

A calm evening at Deux-Montagnes town hall

Routine updates and local engagement

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The Deux-Montagnes city council met on April 10, 2025, for its monthly town hall at the Chemin d'Oka municipal building. Despite a couple more contentious sessions in recent months, this meeting was notably calm and efficient, with less than a handful of citizens raising questions and the council swiftly moving through agenda items.

Mayor Denis Martin, as he often does, personally greeted residents before the meeting began, chatting with attendees and thanking them for coming. 16 citizens were present before the meeting began. The welcoming atmosphere set the tone for an evening focused on routine updates, community engagement, and ongoing development projects.

Among the first items discussed was the continued cleanup of a small local forest—an annual post-winter tradition in which citizens are invited to participate.

The mayor also gave an update on a key city project, stating that the work at Parc du Centenaire will be completed around the month of June.

In other news, the city will also soon be unveiling a new website. This platform will link all related municipal services, including the library website and more, for easier access to local information. Deux-Montagnes' website is old and hasn't been updated in years so this news was very welcoming

to the council and the citizens in attendance.

Mayor Martin addressed recent media coverage regarding the Réseau express métropolitain (REM). While issues have been reported on sections near the South Shore and Nuns' Island, he reassured residents that "despite what is being said in the news, the tests are going well here."

He confirmed that the Deux-Montagnes branch of the REM is still expected to be operational by October. Discussions are ongoing about what financial savings the city might see in relation to the REM project, but nothing has been finalized.

The council then moved to approve items listed on the official order of the day. These included a series of urban planning measures such as residential renovations and new apartment developments. Among the more notable approvals was the announcement of a new dog park, much to the delight of local pet owners.

Several community grants were also issued, including financial support for three local girls competing in ringette.

The question period featured only two citizens, both of whom followed up on previously discussed topics. One question touched on whether the city still maintains responsibility over the Grand Moulin. Mayor Martin confirmed it does, though the issue didn't spark further debate.

With no further questions and a quiet room, the meeting concluded without any major developments, a contrast to some of the more heated discussions seen in past sessions.



Resident takes the stand during the question period to ask about the "Grand Moulin" and who is responsible for it. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, North Shore News)

UPDATE: Lorraine home invasion deemed targeted, police reassure residents



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Following our original coverage of the violent home invasion that occurred in Lorraine on the night of Sunday, March 30, new developments from the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville (RIPTB) suggest that the incident was not random, but rather a targeted act based on specific information.

As previously reported, two suspects forcibly entered a single-family residence on Chemin de Lachalade shortly after 9:00 p.m., sequestering a man and a woman inside. The male victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to hospital, while the female victim suffered minor wounds. A volatile irritant was reportedly used during the break-in.

April 2: forensic evidence confirms deliberate targeting

In a press release issued Wednesday, April 2, police confirmed that forensic teams from the Sûreté du Québec were deployed to the scene and have since recovered several pieces of evidence. According to investigators, the suspects had detailed prior knowledge of the property, suggesting the victims were specifically targeted.

"There is no indication of a broader threat to residents," the RIPTB stated, noting that the victims have been able to return to their home and are actively collaborating with investigators.

April 3: police respond to public concerns

On Thursday, April 3, amid heightened public anxiety and online speculation, the RIPTB

issued a second communiqué to clarify the current situation and counter rumors circulating on social media. The police force emphasized that the March 30 incident remains an isolated case and that there has been no recent wave of break-ins in Lorraine.

Aside from the March 30 event, police confirmed only two unrelated cases of break-ins reported in 2025. "There is no pattern of home invasions," the statement read, aiming to quell fears of a potential crime surge in the area.

As part of their response strategy, RIPTB officers have increased patrols, conducted door-to-door checks, and maintained a visible presence in the neighbourhood. Authorities stress that this is a preventive measure to reassure residents and deter any potential copycat activity.

Community reassurance and continued investigation

Chief Inspector Karine Desaulniers stated that investigators are continuing to meet with witnesses and analyze evidence. Although no arrests have been made at this stage, police remain confident in the progress of the investigation.

"We understand the unease caused by this event," the RIPTB noted, "but we assure residents that all necessary measures are in place to preserve peace in the neighbourhood."

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. Police thanked the community for its cooperation and trust throughout the investigation.

As the case develops, we will continue to provide updates in future editions. For now, the message from law enforcement is clear: Lorraine remains a safe community, and this deeply unsettling incident does not reflect a wider threat.

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Legal battle intensifies over controversial waste disposal project in Blainville

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The City of Blainville and the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) are not backing down in their legal fight against Quebec's controversial Bill 93, which paves the way for the long-term burial of hazardous waste in the heart of the Grande tourbière wetland.

On March 28, in a final attempt to halt the law's implementation, both entities filed for an injunction to suspend the bill. The Superior Court rejected that request on April 4, but the case has now moved to the Court of Appeal.

On April 7, Blainville and the CMM sought permission to challenge the lower court's decision. Two days later, on April 9, lawyers representing the municipalities appeared before a judge to request a stay of preparatory work already underway by the private waste management firm Stablex. While the judge's decision is expected next week, Stablex has been temporarily restricted from cutting more than six hectares of forest on the 69.5-hectare site until a verdict is rendered.

What Bill 93 means for Blainville

Passed by Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) lawmakers on March 27, Bill 93 allows the provincial government to expropriate land in the Grande tourbière and authorize its use by Stablex for the burial of hazardous inorganic waste. The permit would extend for the next 40 years — a move that has sparked outrage among local officials, residents, environmentalists, and

even farming groups.

A broader strategy for sustainable waste management

Beyond the courtroom, the CMM launched a broader initiative on March 26 to better understand the region's hazardous waste management needs and develop more sustainable solutions. In response to long-standing recommendations from Quebec's environmental review board (BAPE), the CMM's Commission on the Environment and Ecological Transition has been tasked with producing a detailed report by December 2026.

The study will map current treatment and burial sites across Greater Montreal and assess greener technologies that could replace land-filling. Public consultations with residents, businesses, and municipalities are also planned.

Blainville has committed to playing a central role in this study, hoping its findings will pressure the Quebec government to rethink its direction and prioritize safer, more modern alternatives for handling dangerous waste.

Citizen mobilization and political support

The opposition to Bill 93 has sparked a rare display of political unity and grassroots mobilization.

On April 8, Mayor Liza Poulin stood alongside Parti Québécois MNAs Joël Arseneau, Catherine Gentilcore, and Pascal Paradis at the National Assembly to present a petition signed by 29,160 people — one of the largest petitions of Quebec's



Mayor Liza Poulin meets with citizens, joined by other Blainville municipal councillors, during the April 5 protest against Bill 93.

43rd legislature. The document, spearheaded by Arseneau, denounces the law's infringement on municipal autonomy and environmental integrity.

Poulin also highlighted that more than 5,500 protest emails have been sent by residents to Laurentides-area MNAs, ministers, and Premier François Legault. Over 100 municipal councils across Quebec have passed resolutions opposing the bill.

Environmental organizations, scientists, and the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) have all condemned the law, echoing concerns about ecological damage and democratic bypasses.

Thousands rally against the law

Public opposition also spilled into the streets. On April 5, over 1,000 people gathered in a peaceful protest in Blainville, including Mayor Poulin, city councillors, and provincial representatives from opposition parties. Before the rally, elected officials held a press conference at City Hall, reiterating their call for the repeal of Bill 93.

As the legal and political fight deepens, the residents of Blainville and their elected officials remain firm: the Grande tourbière must be protected, and Quebec's approach to hazardous waste must be brought into the 21st century.

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OPINION & Editorial



Canada's voters will choose a banker or a political professional as their next PM

Does a sophisticated banker, with well-established connections in the global realm of high-finance – yet with potential conflicts of interest over his personal investments – make for a good Prime Minister?

Or would Canadians perhaps be better off with a once obscure Parliamentary backbench politician, who had enough raw ambition to become leader of his party, yet embraced far-right political causes while scaling the political ladder?

As we approach Canada's April 28 election day, these are perhaps the only real choices voters will have. Especially taking into consideration that the NDP could be facing what is already being predicted as an electoral wipeout of historic proportions.

With the sudden and rather abrupt dumping of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January, followed by nearly as sudden arrival of Mark Carney, who had been lurking for years in the wings, we are reminded that this is certainly not the first time the Liberals have travelled down this road.

If there is a lesson even before election day, it is perhaps that initial appearances tend to be deceiving – especially in the realm of politics.

When Paul Martin during the early 2000s started stealthily to let the word go around that he might be interested in being eased into the position that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

had no initial intention of vacating, the former finance minister could hardly have suspected that the Liberals would be so weakened they would open the door to a parliamentary defeat and a Conservative government.

Or then there was the case of Michael Ignatieff, establishing that a respected professional (be it a university academic, or a banker for that matter) isn't necessarily always cut out for politics.

After being drafted by the Liberals, who seemingly expected Ignatieff to duplicate what another intellectual, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, had done to raise the party's profile into the stratosphere, Ignatieff turned out to be a dud. After three years as leader of the Liberal opposition, the Liberals' supposed star simply vanished back into the exalted halls of academia.

As for Poilievre, what he may lack in charisma and cosmopolitan flair, he makes up in sheer brazenness. The kind that led him to embrace the participants in the February 2022 Freedom Convoy protests in Ottawa.

They disrupted the national capital's local economy and drove residents batty. And let's not forget the heated threats directed by Freedom Convoy participants at MPs as they tried to enter the Parliament buildings. After all, Poilievre was there among them.

It's notable that in keeping with what appears to be his obviously opportunistic nature, not a

word about the episode is being spoken during the current election (except perhaps for a few fleeting references by the Liberals). Nor does he seem any longer to show much enthusiasm for the underlying far-right.

Like Ignatieff, Carney may have international recognition. But at the same time, he may also know squat about politics. And for whatever it's worth, the latter talent (which might be compared to a chessmaster's natural skill) is something you can't necessarily learn at the University of Oxford.

But ironically, it is something Justin Trudeau understood instinctively. Which is probably why he survived for almost a decade as Prime Minister. Significantly, politics is something Pierre Poilievre also instinctively seems to grasp closely, having apprenticed in it since he was a teenager.

If Carney wins (which many polls are predicting – along with a minority or majority Liberal government), the true test will be whether he has the mettle to persist with courage and conviction against the strong headwinds.

Otherwise, he may simply fade back to where he came from. A place where – like Ignatieff – he feels more comfortable.

Martin C. Barry

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Building bridges: CISSS des Laurentides welcomes Kanesatake interns in groundbreaking health initiative

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In a quiet yet powerful step toward reconciliation and inclusion, five young individuals from the Kanesatake Mohawk community have successfully completed an internship in the medical unit of the Centre multiservice de santé et de services sociaux d'Argenteuil (CMSSS) in Lachute. Their journey, which began in December 2024, marks a significant stride in empowering Indigenous communities with tangible healthcare skills and career opportunities—right within their own territories.

The initiative, developed through a partnership between the Kanesatake Band Council's Employment and Training Services, the CDC Pont-Viau (a Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board vocational training center), and the CISSS des Laurentides, offered these interns hands-on training to become personal support workers (préposés aux bénéficiaires).

Funded by Employment and Social Development Canada, the project provided much more than a clinical internship. It delivered a culturally respectful, skill-based experience aimed at closing the training gap for Indigenous healthcare workers in Quebec. The interns engaged directly with patients in a short-term care unit, allowing them to hone their practical

abilities under the supervision of medical professionals and educators.

Careful preparation went into creating a welcoming and productive environment for the trainees. The internship setting was collaboratively structured by the unit's head nurse, instructors from CDC Pont-Viau, and the care team at the Argenteuil health centre. Their collective efforts ensured the stage was set for a meaningful exchange of knowledge and cultural understanding.

Julie Delaney, President and CEO of the CISSS des Laurentides, emphasized the project's dual impact: "This inspiring collaboration to train future Indigenous healthcare workers was both a stimulating experience for the interns and our care team. Not only did it enrich the students' professional development, but it also reinforced our mission to improve population health through inclusive, culturally adapted approaches. We're proud to contribute to services that reflect the needs of the communities we serve."

The outcome speaks for itself. All five interns have since secured positions at Kaniatarak'ta Riverside Elders' Residence in Kanesatake—bringing their newfound skills full circle by giving back to their own elders and community members. This not only addresses the shortage of qualified staff in remote and Indigenous areas, but also ensures that culturally sensitive care is delivered by those who best understand the



community's unique needs.

For Kanesatake and similar First Nations communities, such opportunities are transformative. Historically underrepresented in the healthcare workforce, Indigenous populations often face systemic barriers to education and training. By offering an on-site, practical program embedded in respect and collaboration, this initiative opens doors that go beyond individual success—it lays a foundation for broader systemic change.

Local officials and community leaders hope that this pilot project will serve as a model for

similar partnerships across Quebec and Canada. With a growing demand for personal support workers and a renewed focus on reconciliation in public institutions, the formula for success is clear: collaboration, cultural respect, and long-term investment.

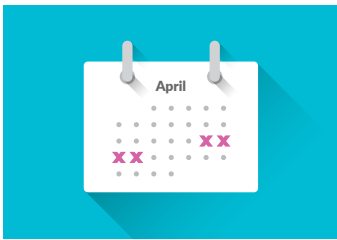
As Indigenous and non-Indigenous institutions continue to work together, programs like this internship demonstrate what is possible when communities unite to tackle shared challenges. The result is a healthcare system that not only heals the body but also helps rebuild trust, dignity, and opportunity for all.

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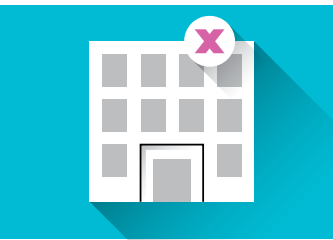

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Skilled worker shortage shows no signs of slowing

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Factories across Quebec are facing a critical challenge: too many machines, not enough hands. Despite a growing pool of unemployed Quebecers, companies still report intense difficulty hiring skilled tradespeople—a trend that's hitting the region's industrial sector hard.

According to Statistics Canada, Quebec currently has more than 372,000 people receiving employment insurance or social assistance. But when it comes to filling roles in welding, mechanics, and industrial engineering, qualified applicants remain few and far between.

"It's not just a shortage—it's a drought," says Julie White, head of *Manufacturiers & Exportateurs du Québec*. Her organization has been sounding the alarm for months, urging the province to address the skills mismatch with urgency.



But bringing in TFWs is far from simple. As White explains, "The costs are high. You have to train them, house them, and navigate a mountain of paperwork. But companies are out of options."

Last fall, the provincial government introduced stricter rules on hiring TFWs, citing long-term immigration management goals. Yet

Premier François Legault has recently shown signs of flexibility, particularly for rural industries. Still, many argue that suburban industrial hubs like the North Shore deserve the same support.

The issue also highlights a troubling lack of regional mobility. Economist Simon Savard notes that few Quebecers are willing to move

even short distances for work, meaning that staffing gaps persist even in areas with strong public transit and housing infrastructure like Laval and Terrebonne.

Education may be part of the solution. Technical and vocational schools in the region are under increasing pressure to adapt quickly, but experts say the pipeline of graduates simply isn't enough to meet demand. Meanwhile, trades remain less popular among youth, who are drawn more to white-collar professions.

In the North Shore, where small and medium-sized manufacturers form the backbone of the economy, this shortage threatens not only production timelines but also the future viability of local industries.

The clock is ticking. Without a coordinated strategy to train workers, incentivize mobility, and streamline credential recognition, businesses in the North Shore may find themselves outpaced—not by their competition, but by their own labour gaps.

The CMM submits its priorities to the federal parties in preparation for the election

(NEWSFIRST) - On the eve of the federal election, which will be held on April 28, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) is submitting its priorities for the next legislature to the political parties. In line with its objectives and in order to respond to the main issues of the moment, the CMM is asking the federal parties to prioritize the ecological transition, housing, sustainable mobility and

economic development.

In its brief, the CMM emphasizes that it is essential to ensure the prosperity, competitiveness and sustainability of Greater Montréal, Canada's second most populous metropolitan area, where some 4.3 million people live. It therefore invites the next government of Canada to work closely together and to engage meaningfully in the key areas identified.

"At a time when the climate crisis, the housing crisis and the homelessness crisis are combined with the funding issues of public transit and the economic consequences of American fares, the next Government of Canada will have a key role to play in supporting the vitality and development of Greater Montréal. We ask all parties to commit to funding, in line with the needs, the priority issues identified by the CMM. Close collaboration and adequate support will allow the metropolitan area to emerge stronger from the turbulent period we are going through, which will benefit not only the economic health of Quebec, but also the entire country," said Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal and President of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal.

Ecological transition and energy corridors

The MWC is very vigilant about the resurgence of energy corridor projects in the speeches of some federal parties. Recalling the significant concerns raised by the Energy East pipeline project in 2015, the MWC strongly reaffirms the need for a rigorous approach to any energy infrastructure initiative that crosses its territory. Thus, the CMM calls on the federal parties to focus their policies on the energy transition, social acceptability, environmental protection and respect for municipal autonomy.

The MWC would like to emphasize that the attraction of short-term economic benefits should not obscure the imperative to fight climate change, the consequences of which are broader and more long-lasting. The CMM is therefore calling for increased financial support from the next Government of Canada for the protection of natural environments and the adaptation of the territory to the consequences of climate change.

Dwelling

Faced with a housing crisis that directly affects the quality of life of the population and the competitiveness of the metropolitan area, Greater Montréal is calling on the next government of Canada to increase the supply of social and non-market housing. The CMM points out that Greater Montreal accounts for 60% of the core housing needs in Quebec, an alarming statistic that underscores the urgency of taking action.

Among the requests submitted, the CMM

invites the next government of Canada to sustain initiatives that support the construction of social and non-market housing, including the Reaching Home program, which aims to prevent homelessness. The CMM also hopes that the next government will quickly and unconditionally transfer the funds from the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CFLI) to the Government of Quebec in order to support municipalities in their development projects.

Sustainable mobility

An efficient public transit network is essential to the economic and environmental vitality of Greater Montréal. However, current deficits and underfunding threaten the sustainability of the service. The CMM urges the next government of Canada to significantly increase its funding for the operation and maintenance of public transit network assets. Stable and predictable funding is essential to avoid a deterioration in service, which would affect the quality of life of the population and the regional economy.

The CMM is also asking for the maintenance and acceleration of the transfer of funds from the Canada Public Transit Fund, which aims to finance the completion of structuring public transit projects, including the extension of the metro's orange line.

Economic development

While the trade war unleashed by the U.S. administration brings its share of uncertainty, the CMM believes that the next Canadian government will have to offer increased support to Greater Montreal to help it face the challenges it faces. Among the measures put forward in its brief, the CMM is calling for support for the diversification of export markets, transitional and targeted financial support, additional funding for Greater Montréal businesses and support for the attraction and retention of foreign direct investment.

Greater Montréal is a key economic driver for Québec. Its diversified economy is based on key sectors such as finance, professional services, health and education, and is supported by a robust manufacturing sector, which includes aerospace and metal processing. This diversity, combined with a skilled workforce, renowned universities and an attractive quality of life, gives the metropolitan area a resilience and international appeal that the next government will need to build on.

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Linda Lapointe aims to regain Rivière-des-Mille-Îles for the Liberals

Former MP is hoping for a comeback in this North Shore swing riding

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Following close losses by the Liberals in Rivière-des-Mille-Îles over the last two elections, former MP Linda Lapointe hopes to win the riding back for the Liberals in the April 28 general election.

Situated in an area of the North Shore where federal ridings have tended to swing back and forth between the Liberals, the Bloc Québécois and the NDP, Rivière-des-Mille-Îles was won in 2015 by Lapointe who served a single term.

Well-known on North Shore

Following the 2015 election, she served on two House of Commons parliamentary committees: the Standing Committee on Official Languages (LANG) and the Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT). She was later appointed Deputy Whip.

Ousted by the Bloc in 2019, she ran again in the 2021 election, but failed to win back the seat, finishing as in the previous election in a relatively close second-place, around five per cent in votes behind the Bloc. Since 2020, she worked as a National Caucus liaison for the

Prime Minister's Office.

In spite of the electoral shortcomings, Lapointe has a reputation as a spunky and determined fighter. She is well-known in Deux-Montagnes, Saint-Eustache, Boisbriand and Rosemère, having served briefly as the provincial MNA for the riding of Groulx under the banner of the former Action démocratique du Québec party.

Former grocery store owner

As a former small and medium-size business owner, she has been very active in the region promoting the interests of SMEs. She has a college diploma in health sciences from Cégep Ahuntsic. In 1986, she completed a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with a major in finance at HEC Montréal.

She worked in the family's Provigo grocery store from the time she was a teenager. She officially took over the family business in 1997 when she became the owner and manager of Provigo Lapointe et Fille. She finally sold the store in 2006.

In addition to her career as a food store manager, Lapointe was treasurer and member of the Association des détaillants en alimentation du Québec (ADAQ) board of directors



from 2002 to 2006. The association inducted her into their hall of fame in 2013.

Has roots in Boisbriand

She was president from 2009 to 2015 of the Regroupement des gens d'affaires de Boisbriand. Since age 26, Lapointe was also actively involved in efforts to improve the well-being of her community as the organizer of Déjeuner de partage.

During her time in office as Rivière-des-Mille-Îles' MP, Lapointe tabled a private member's bill proposing that the federal government significantly reduce credit card fees charged to small and medium-size business owners by corporate credit card service providers.

Although the legislation was not adopted (few private members' bills get passed), it became part of a similar piece of legislation eventually

enacted by the Liberal government.

Getting out the vote

While noting that the last federal election took place in the midst of the Covid pandemic when a significant number of voters didn't venture out to the polls, Lapointe suggested in an interview with the North Shore News that getting voters out this time will be crucial to the Liberals.

"Because we were in the middle of the pandemic, some people were scared to go out and vote," she said, adding that the turnout from Deux-Montagnes was especially low compared to previous elections. "It could have made the difference," she said. "That's why it's important this time for everyone to get out and vote."

Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Liberal candidate Linda Lapointe's campaign office is located at 142-J 25e Avenue in St-Eustache.



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Canadians want housing policy reform, highlighting the need for faster development and innovative financing

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Between November 6 and 18, Abacus Data conducted a national survey of 4,001 Canadian adults (18+) to explore public perceptions of the housing market. Commissioned by Mattamy Homes

Canada, this study looks at how Canadians feel about housing affordability, accessibility, and the role of governments, developers, and other stakeholders in addressing the crisis. The findings reveal widespread concern: a significant majority of Canadians believe homeownership

is becoming increasingly unattainable, housing affordability is worsening, and the pace of new development is too slow to meet demand. While many point to government inaction as a primary barrier, there is also strong support for innovative financing solutions and regulatory reforms to speed up construction. As attention shifts to other economic issues, Canadians are clear – housing must stay a top priority in the federal election. Canadians want urgent action to increase supply, improve affordability, and cut barriers to progress.

Housing market concerns and affordability

Concerns about housing in Canada are loud and growing. Nine in ten Canadians (88%) are worried about affordability, especially those aged 30 to 44 (92%), 45 to 59 (91%), renters (93%), and urban residents (91%).

These worries extend beyond general sentiment to more specific, lived challenges: 74% say housing in their area is unaffordable, 70% report limited availability, and 89% believe homeownership is becoming increasingly out of reach.

The message is clear – without decisive action from policymakers, affordability will continue to decline, leaving more Canadians struggling to find stable, secure housing.

Who is responsible for the housing crisis?

Frustration with government efforts to address the housing crisis is high across all levels. Seven in ten Canadians (70%) believe the federal government is not doing enough to improve the situation, while two-thirds (66%) feel the same about their provincial government. Although slightly lower, a majority (61%) also believe their municipal government is falling short.

Despite growing concerns, Canadians agree that government must take the lead on housing. Most hold all levels of government accountable, with

64% pointing to the federal government and 51% to provincial governments. There is strong support for government intervention: 65% back active involvement – 34% want full government responsibility with major investments, while 31% prefer a public-private partnership. At the same time, Canadians acknowledge the important role of builders and developers (70%) and believe stronger incentives are needed to prioritize affordability (67%). Together, these findings reflect a clear demand for leadership, accountability, and action. Canadians expect governments at all levels to step up with bold policies and meaningful investments, while also working with industry to deliver more – and more affordable – housing.

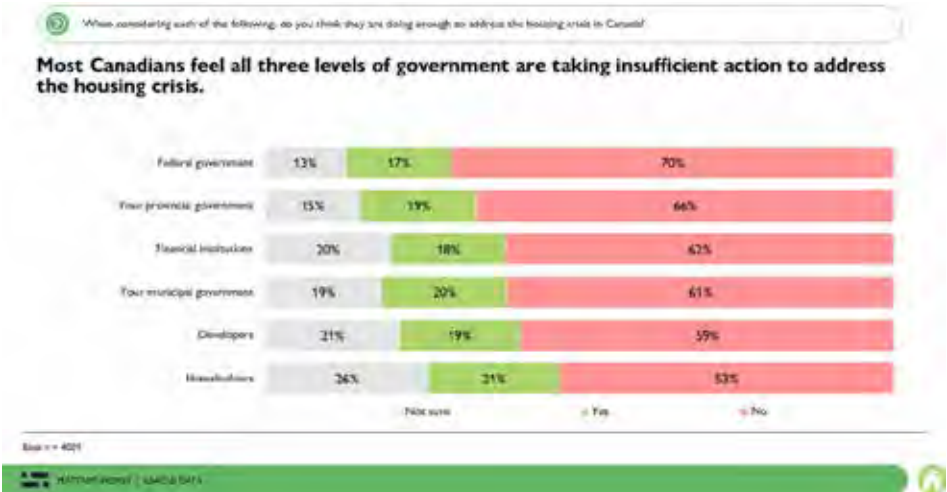
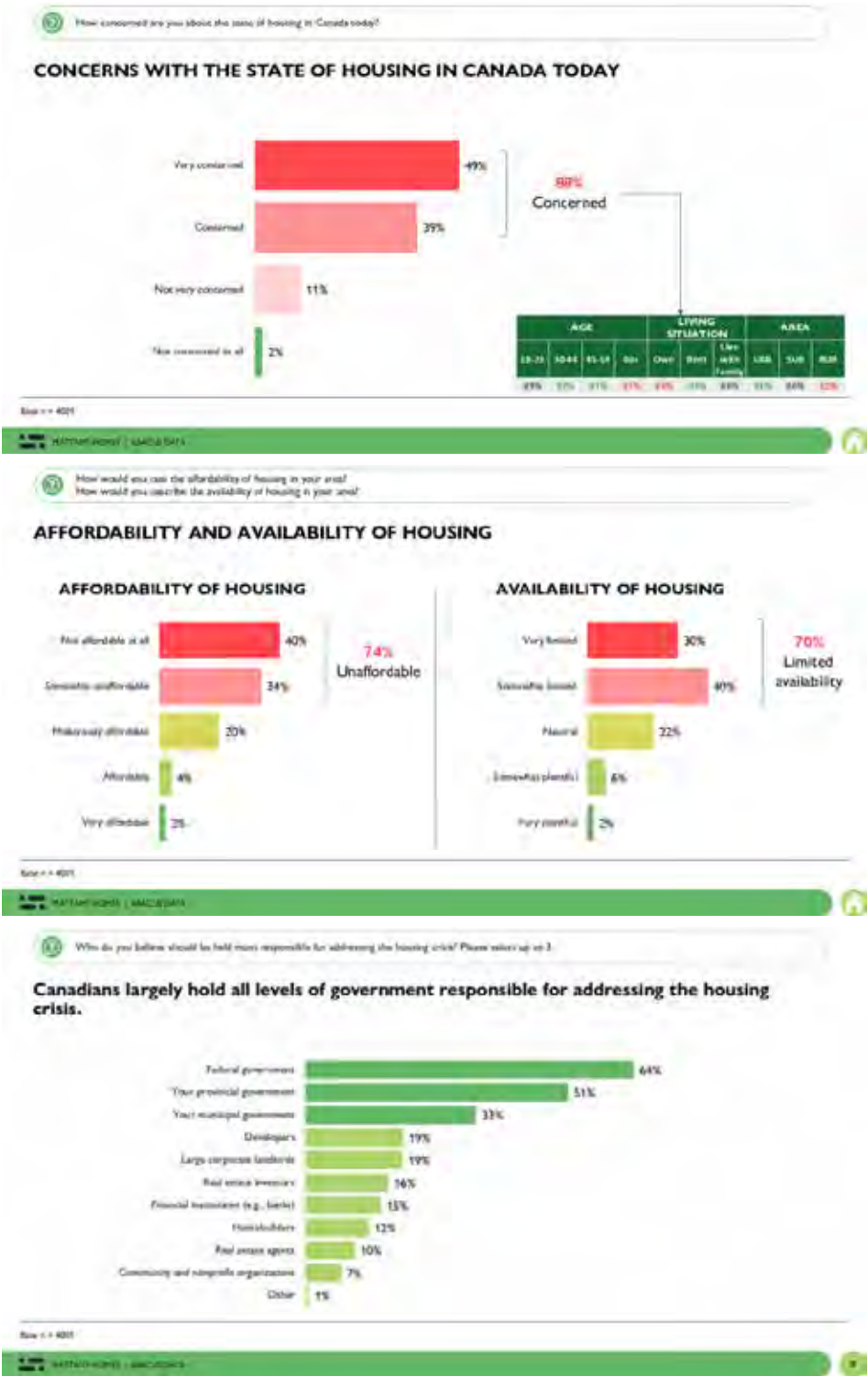
Homebuilders and developers: the role in increasing supply

Canadians see homebuilders and developers as key to solving the housing crisis but believe government policies often stand in the way. Three in four (72%) say regulations slow down housing projects, and the same proportion point to high development fees and taxes as major cost drivers. In addition to this, 71% believe current government policies are out of step with housing demand and no longer reflect the realities of today's housing market.

There is strong support for policy changes to remove these roadblocks and accelerate construction. Nearly 72% believe faster approvals are necessary to meet demand, while the same proportion point to development fees and taxes as key contributors to higher home prices. Red tape (71%) and restrictive zoning (65%) are also seen as major obstacles.

Many Canadians also support policies that accelerate development, including reducing development fees (42%), streamlining approval processes (41%), and offering tax breaks or subsidies to encourage new projects (37%).

▶ Continued on page 10



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FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

DOWN AND OUT

Q I've been in a relationship with a guy for two and a half years. From the start he would walk out and want to end the relationship over stupid stuff, saying, "If it's like this now, what's it going to be like in five years?"

I tried to reason with him. Everybody argues; it's a fact of life. It's how we deal with it. I thought over time he would settle into the relationship and make more of an effort rather than walking out each time. Sadly, over the years these episodes have continued. If it wasn't down to me fighting for our relationship, we would have split up long ago.

Over time he has gone from a chilled-out, loving guy to an egotistical and sometimes aggressive person. All of which I believe is the person he is. He just hid it. I am told to shut up if he doesn't like what I'm saying. I realize his priorities in life are not the same as mine.

Only two months ago he proposed to me. All my friends tell me how much he loves me, but how can that be when two months down the line he's walked out again? He has broken our trust in this relationship, but he never sees himself doing any wrong. Why do I love this guy? I'm so confused.

Colleen

A Colleen, when George Orwell was down and out in Paris, he washed dishes in a restaurant. One day the proprietor said to him, "What is restaurant work? You are carving a chicken and it falls on the floor. You apologize, you bow, you go out; and in five minutes you come back by another door—with the same chicken. That is restaurant work."

Why are you so confused about relationships? Let us give you a few hints.

In the bestselling relationship book of the last 40 years, the author says he pretends in his mind his wife is his most important client. He tries to give her the same attention he

would give a client. Apparently, pretense is his key to success.

Another couple, both Ph.Ds, observe quite correctly they are internationally regarded relationship experts. They are also authors of their own relationship system. Yet in one book they admit that after years of marriage they were on the verge of divorce. Even with a huge financial and professional stake in the outcome, they couldn't make their own system work.

As it turns out they did stay together—after reading a book on astrology and relationships! In the same book they quote a two-page letter of praise from a man who attended their workshop with his girlfriend. The man makes many appreciative comments, but the bottom line is he and his partner broke up anyway.

Then there's the woman who claims expertise in preventing divorce, yet in the smallest print in a book of hers, hidden away on the copyright page, she and her publisher disclaim all legal responsibility for the claims boldly made on the front cover. We could go on and on. So many books and so little wisdom.

As human beings we are easily swayed by what others say or tell us. That is why publishers print blurbs on the back of their books. Psychologist Lauren Slater mentions an experimenter who got others to do odd things—like touching their nose while walking backwards—simply by putting on a white lab coat. We are very suggestible.

There comes a point when we must trust our own experience. For three-quarters of a century experts have been telling us how to make unworkable relationships work, but it's no more than the same dropped chicken served up on another plate.

We live in a sea of misinformation. Trust yourself and swim against the tide of bad advice telling you there is some way to make this bad relationship work.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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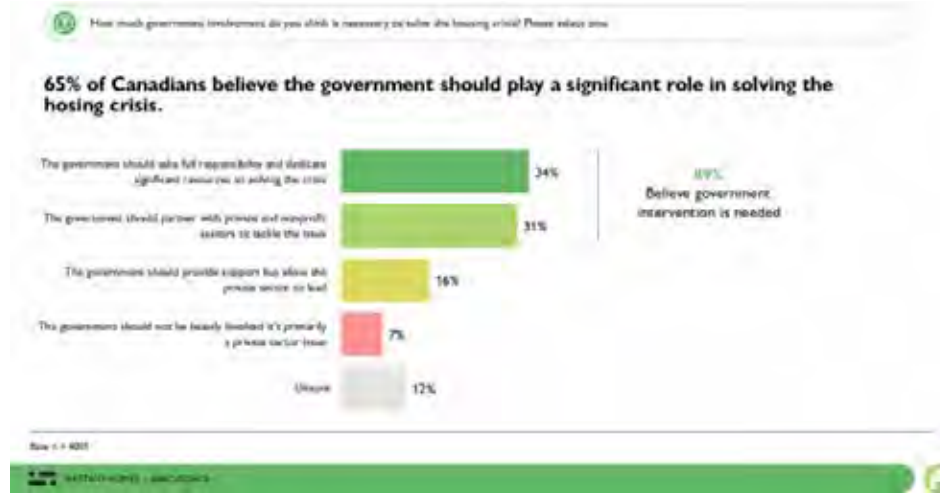
CURÉ-LABELLE X SAINT-MARTIN

For Canada to meet its housing needs, governments must work collaboratively with industry to remove barriers and speed up development. Creating a more efficient approval process and incentivizing new construction will help boost supply and improve affordability.

Canadians want bold policies and innovative financing solutions

Canadians strongly back bold, practical solutions to tackle the housing crisis – particularly those that make homeownership more attainable and which help bring down monthly costs. Seven in ten (70%) support promoting rent-to-own models to help renters transition into ownership, while 64% favour expanding access to 30-year mortgages to lower monthly payments. A majority also support reinvesting HST revenues from new home sales into housing infrastructure (61%) and allowing homebuilders to offer temporary mortgage rate buy-downs to ease costs for new buyers (56%). Together, these measures reflect a growing appetite for innovative, flexible policies that reduce barriers to ownership and create a more accessible path to homeownership for Canadians.

At the time of the survey, awareness of existing government housing support was limited – only 24% of Canadians were familiar with the federal New Housing Rebate Program. However, 60% believe



the program should be updated to better reflect the realities of today's housing costs.

Support is also growing for zoning and density reform. More than half (55%) believe higher-density developments can help ease housing shortages, and 50% support removing zoning restrictions to allow for greater density without drawn-out rezoning processes. Opposition to these changes remains limited, with just 14% opposed.

Ultimately, Canadians are calling for long-term, forward-thinking solutions that reduce affordability pressures and boost supply. Addressing financing

barriers, modernizing zoning rules, and streamlining approvals are seen as critical steps toward a more responsive and inclusive housing market.

The upshot

As attention shifts to economic issues like trade and tariffs, Canadians remain clear: housing must remain front and centre in this election. Widespread concern over affordability and access to homeownership continues to dominate public sentiment, with many feeling that the dream of owning a home is slipping further out of reach. While political focus may waver, the urgency to act on housing cannot. With housing

affordability at crisis levels, Canadians are calling for swift, meaningful action to boost supply, lower costs, and remove policy barriers.

The path forward is clear. Canadians want to see homes built faster, red tape cut, and financing tools introduced that make homeownership more accessible. They also expect a skilled workforce capable of meeting demand.

Speed matters. Canadians overwhelmingly support accelerating construction by streamlining approval processes, reducing development fees, and eliminating unnecessary delays. Without urgent action, frustration with government inaction will only intensify.

Affordability is critical. With housing costs far outpacing incomes, many Canadians are open to creative solutions like longer mortgage terms, rent-to-own programs, and shared equity models to ease the financial burden and increase access to stable housing.

The debate should no longer about who is to blame, but who will lead. Housing has taken centre stage on the campaign trail this week, with parties unveiling a range of policies and proposals. While these announcements are a positive first step, real progress will be measured by how effectively these promises are delivered after the April 28th election.

Canadians are clear about what's needed: accelerate construction, eliminate barriers, and introduce innovative pathways to homeownership. The pressure is building, and public expectations are high. Housing must stay at the forefront – it's not just an election issue, it's a national priority.

Boisbriand takes a stand for intellectual freedom in public libraries

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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

In a decisive move to protect the integrity and diversity of public access to information, the City of Boisbriand has officially adopted a motion in support of intellectual freedom in its municipal library.

Passed unanimously during the January 21 council meeting, the motion was originally formulated by the Association des bibliothèques publiques du Québec (ABPQ) and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ), with backing from the Réseau BIBLIO du Québec. It affirms the city's commitment to ensuring its residents have access to a broad spectrum of knowledge and perspectives — a commitment increasingly vital in the face of rising censorship efforts both in Canada and abroad.

"We are unfortunately witnessing a resurgence of intellectual and literary censorship attempts in several countries, including Canada," said Boisbriand Mayor Christine Beaudette. "The municipal council is proud to support this motion, which positions the City firmly against any such attempts in our municipal library."

The motion's adoption reflects three key principles:

Recognition of public libraries as spaces that reflect a diversity of viewpoints, where no single ideology or agenda dominates the shelves.

Trust in the expertise of library staff to curate collections based on professional standards of relevance, diversity, and educational value — not on political or ideological pressures.

Support for public library personnel in the face of growing demands to remove or restrict access to certain books, affirming that libraries must remain safe from censorship and undue influence.

The motion stands as both a symbolic and practical gesture, reinforcing the city's dedication to intellectual liberty at a time when book bans and content challenges are on the rise across North America. According to library advocates, the growing climate of censorship poses a threat not only to freedom of expression but to the educational development of communities, particularly young readers.

Library professionals across Quebec have expressed concern about recent incidents of book challenges, often targeting titles that explore topics related to race, gender identity, and social justice. In many cases, these challenges have escalated into organized efforts to remove books from shelves altogether — actions that, if unchecked, risk undermining the



purpose of public libraries as inclusive spaces for learning and dialogue.

By adopting the motion, Boisbriand aligns itself with a growing number of municipalities across Quebec that are proactively defending the autonomy of their libraries. The initiative is seen not only as a policy safeguard but also as a strong message of support to the librarians and

staff who play a frontline role in maintaining intellectual freedom in the community.

Photo Caption: From left to right: Jean-Christophe Froment, librarian; Stéphanie Gascon, head librarian; Christine Beaudette, mayor; Chloé Moreau, documentation technician; Nathalie Naud and Mégane Trudel-Quimet, library assistants.

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Week of April 20 to 26, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI



ARIES

Embrace professional change without hesitation! Taking on new responsibilities will drive your progress and likely lead to a salary increase, even if time becomes an increasingly precious resource.



TAURUS

You may consider embarking on a journey or adventure that requires considerable preparation. Enrolling in a training course or diving into a new field of study could change how you see your future.



GEMINI

To reduce tensions, set aside some time for your loved ones. This time you spend together will help you open up to each other and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges each of you may be facing.



CANCER

You'll finally have time to spend with your partner. You must make minor adjustments to your relationship and free up time to do things with your better half. This will help you resolve many of the issues that have been bothering you.



LEO

You'll hear about a job opening that aligns with your professional goals. You'll need to invest time and work hard to adapt to your new responsibilities.



VIRGO

You'll be surprised to find yourself in the spotlight this week. Your presence will captivate those around you, and you'll receive applause for an impressive feat. You'll perform a heroic act that will boost your self-esteem.



LIBRA

Your family counts on your presence, so you may need to spend part of the week at home. Although your move is still a few months away, start preparing right away to stay ahead of the game.



SCORPIO

You'll know just what to say this week, and your words will resonate far and wide, especially on social media. Prepare for a series of enriching trips.



SAGITTARIUS

Indulge and spoil yourself this week. Take the opportunity to wander through stores and boutiques. You'll find useful items, and also a few goodies to brighten up your daily routine.



CAPRICORN

Prepare for a busy week ahead. Your enthusiasm and perseverance will set you apart. You're also likely to see a significant increase in your income, which will give rise to some wonderful celebrations.



AQUARIUS

Exhaustion is catching up with you, and a sleepless night could jeopardize your progress on certain projects. Embrace a new routine. A balanced diet and regular physical activity could work wonders for your energy levels.



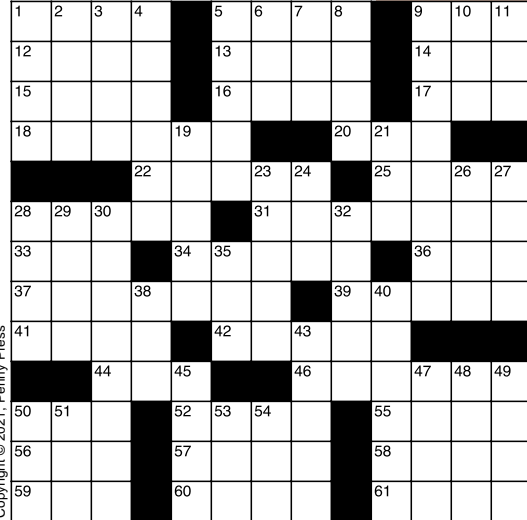
PISCES

You'll be tasked with organizing a large-scale meeting at work. Your social life will be buzzing with activity. You'll show empathy and innovation this week. Divine inspiration may guide you.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 278



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ACROSS

- Jest
- _____ bad to worse
- Entirely
- Spirited
- Phone wire
- Distinct period
- Drat!
- Grape drinks
- Hill-building insect
- Firstborn
- Pale gray
- Plant again
- Tramp
- Rub out
- Covered decoratively
- Atmosphere
- Fabric colorers
- In the dumps
- Misting device
- Imitators
- Golf-ball props
- Put on hold

- Use snow runners
- Come into view
- Speck
- Canaveral or Horn
- Jack's tote
- Have being
- Ogler
- Strays
- Rose plot
- Animals' lairs
- Take out, in printing
- DOWN
- Green mineral
- Almost round
- Nice
- Border trimmers
- Bad tires
- Stamp out
- _____ and only
- Small plateau
- Ocean stallion: 2 wds.
- Coffee container
- Gym pad

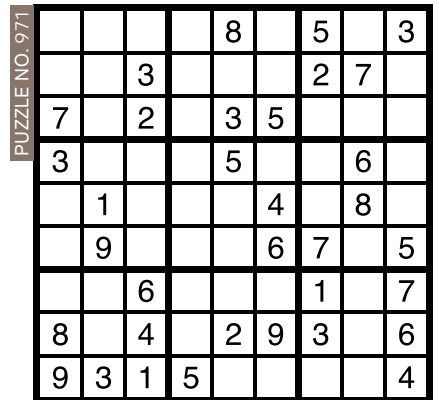
- Filthy
- "_____-Devil"
- Met musical
- Armed conflict
- Withstand
- Gambling numbers
- New England coast
- Mellow
- Detained
- Biblical song
- Up to this time
- Solicit
- Chirped
- Pilsner and lager
- Cooled
- Unusual
- Young lady
- You're something _____!
- Pat gently
- Crude copper
- Nautical response
- Cage

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.

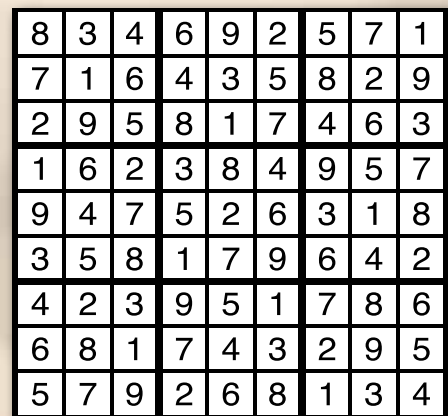


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- Grapes (Cotton Candy) (Chile)
- Pineapple (Costa Rica)
- Sweet Potatoes (3) (Mexico)
- Cauliflower (Mexico/California)
- Peppers (3) (Mexico)
- Zucchini (2) (Mexico)
- Eggplant (Mexico)
- Apples (3) (South Africa/Washington)
- Avocados (2) (Mexico/Peru)
- Lemons (2) (Mexico)
- Red Onions (2-3) (Mexico)
- Grapefruit (Mexico)
- Lettuce (Romaine) (Mexico)
- Cucumber (Canada)
- Tomatoes (3) (Canada)
- Bananas (4) (Costa Rica)
- Garlic (Argentina)
- Red Cabbage (Mexico)
- Corn on the Cob (3) (Mexico)

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