21 years to a man who enjoyed strip clubs, drinking, and his buddies. These things became important to him

after we married, and part of his job as an undercover cop. He often brought home pictures of himself with strippers to show me.

Throughout our marriage I took care of our two children, the household, and worked full-time without a contribution from him beside his paycheck. I tried to talk to him because we never spent time together, he did not support me as a wife and mother, and I needed more from him as his wife.

Things did not improve. They continued to deteriorate. Our marriage relationship ceased to exist. Months before I left him, I tried to talk one more time and told him, "If this is all there is, I don't want any more." All he said was, "Stop crying and come to bed."

Seven years ago, when our children were 20 and 17, I left him. I felt they were old enough now. They would better understand that we did not love each other and I stayed because of them. I was also tired of being verbally abused on a regular basis by my son.

My children could not understand my feelings. I was and still am seen as the villain for destroying their "family." Even though I was on my own at the time, my ex-husband told my children he caught me in bed with someone, which was very destructive of my relationship with my children. He also told them that my best friend and I were lesbians.

Neither story was true. To this day my son thinks I was unfaithful to his father and keeps inferring that is why I left and that his father had no fault in the divorce.

I eventually met a wonderful man, and we have been happily married for two years. I love him more than anything, and he loves and respects me like I've never been.

Rachael

A Rachael, Harry Chapin's song "Cat's in the Cradle" is about a son who follows his father's not-very-good example. One day, after the father talks on the phone with his son, the older man has a realization. He says, "As I hung up the phone it occurred to me, he'd grown up just like me. Yeah, my boy was just like me."

So you stayed for the children, and you wound up with a son like your husband. All blanket rules have exceptions, and the exception to "stay for the sake of the children" occurs when the other parent's example is a detriment to the child.

As a police officer, your former husband knows better than to destroy a mother's image in the eyes of her children. His lies reveal everything about who he is as a person. Unfortunately, staying bolstered your ex-husband's assertions. How bad a husband could he be if you stayed so long? That's his argument.

Your son's perceptions have been twisted by his father. He may be trying to win his dad's praise by torturing you, or he may be manipulating you into trying to win his love. Or perhaps he is simply acting out of defensiveness. He may think, if mom stayed with someone who abused her because of me, that makes me complicit. I'd rather believe dad's story.

When we do something we believe is wrong for the benefit of others, we cannot expect things to turn out well. A mother teaches a girl what kind of woman to be and what kind of wife to be. A father teaches a boy what kind of man to be and what kind of husband to be.

In Harry Chapin's tune, the son says, "I'm gonna be like you, Dad. You know I'm gonna be like you." That can have wonderful results or disastrous results depending on who we are as parents.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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City of Sainte-Thérèse calls for artists and craftsmen from the region

MARIA DIAMANTIS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News
info@newsfirst.ca

The City of Sainte-Thérèse has announced a call for submissions from local artists and craftsmen as a part of its Christmas Village, civic exhibition programming, and Artwork Acquisition Policy, aiming to highlight the region's artistic talent.

Mayor Christian Charron conveyed, "As a bustling hub of arts and culture, the City is eager to offer local artists diverse opportunities for exposure. This unique chance allows you to share your creations with the Thérésien public. We encourage you to apply today."

Christmas Village 2024

Application Deadline: March 31, 2024

The holiday season's highlight, the Christmas Village, will be held from November 28 to December 15, 2024, featuring the House of Crafts and the Gourmet Market. Artists and craftsmen interested in participating in the House of Crafts are required to offer products that align with the craft definition by the Conseil des métiers d'art du Québec and ensure that all works are original, with no acceptance of works from other artisans or the commercial sector. Merchants at the Gourmet Market are expected to offer agri-food products, maintain activity at their chalet throughout the event's opening hours, and adhere to all relevant laws and regulations.



Civic exhibitions 2025

Application Deadline: March 31, 2024

Maison Lachaine, at 37 Blainville West Street, will host annual exhibitions for amateur visual artists. Participants need to be residents of Sainte-Thérèse or its surrounding region, with preference given to local artists in cases of equal qualification. Submissions can include works in painting, drawing, photography, engraving, digital art, installations, etc., and artists must frame their works or provide necessary support for exhibition.

Municipal Art Collection

Application Deadline: April 30, 2024

The City is committed to enriching its municipal art collection, which currently includes over 40 original artworks, by acquiring new pieces each year. Eligible artists should reside in Sainte-Thérèse or the vicinity, hold a professional artist status recognized by peers, and submit works in graphic arts or painting, encompassing a variety of techniques and mediums.

This initiative not only supports local artists and craftsmen by offering them a platform to present their work but also enhances the cultural vibrancy of the city and its residents. Artists and craftsmen are encouraged to seize this opportunity for increased visibility and recognition in the community.



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The luckiest signs this week:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



ARIES

It feels like time is flying. You love the finer things in life, which could lead you to explore high-end stores and restaurants for a touch of luxury. Take the opportunity to revitalize your wardrobe and adopt a new style.



TAURUS

You'll overcome your fears and apprehensions to pursue your passions. Your remarkable creativity will guide you in the right direction. This will allow you to create a masterpiece. You'll receive some form of compensation for it.



GEMINI

You'll be in high demand by everyone this week. Your popularity will reach new heights with work colleagues or those close to you. You'll expand your customer base and become the go-to person for any business because of your efficiency.



CANCER

After prolonged negotiations, you'll get the green light to buy a property or finance a project. Sort out some undesirable friendships. Any form of change will be beneficial to you.



LEO

You'll feel a deep need to recharge your batteries and take a step back from your worries. Take the time to reconnect with your inner child and contemplate the beauty of life so you can reignite your passion.



VIRGO

Adjusting your goals may help you reach your full potential. Whatever direction you choose, you'll put your heart and soul into achieving your goals. Your romantic side will come out in a couple's getaway.



LIBRA

If you're in a new relationship, it could cross your mind to get married to make your relationship official and put your mind at ease. At work, be careful not to let your emotions influence your negotiations. This will avoid any confusion.



SCORPIO

You'll have the opportunity to participate in a training course that will open new perspectives and bring about a better quality of life fairly quickly. You must break the monotony in your relationship. Taking a walk hand in hand could do you a world of good.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll perform a heroic act, such as saving someone from a delicate situation or lending a sympathetic ear. At work, you could find yourself leading a team without asking. This could lead you to become the pillar of the entire business.



CAPRICORN

You'll hear about a birth in the family. You'll discover a property opportunity that suits your needs and budget. At work, don't hesitate to embrace success. If you struggle with doing that, work on changing your mindset.



AQUARIUS

You'll feel the need to get a new vehicle. You could play the role of interpreter to decipher an unfamiliar message. You'll debate with people who don't have a good command of your native language. You'll be extremely curious this week.



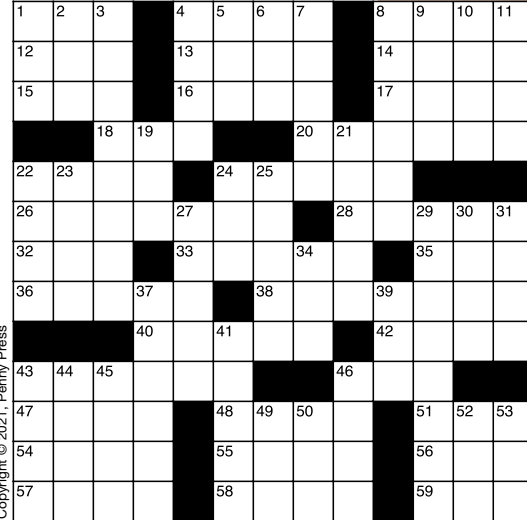
PISCES

Much to your surprise, you'll find the solutions to your financial and sentimental problems. A promotion with a substantial pay raise is on the horizon. This will bring you great joy.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 168



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ACROSS

1. Baby's smock
4. Depressions
8. Munitions
12. Yoko _____
13. False god
14. Double
15. "_____ Which Way You Can"
16. Dish list
17. Tarzan's swing
18. Mug
20. Restrained
22. Dates
24. Daddies
26. Came in
28. Roosevelt's nickname
32. Portray
33. Gnaw away
35. Word of assent
36. Plant again
38. Cohort
40. Substantial

DOWN

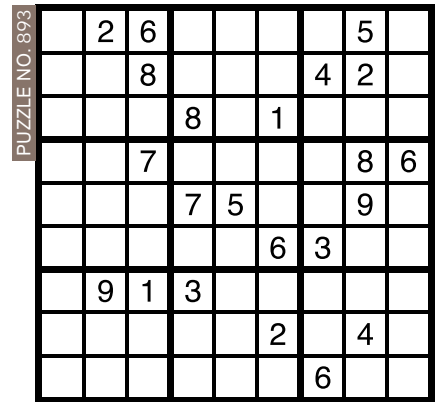
42. _____ off (prevent)
43. Tears up
46. Dad's better half
47. Sleet's kin
48. Soaring toy
51. Frosty
54. Strong desire
55. Ages
56. _____ good to be true
57. Bird abode
58. Yanks' foes
59. Long timespan
11. Santa's vehicle
19. Put into service
21. Diner customer
22. Corrode
23. "_____ in a Lifetime"
24. Miles _____ hour
25. Take as one's own
27. Marry again
29. Blaster's need
30. Venison source
31. Lawn
34. Dawn to dusk
37. Brunch dish
39. Couple
41. Inquisitive one
43. Ignore
44. Bunny's kin
45. Semis
46. Clutter
49. Deep anger
50. Pocket flap
52. Pigeon's comment
53. Over there, poetically

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

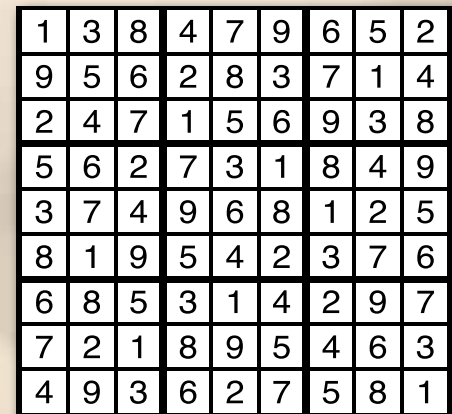


Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



Doctor Dan Munteanu

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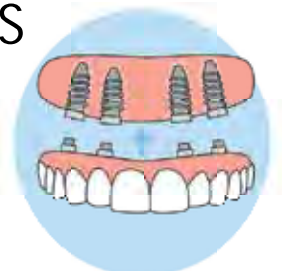
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- Zucchini (2) (organic)
- Asparagus
- Cucumber
- Tomatoes (3)
- Nectarines (3)
- Lemons (2)
- Cantaloup
- Oranges (3)
- Bananas (4)
- Pineapple

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