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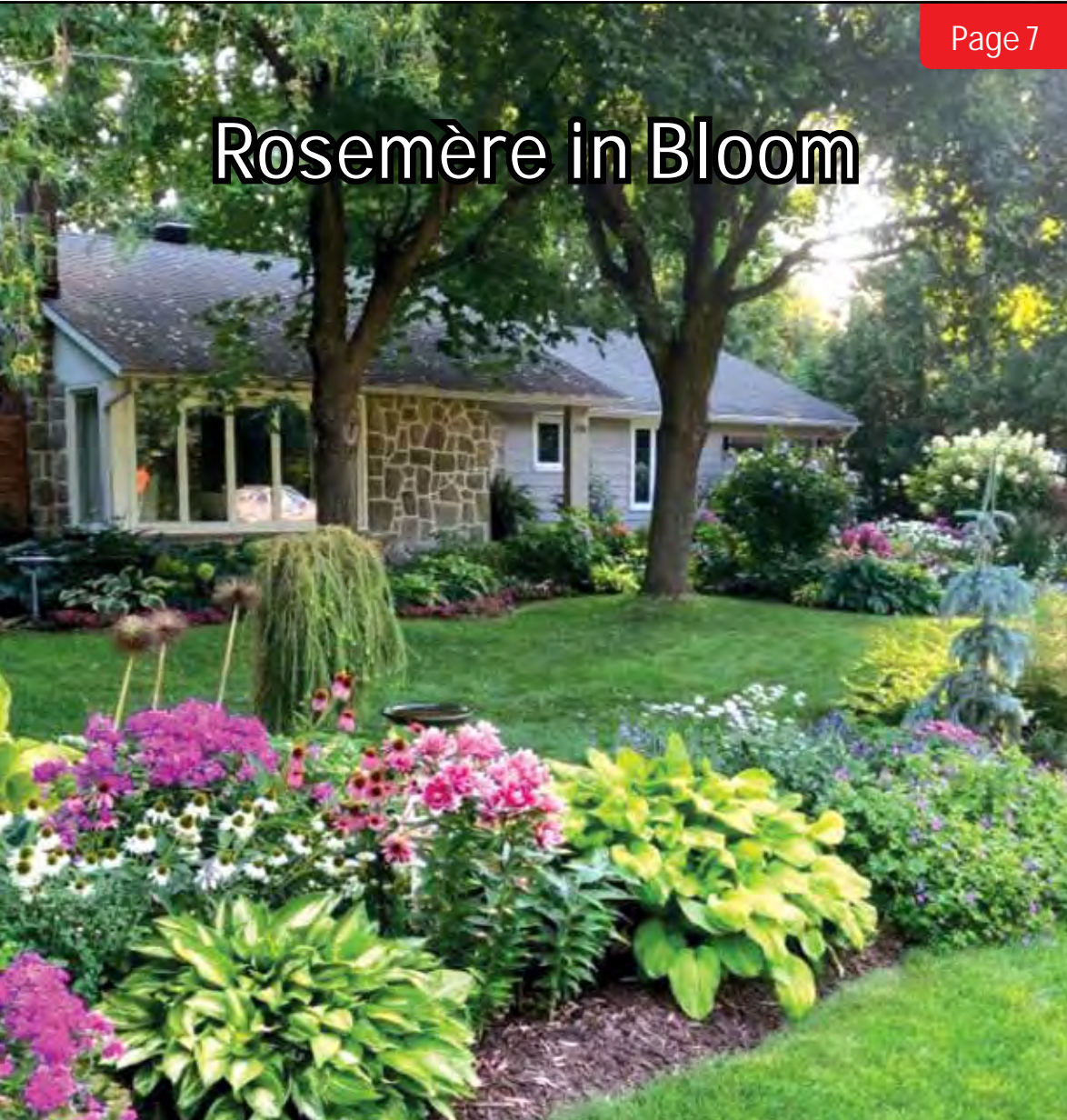
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# Federal officials touch base with English-speaking communities

*'Dialogue Days' focused on social economy's role for Anglos in Quebec*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
marty@newsfirst.ca

In a bid to expand the federal government's understanding of issues and challenges relating to the entrepreneurship and economic development of official language minority communities, officials with the government met online on Oct. 8 with the leaders of several Quebec English-language organizations with a related stake.

## Dialogue Days

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) hosts bi-annual stakeholder consultations with official language minority communities (Francophones outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec), known as Dialogue Days.

This year, the consultation focused on social economy, the goal being to explore the Quebec economic ecosystem and complement other federal initiatives.

## ID'ing the priorities

Discussion questions during the meeting dealt with identifying what are the top priority needs of the Quebec English-speaking communities that the social economy model could address, and what strategies/actions or other mechanisms could improve social and economic development change.

Other objectives included bringing together different stakeholders of the English-speaking communities of Quebec and actors of the social economy ecosystem, and deepening the government's understanding of the social economy as a means for social and economic development for the ESCQ and exchange on the needs and priorities of the community.

## Views on English-speaking Quebec

One of the community group representatives, John Buck, president and CEO of the Montreal-based Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), said

the CEDEC is now actively promoting two Quebec English-speaking community economic development objectives and four related targets for the next ten years.

He said the English-speaking community of Quebec "must increase its participation in and contribution to growing Quebec's economy and reap the tangible economic benefits derived from this contribution."

As well, he said Quebec's economy should be leveraged to address the economic disparities and disadvantages the English-speaking community of Quebec is experiencing.

He said that over the next ten years, the English-speaking community of Quebec should seek to create or expand 250 businesses or social enterprises, create or fill 1,000 jobs, attract \$5 million in investment, and reduce by 50 per cent the economic disparities and experiences that the English-speaking community in Quebec is subjected to.

## Promoting social economy

Canada Economic Development for Quebec says it would like to pay particular attention to the role of the social economy in the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec, in complementarity with other federal programs, and considering the Quebec ecosystem.

In that context, the ministry would like to deepen its knowledge of the sector and its players, gain a better understanding of how the social economy can contribute to regional economic development, and identify official language minority communities' needs.

CED says it supports the economic development of official language minority communities with its regular programs and through the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) – Official languages.

## Nationwide program

The nationwide initiative has been implemented since 2008 by the regional development agencies (RDAs) and Innovation, Science and



Officials with the government met online on Oct. 8 with the leaders of several English-language organizations with a related stake.

Economic Development (ISED). The initiative was also renewed under the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028.

ISED coordinates the EDI at the national level for reporting, consultation, evaluation activities and conducts research and policy analysis on official language minority communities.

The research aims to expand the federal government's understanding of the issues and challenges relating to official language minority communities' entrepreneurship and economic development and to build capacity and partnerships in this area.

## Discussing opportunities

CED says events like the Oct. 8 online meeting allow participants to discuss opportunities and challenges that impact the economic development of OLMCs and can help inform the implementation of the EDI and other federal programs.

CED says its mission is to promote the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec by giving special attention to those where a low economic growth is prevalent or opportunities for productive employment are lacking.

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**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
marty@newsfirst.ca

# James Di Sano seeks SWLSB chairmanship under ‘United for Success’ banner

*‘To really protect our home and our family’ is what it’s about, says outgoing Ward 7 commissioner*

He says his leadership and decision-making skills have been instrumental in guiding SWLSB policies that prioritize student achievement, teacher support, and community engagement. “As a long-standing advocate for our students, educators, and community, Di Sano says he has witnessed first-hand how a collaborative and forward-thinking approach can make a significant difference in the lives of the SWLSB’s learners.

### Resources to succeed

He says he will continue building on this momentum to ensure that every child has access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Di Sano also says he brings a wealth of knowledge to his role, having a deep understanding of the educational landscape in Quebec, particularly in addressing the needs of the English-speaking community.

He says his ability to work collaboratively with fellow commissioners, administrators, teachers and parents has earned him a reputation as someone “who listens, responds and acts in the best interests of the students and the school board.”

### Responsible governance

Saying that he is committed to transparency and accountability, Di Sano says he advocates for responsible governance and effective use

of resources to enhance student programs and facilities. He says his dedication to continuous improvement and innovation will ensure that the SWLSB remains a leader in education, providing students with the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

He says his involvement in various committees demonstrates his “hands-on approach and unwavering commitment to education excellence,” and that as chairperson, and as a former graduate of the SWLSB, he “will work tirelessly to ensure schools are not only well-resourced but also thriving as safe, welcoming spaces for all.”

He says he is passionate about “creating a future where every student is empowered to reach their full potential, and is ready to lead with integrity, experience, and a clear vision for progress.”

### ‘Get out and vote,’ Di Sano says

During an interview with *The Laval News*, Di Sano was asked whether he agreed with the view expressed by some candidates running in simultaneous elections at other English-language school boards in Quebec that this election is more important than previous ones.

“It’s important in any election, it’s important that people go and vote,” he said. “You know, whether you, it’s not about supporting one candidate over another, it’s a question of exer-

cising your democratic right to vote.

“And it’s a positive for us and our community that we still have that right to exercise our right to vote in our local government, in our local governance there at the school board level. And that’s that’s something the French sector, as you know, lost in recent years, but we’ve retained that as a minority in this province, and it’s something that, you know, is a positive factor for us.

### Quebec watching closely

“That being said, I mean, the government, we all know, is looking at this election very closely,” he continued. “And it is important and it is imperative that everyone exercises their right to go and vote in this election, be it for the commissioners that are being contested, the chairs that are being contested. It is very important that people exercise their right to vote so that we can keep our school boards, our local governance.

“And you know, at the end of the day – and you visited many of our schools, so you know – that sense of community belonging, that sense of family, that sense of closeness that we retain at school boards, rather than becoming government service centers, right? So, there’s what we want to protect, essentially. We want to protect our home and our family. This is the scope of this election, to really protect our home and our family.”

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Billions of litres of milk wasted while families go hungry

*Our outdated dairy supply management system is failing the environment, and Canadians*

Canada's dairy system is drowning in waste – up to 10 billion litres of milk discarded over the past decade. This isn't just inefficiency; it's a shocking mismanagement of resources that doesn't fit with today's environmental priorities or changing consumer preferences. The system is broken, and it's time for serious reform to stop squandering billions of dollars worth of milk and resources that could be better used.

Since 2012, Canadian dairy farms have wasted over six billion litres of milk, with some estimates suggesting the figure could be closer to 10 billion litres over the last decade. That's milk valued at up to \$14.9 billion, gone down the drain – literally. This massive waste, highlighted in a study set to be published by the Ecological Economics journal, exposes a dairy supply management system (DSMS) that's completely out of touch with today's market demands and environmental realities.

The DSMS was designed to perfectly match milk supply with consumer demand through production quotas, theoretically eliminating waste. Unlike other countries where overproduction is common, Canada's system was supposed to provide stability and efficiency. But that's not what's happening. Instead, farmers, incentivized to overproduce to hedge against variable cow lactation, are flooding the system with excess milk that ends up being thrown away. The environmental cost of this waste is

staggering. The production of this wasted milk has devoured between 920 and 1,900 square kilometres of arable land and guzzled between 930 million and 1.9 billion cubic meters of water. That's on top of 8.4 million tonnes of CO2 emissions – equivalent to adding 330,000 cars to Canada's roads. In a world increasingly concerned with water scarcity, land degradation, and the fight against climate change, this is nothing short of a catastrophe.

And it's not just about environmental harm. The DSMS also ignores the fact that Canadians' dietary preferences are shifting. More people are choosing plant-based alternatives for health, ethical, and environmental reasons. Meanwhile, food insecurity is rising, with more Canadians turning to food banks to survive.

How can we justify throwing away billions of litres of milk while families go hungry?

The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), the crown corporation that oversees these quotas, needs a drastic overhaul. For starters, milk waste on farms should be made illegal. The CDC should also implement a milk rescue program, converting surplus milk into powdered form for strategic reserves, much like it does with butter. This wouldn't just cut waste – it would create a safety net for times of market fluctuation, ensuring that surplus milk benefits Canadians instead of becoming an environmental and moral liability.

The time for change is now. First, transparency in the DSMS must be increased. The U.S. dairy industry has systems in place to document and report milk waste, and Canada should follow suit. This would help provide an accurate picture of the problem and encourage more responsible practices.

Second, it's high time to rethink the quota system. It's based on outdated assumptions about the indispensability of milk, and it no longer reflects the realities of today's dietary landscape. Quotas should be adjusted to accommodate the growing demand for plant-based alternatives, moving Canada toward a more sustainable agriculture system.

Finally, exporting surplus milk could be a temporary fix, but it must be done carefully to avoid creating dependency on volatile global markets – something that could sabotage long-term sustainability goals.

If politicians are so eager to defend Bill C-282, which would protect supply management during future trade negotiations and is facing resistance in the Senate, they should also be willing to start an honest conversation about how to make the system work for all Canadians – not just the dairy sector elite.

It's time to stop crying over spilled milk and take concrete action to prevent it from happening again.

*Dr. Sylvain Charlebois*

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# Rosemère Library Reaches New Heights with 5-Ribbon Distinction, Reflecting Community Commitment



## MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News  
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The Town of Rosemère's library service has once again been recognized for its excellence, receiving the prestigious 5-ribbon rating for 2023 from the BiblioQUALITÉ program. With a remarkable score of 93%, significantly surpassing the provincial average of 70% for Québec municipalities, Rosemère continues to stand out as a leader in providing high-quality public services.

This distinction highlights the town's ongoing investment in its library system. By prioritizing resource acquisition, extended operating hours, expanded space, and a dedicated staff, the library plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life for its residents. Rosemère's efforts demonstrate the importance of libraries not just as places for borrowing books, but as vibrant community centers that foster learning, engagement, and interaction.

The recognition comes amid growing public interest in the library's offerings. An independent report revealed a 27% increase in library usage and an 11% rise in activities since 2022, illustrating the library's expanding role as a hub for cultural and social events. This increase reflects a broader trend of libraries becoming essential spaces for people of all ages to gather, learn, and connect, reinforcing their importance to the community.

Mayor Eric Westram praised the achievement, crediting the hard work of the library

staff, led by Library Head Manager Myriam Harvey, for their dedication. "This recognition by BiblioQUALITÉ not only highlights the excellence of Rosemère's library service but also demonstrates our commitment to fostering an environment where knowledge and culture are accessible to all. I congratulate Myriam Harvey and her team for their outstanding service and passion, which have made the library a cornerstone of our community. The growth in memberships and activities proves that we are creating a space that enriches the lives of our residents," said Mayor Westram.

Rosemère's success serves as an example for other municipalities, showing that investment in public spaces like libraries can significantly enhance the well-being of a town's residents. As the library continues to grow and adapt, it remains a vital part of the community, supporting education, culture, and social connection.

## About BiblioQUALITÉ

The BiblioQUALITÉ program assesses and recognizes public libraries across Québec for their service quality and community impact. Municipalities that are members of the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) or part of the Réseau BIBLIO are evaluated on their efforts to improve library services. Achieving the highest 5-ribbon rating underscores a municipality's commitment to providing accessible and enriching resources to its residents. Libraries with this distinction are models of community service and cultural engagement.



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# Thérèse-De Blainville MRC Receives Prestigious Innovation Award for AI Municipal Initiatives

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The Thérèse-De Blainville Regional County Municipality (MRC) has been recognized on the global stage for its innovative approach to municipal governance. During the International Summit on Innovation in Medium-Sized Cities (SIIViM), held on October 8, 2024, in Drummondville, the MRC was awarded the esteemed "SIIViM 2024" Trophy. This accolade, which highlights cutting-edge advancements in cities with populations exceeding 50,000, was given for the MRC's Signature Innovation Program, which actively supports the implementation of pilot projects utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) within the municipal sector.

The SIIViM Trophies serve to encourage municipalities to pursue innovative solutions as a response to the growing challenges faced by local governments. For the Thérèse-De Blainville MRC, this award underscores its commitment to fostering forward-thinking approaches in municipal operations, specifically through the application of AI.

Eric Westram, the Prefect of the MRC and Mayor of Rosemère, expressed his pride in the team's accomplishments, stating, "This international recognition is a testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering



innovation. We remain dedicated to building smarter, more sustainable, and resilient cities for our communities. The SIIViM event showcased numerous inspiring ideas, and I strongly encourage the wider municipal sector to view innovation as a key solution to today's challenges."

## A Global Platform for Municipal Innovation

The SIIViM Summit is a major international event that connects cities from France and Quebec, focusing on innovation in medium-sized cities with populations

up to 250,000. This year's summit offered an invaluable platform for collaboration between municipalities and businesses specializing in cutting-edge technologies. Through these exchanges, municipalities can explore new ways to address critical issues, such as climate change, economic development, and improving overall quality of life for residents.

Julie Boivin, Deputy Prefect of the MRC and Mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, highlighted the importance of the award: "We are deeply honored to receive this distinction. It highlights our ongoing efforts to modernize governance and

embrace technology to improve the quality of life in our region. In facing the pressing challenges of our time, from climate to societal shifts, embracing new technologies becomes indispensable for the future of our municipalities."

The recognition of the Thérèse-De Blainville MRC at SIIViM demonstrates the growing importance of integrating technological innovation into local government strategies. With an increasing need to tackle complex, civic issues, this award showcases how forward-thinking initiatives can provide real solutions for cities today and into the future.

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# Rosemère in Bloom

*Celebrating 35 Years of Community and Environmental Excellence*



## MARIA DIAMANTIS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News  
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The winners of the 35th edition of Rosemère in Bloom were revealed during a special ceremony on October 9, 2024, at the Memorial Community Center. This annual event has become a symbol of the town's commitment to environmental sustainability and beautification, fostering a sense of pride among residents for their contributions to maintaining the community's natural charm. The contest, which encourages Rosemère residents to submit photographs of their gardens, is a celebration of creativity, environmental awareness, and community spirit.

This year's winners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to enhancing the town's landscape. Among the top honorees were the joint winners in the **Best Floral Front Yard** category, with properties at 186 Bellerive and 296 Rose-Alma sharing the spotlight for their vibrant and well-maintained floral displays. **Marilyn Proulx**, who resides at 296 Rose-Alma, also took home the award for the **Charming Small Space** category, showcasing her ability to transform a modest area into an inviting and aesthetically pleasing garden.

In the **Environmental Action – Butterfly Oasis Creation** category, the property at 335 de Rosemère was celebrated for its innovative design in creating a haven for butterflies, demonstrating a thoughtful approach to pollinator conservation. Other notable winners included the **Vegetable Garden** award, presented to the gardener at 464 Northcôte for their productive and beautifully

arranged edible garden, and the **Backyard Garden** prize, which went to the lush landscape of 268 de Rosemère. The **Flower Display** category recognized the impressive efforts at 472 de l'Érablière, while a new category, **Pollinators in Action**, was introduced this year, with 258 Fairfield winning for their photo capturing pollinators at work in a vibrant garden.

A special mention was given to the judges' favorite in the **Monarch Butterfly Conservation** category, awarded to the property at 285 de la Clairière. This heartfelt recognition celebrated efforts to preserve the delicate monarch butterfly, an essential pollinator, and highlighted the critical role that local gardens play in supporting biodiversity.

Mayor Eric Westram praised the participants for their dedication, noting a record number of 116 entries—almost double the previous year's submissions. This surge in involvement underscores the growing passion among Rosemère residents for contributing to the town's beautification and environmental initiatives. "The creativity and environmental consciousness shown by our citizens is truly inspiring. Through their landscaping efforts, they not only beautify our community but also help sustain it for future generations," Westram remarked.

The jury, made up of key members from Rosemère's horticulture and urban forestry teams—**Monique Keurentjes**, head of Green Spaces and Environment, **Stéphanie Milot**, coordinator of Urban Forestry and Horticulture, and **Marie-Michelle Moffatt**, head of Culture and Heritage—carefully evaluated each entry based

on a set of criteria that included originality, plant variety, cleanliness, and environmental impact.

In addition to celebrating this year's winners, the event also reflected on the summer's successful horticultural initiatives, including the highly popular **Horticultural Bazaar** on July 14. This event allowed residents to purchase plants, second-hand gardening tools, decorations, and furniture, with proceeds from both the bazaar and secret garden tours amounting to \$3,779. These funds were donated to the local respite care organization **Les Petits Plaisirs**. The immense success

of the event has guaranteed its return in 2025, with residents already marking July 13 on their calendars for another day of green-thumbed fun.

By continuing to promote sustainability and environmental awareness through initiatives like Rosemère in Bloom, the town reinforces its commitment to fostering a greener and more vibrant community. Events like these not only enhance the town's aesthetics but also strengthen the bonds between residents, reminding everyone of the importance of working together for the betterment of the environment.



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# Sainte-Thérèse in the Hot Seat: Storm Debby Sparks Urgent Public Forum

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

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On the evening of October 30th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, the City of Sainte-Thérèse will hold a special public session at the Thérèse-De Blainville Cultural and Community Center. The focus of this gathering will be to address the aftermath of the Debby storm that struck on August 9th, as well as the steps the municipal administration has taken since.

This meeting comes in response to concerns raised during the September 2nd city council session, where citizens expressed frustration and confusion over the damage caused by the storm. Many residents questioned the city's role and responsibility in mitigating the impact of the disaster, leading to calls for a more thorough explanation.

In response, Mayor Charron has agreed to host this public forum to provide clear answers to the community's pressing questions.

## Expert in Water Management to Speak

The city council will be joined by Marcel Roy, a seasoned professional from JFSA, a firm specializing in sustainable water resource management for over 30 years. Roy, an expert in flood and water infiltration management, will share his insights on how to handle such natural disasters.

During the session, Roy will delve into the effects of climate change, the functioning of

urban drainage and sewer systems, and practical steps that citizens can take to protect their homes from severe weather events like heavy rainfalls.

At the end of the presentation, attendees will have a 30-minute period to ask questions related to the five main themes covered during the evening. The session will also be recorded and made available for those who are unable to attend.

## Reminder to Register for Emergency Alerts

In addition to the public meeting, the city is reminding residents of the importance of registering for its Citizen Alert System. This system proved essential during Storm Debby, providing rapid communication with residents through text messages, emails, or phone calls during emergency situations. It ensures that citizens receive critical information to help them prepare and protect their families and property.

Interested individuals can sign up for the alert system by visiting the city's website.

Although the meeting will provide essential information, it is important to note that the city will not address specific claims related to damages during this event. However, the session aims to empower residents with knowledge and resources for better preparedness in the future. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to confirm their participation by filling out the registration form available online.







# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

**Q** Like many couples out there, my relationship with my spouse has been quite challenging. We've been together for the last five years and have one child. About two months ago I started emailing my neighbor's husband about work. It turned into fantasy role-playing and email tag. It lasted about two and a half weeks before we physically connected.

No, we didn't sleep together, but we did quite a bit. We met three times. Once I was pretty drunk, and the other two times I was quite sober--excited, but starting to feel guilty as hell. Things were coming to an end because I wanted to work on my relationship.

Two weeks ago I get a call from his wife saying she's in front of their computer reading an email. She wants to know what the hell is going on. I told her something was going on--I couldn't lie because I didn't know which email was in front of her--but that we hadn't slept together. Blah, blah, blah.

I'm planning to tell my spouse this weekend, away from the house, without interruptions. But man, I don't know how? He is going to freak out! Especially since one of my lines to him a while ago was, "Babe, I swear I will never cheat on you. If ever something is to happen, I'll tell you."

Not! Yes, I am feeling extremely guilty, and yes, I want to work on my relationship with my husband. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Janis

**A** Janis, it must have been a tough two weeks trying to keep your neighbor's wife away from your husband. It's like you committed a crime, you can hear sirens wailing in the distance, and you know the police are enroute to your house. You called us, as your lawyers, for advice.

As your mouthpiece, we'll review the options. Blame your husband. Accuse him of emotional neglect and lack of communication. It must be his fault. Or point the finger at the neighbor. If this Lothario hadn't pursued you, nothing would have happened. Then again, the culprit could be the neighbor's wife. She wasn't taking care of her man.

Perhaps society had a role in this. After all, everyone's doing it. Or finally, you might deny everything. It wasn't sex because you didn't sleep together.

The problem with all these defenses is you knew you were married, you knew it was wrong, and you got caught red-handed. As your lawyers we can't assist you in preparing a defense we know is false.

There is something else we know is true. There is so little connection between you and your husband this occurred. The two of you need to sit down and honestly decide if staying together simply postpones the inevitable.

Wayne & Tamara

## CLOSE TO THE VEST

**Q** I'm 40 and dating again, which is confusing stuff. My friends tell me the man I have been dating for three weeks is moving too slow. I disagree.

We've had two dates in three weeks with the promise of him fixing me dinner next time. He calls every three or four days, and we chat for an hour or so. There have been nice hugs and kisses at the end of dates.

We are both self-employed and work 60 hours plus each week. I feel he is interested and we have a great time together, but my other single friends tell me he isn't interested because he hasn't yet tried to have sex with me. So what do you think? Taking his time

or not interested? Oh yes, he's done all the calling and asking out.

Sara

**A** Sara, you neglected to mention option three. Your girlfriends are jealous. A nice man, a gentleman, who is not rushing you...and there's something wrong? We think not! Share fewer details with your girlfriends, keep more within your own heart, and see what develops. Initial indicators? This one has potential.

Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

or email: [GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com](mailto:GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com)

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# New Program to Support Vulnerable Youth in Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for The North Shore News  
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In an effort to strengthen community support for vulnerable youth, the Quebec government has expanded the Ma famille, Ma communauté program to include services for young people aged 13 to 17 in Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes. This initiative, which has already seen success in the Thérèse-De Blainville area, aims to prevent the need for youth placements in foster care or reduce the impact when such placements are necessary.

The program focuses on creating a network of care around vulnerable youth and their families, involving key community members such as family members, social workers, healthcare professionals, educators, and local organizations. By working together, these stakeholders ensure that decisions about a young person's living situation are made in their best interest, prioritizing safety and well-being.

Lionel Carmant, Minister responsible for

Social Services, expressed his enthusiasm for the program's success and the positive impact it has had in other regions. He noted that this expansion reflects the government's commitment to putting the needs of children first: "I am thrilled to see the community in Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes come together to support our youth. Programs like Ma famille, Ma communauté are vital in ensuring that vulnerable adolescents receive the care and support they need."

Local representatives have also praised the initiative. Benoît Charette, MNA for Deux-Montagnes and Minister responsible for the Laurentides region, highlighted the strong sense of collaboration that defines the program: "The solidarity and commitment of our community are key to helping at-risk youth thrive. This program will offer them a better future by providing a support system that goes beyond traditional interventions."

The expansion is also welcomed by Sylvie d'Amours, MNA for Mirabel, who emphasized the program's collaborative nature. "This initiative brings together various community



resources to create a safe and nurturing environment for teenagers, helping them to grow and succeed. It's a collective effort that will build a stronger future for our young people," she said.

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of CISSS des Laurentides, added that the success of Ma famille, Ma communauté in other regions bodes well for its impact in Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes. "We've seen firsthand how this program can transform the lives of vulnerable youth by surrounding them with care and compassion.

I'm excited to see it expand and reach even more young people and their families."

The expansion of Ma famille, Ma communauté to Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes demonstrates the Quebec government's ongoing efforts to ensure that young people receive the support they need from their communities. By building strong, collaborative networks, the program aims to provide long-term solutions for at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

# Laurentians to Welcome 45 New Family Doctors in 2025 to Improve Healthcare Access

**MARIA DIAMANTIS**

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

The Laurentians region is set to welcome 45 new family doctors in 2025, aimed at improving healthcare access for the local population. The

Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) des Laurentides will recruit 34 new doctors throughout the year, while 11 more will join the region through an interregional mobility program, meaning they are already practicing in other regions and will relocate to the Laurentians.

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of the CISSS des Laurentides, expressed optimism about this development, stating that the arrival of these doctors will contribute to improving access to quality healthcare and social services in the region. She emphasized the importance of having these physicians practicing locally, as it is essential for meeting the growing healthcare needs.

The allocation of these medical personnel is strategically planned to prioritize areas with the highest needs, particularly in home care, hospitalization, and emergency services. Additionally, family medicine remains a priority in several parts of the region to ensure primary healthcare services are more accessible. The ultimate goal is to respond effectively to the health and social service needs of the population.

This announcement follows a recent statement by Health Minister Christian Dubé, who revealed the addition of 458 family doctors across Quebec. Each year, regions are allocated a specific number

of family medicine positions by the Ministry to ensure a fair and equitable geographic distribution of medical resources throughout the province. This distribution is determined by assessing the gap between each region's needs and its available medical resources.

In 2025, the Laurentians will see new medical staffing in the following areas: the MRC Antoine-Labelle will receive three new doctors, while the MRC Laurentides will gain five new doctors, along with three more through interregional mobility. The MRC Pays-d'en-Haut will benefit from two new doctors, both through interregional mobility, while the MRC Argenteuil will receive three new doctors. The MRC Deux-Montagnes and Mirabel-South region will add eight doctors, including two from interregional mobility, with one position specifically reserved for a university-based doctor in a family medicine group. The MRC Rivière-du-Nord and Mirabel-North will receive nine doctors, two of whom will come from other regions through interregional mobility. Finally, the MRC Thérèse-De Blainville will welcome four new doctors, supplemented by two interregional doctors.

This influx of medical professionals is a key step in addressing the healthcare needs of the growing population in the Laurentians.



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# HOROSCOPE

Week of OCTOBER 27  
TO NOVEMBER 2, 2024

The luckiest signs this week:  
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER

**ARIES**  
Negotiations always require effort and compromise. You'll make some significant changes that will promote your health and improve your quality of life for years to come.

**TAURUS**  
Significant success and recognition await you, whether in the form of a promotion or a professional change. You'll also have a health win after a difficult period.

**GEMINI**  
You may have the opportunity to find a more spacious property for your family this week. You must make changes to your daily routine to become more efficient, which will prevent conflicts among your family members.

**CANCER**  
Don't forget to charge your electronic devices every night to avoid communication mishaps from a dead battery. Expect to play taxi driver for your family this week.

**LEO**  
Your honesty will shine this week as you openly express what others are thinking. You won't hesitate to point out your partner's excessive spending or impulse buys.

**VIRGO**  
You'll feel great this week! You must swiftly handle an urgent situation at work to avoid complications. You'll be promoted, and despite the changes and stress associated with this change, you'll be happy.

**LIBRA**  
You'll soon finish a task you've been putting off. To avoid health issues, take some time to rest before taking on new challenges.

**SCORPIO**  
Waiting for medical test results for yourself or a loved one will be stressful. However, you'll receive a positive response, which will help alleviate your worries. The prospect of a bright future will dispel anxiety and allow you to sleep peacefully.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Tread carefully when dealing with family or professional matters. You may need to adjust your schedule to accommodate a promotion. The pay and nature of the work will make your decision easy.

**CAPRICORN**  
It's time to start thinking about your end-of-year vacation! Booking things in advance, regardless of whether you're going alone or with family, friends or a significant other, will make things easier and avoid complications.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may be responsible for international assignments or training at work. You might find it challenging to communicate with people who aren't comfortable speaking English.

**PISCES**  
You must communicate openly with your partner to reignite the spark in your relationship. You'll need to make some adjustments to avoid emotional conflicts.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 183

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	50
51	52	53				54		55		
56				57				58		
59				60				61		

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### ACROSS

- Uninteresting
- Observe Lent
- Solemn promise
- Corporate symbol
- Clarinet's relative
- Pasture mother
- Frosting user
- Colonize again
- Pea holders
- Amount
- Coop item
- Lucid
- Rushed
- Altitude
- Expert
- Flat
- Vroom
- Lookout's platform: hyph.
- Tricky
- Game of chance
- Nursery item
- Pledge

### DOWN

- Tale opener
- Steed
- Give (out)
- Each
- Bullets and bombs
- Wickedness
- Gab
- Pit
- Folds over
- "\_\_\_ Pilot"
- Hardens
- Narrow valley
- Ventilates
- Yuletide word
- Green with \_\_\_
- Framework
- Tract unit
- Broadway blinker
- Eden inhabitant
- Sleeveless jacket
- \_\_\_ saxophone
- Yarn variety
- Mountain call
- Mournful word
- 12:00, e.g.
- Abode
- Bossa \_\_\_
- Crop
- Slippery swimmers
- Watch secretly
- Afternoon meal
- Floating zoo
- Motion agreement

# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 908

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

### 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 Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS

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

### Sudoku

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



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- Potatoes (~3lbs) (QC)
- Avocados (2)
- Clementines (5-6)
- Mango (2)
- Cucumber
- Limes (2)
- Apples (3) (QC)
- Pineapple
- Kale (QC)
- Leek
- Lettuce (Iceberg) (QC)

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