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The Best Choice
Since 1983

Saint-Eustache showcases local talent with new art acquisitions



From left to right: Raymond Tessier, municipal councillor and chair of the Commission for the Development of Arts and Culture; Isabelle Mattioli, municipal councillor; artists Mugnette Lemaire, Julie Lépine, Thanh Châu; Michèle Labelle, municipal councillor and vice-chair of the Commission for the Development of Arts and Culture; artists Hélène Lachapelle, Gisèle Séguin, Stéphanie Heendrickxen, Lyette Roussille; and Pierre Charron, Mayor of Saint-Eustache.

MARIA DIAMANTIS

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The City of Saint-Eustache has once again placed the spotlight on local creativity, unveiling its latest acquisitions as part of its eighth public call for submissions under the city's Art Acquisition Policy.

The initiative, launched in October 2024, led to the selection of fourteen works spanning a range of mediums and artistic voices. Among the highlights are four carved wooden bas-reliefs by Léon Charbonneau depicting iconic local landmarks

— the Globensky Manor, Légaré Mill, the Saint-Eustache church, and the Hôtel du Chêne. Other works include *Une grange abandonnée à Saint-Eustache* by Wilfrid Barbier, *Une cérémonie* by Stéphanie Heendrickxen, *Ô souvenirs! Printemps! Aurore!* by Gisèle Séguin, *S'évader* by Mya Parent, *Blanche* by Hélène Lachapelle, *Rivière* by Thanh Châu, *Lorsque le ciel me traverse* by Marie Pierre Goudreault, *Élévation urbaine* by Julie Lépine, *Pour faire le portrait d'un oiseau* by Lyette Roussille, and *Composition évanescence* by Mugnette Lemaire.

To mark their arrival in the city's permanent collection, the works are being presented in an

inaugural exhibition at the Guy-Bélisle Library, located at 12, chemin de la Grande-Côte. Running from September 5 to October 25, 2025, the exhibition is open to the public weekdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The permanent collection, displayed in municipal spaces, allows everyone — residents of Saint-Eustache and beyond — to immerse themselves in the world of our local artists. Come and discover the sensitivity and beauty of these new creations; they deserve our attention," said City Councillor Raymond Tessier, who is responsible for cultural affairs.

For Mayor Pierre Charron, the acquisitions

represent a tangible way to nurture and celebrate local creativity: "What a privilege to count such talented artists among us! By continuing the goals of this acquisition policy, we encourage their creativity and ensure their work shines by offering the public the opportunity to discover and appreciate them."

The policy aims to promote the work of Saint-Eustache artists, ensure their visibility, and reflect the diversity of styles, media, and artistic disciplines present in the community. With this latest unveiling, the city underscores its commitment to making art accessible while enriching public spaces with the voices of its creators.

Rosemère rises to the occasion as back-to-school rush meets life-saving cause

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As families in Rosemère juggle the whirlwind of school pickups, orientation events, and new routines, the town has issued a moving invitation that may well become one of the year's most rewarding commitments. On September 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Place Rosemère (Door #4, Cour 640) will transform into a beacon of goodwill and community commitment—a Héma-Québec blood drive beckoning residents to lend more than just their time.

Situated in the Laurentides just north of Montreal, Rosemère is no stranger to communal spirit. Incorporated in 1947, the town's name, derived from its founding settler J.P. Withers, poetically combines "Rose" with an old English word for lake—apt imagery for a town where the rhythm of daily life often echoes the flow of a river.

This year's blood drive continues a legacy

of partnership between the town and Héma-Québec—an organization born out of Canada's need to rebuild trust in blood services following the tainted-blood crisis of the 1980s. That public health tragedy, which infected thousands with HIV and hepatitis C, prompted the Royal Commission of Inquiry (Krever Commission), whose findings led Quebec to establish its own arm's-length blood agency, Héma-Québec, in 1998.

Since then, Héma-Québec has grown into a cornerstone of Quebec's healthcare system—collecting and distributing blood, plasma, stem cells, mothers' milk, and various human tissues, including the province's only public cord blood and human tissue banks.

This multi-faceted mission underscores why every donation counts, whether in crisis response or everyday care.

"There's so much going on in September," acknowledges Rosemère Mayor Eric Westram. His words carry a sense of urgency softened by optimism: "If you have a free moment, why not take the opportunity to donate blood? In just



one hour, you can make a simple but essential gesture for those waiting for a transfusion. One hour that can save lives."

The town's goal is modest yet powerful: 150 donors across the two-day drive. For Héma-Québec, each bag of blood can support surgeries, emergencies, or ongoing care for patients with chronic conditions. Appointment booking is encouraged—either via their website or by calling their hotlines—while eligibility can also be confirmed in advance.

For those uneasy at the prospect of needles, the reassurance is clear: trained professionals will be present to comfort and guide donors, turning what might be a moment of hesitation

into a moment of quiet pride.

Rosemère's embrace of this initiative feels natural. The town's history—from its rural roots to its modern-day vitality—speaks of resilience and community flourishing. And Héma-Québec's mission—a quarter-century strong—reflects a province's resolve to protect and nurture life in all its forms.

As school bells ring and autumn leaves begin to fall, Rosemère is asking its residents to step away from the busyness, roll up their sleeves, and be part of something greater. In just one hour, amidst the swirl of routines and responsibilities, a quiet act of generosity may write the most meaningful chapter of someone's story.

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Second phase of noise barrier along Highway 640 completed in Deux-Montagnes



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Residents living near Highway 640 in Deux-Montagnes will soon experience a quieter environment thanks to the completion of a major noise barrier project. The second phase of construction, stretching 267 meters between the railway and the Féré stream, has now been finalized, adding to the 793-meter section built during the first phase.

Together, the two phases total more than one kilometer of soundproofing wall, with an average height of five meters. The overall investment of \$10.7 million was shared equally between the City of Deux-Montagnes and Quebec's Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, in line with the province's road noise policy.

For Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Geneviève Guilbault, the project reflects the government's responsiveness to community concerns. "The realization of this new noise barrier demonstrates our commitment to meeting citizens' needs, in this case by reducing traffic-related disturbances," she said, thanking

the City for its collaboration.

Local MNA and Environment Minister Benoit Charette emphasized the health and quality-of-life benefits. "Residents of Deux-Montagnes will benefit from an infrastructure that ensures greater peace and a better living environment for many years to come. This initiative shows the government's commitment to reducing noise pollution and its health impacts, ensuring community well-being," he noted.

Mayor Denis Martin pointed out the particular importance of the project given population growth in the region, especially in neighboring Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, where the number of residents has doubled over the past 15 years. "Such an investment was necessary for the health and well-being of residents in this sector," Martin said. "We thank the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility for its crucial collaboration."

The City also extended its gratitude to citizens for their patience throughout the construction process. Officials stressed that the long-term benefits of the new wall will extend well beyond reduced traffic noise, contributing to a healthier and more livable environment for the community.

Thérèse-De Blainville MRC to showcase AI's potential for community organizations

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The Thérèse-De Blainville MRC is turning its attention to artificial intelligence (AI) as a tool for innovation in the municipal world. On September 29, 2025, the regional county municipality will host a half-day event at the Centre culturel Thérèse-De Blainville, dedicated to exploring how AI can be applied to improve the day-to-day operations of local community organizations.

The initiative is part of the MRC's Signature Innovation project, formally titled L'application de l'intelligence artificielle au monde municipal (AIAMM). The program seeks to position AI as a practical resource for municipalities and grassroots organizations, particularly in administrative areas such as inventory management, project tracking, finance, and accounting.

"Artificial intelligence is a lever we cannot ignore to modernize the way we work," said Eric Westram, prefect of the MRC and mayor of Rosemère. "It offers concrete solutions for municipalities and organizations that want to improve internal processes while meeting the challenges of managing sensitive data. This event is a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas on the future of our region and identify best practices for integrating AI responsibly and securely."

The morning program will feature presentations from experts active in Québec's AI ecosystem. Anne Nguyen from the Conseil d'innovation du Québec will provide an overview of the state of AI in the province and highlight issues around protecting sensitive data. Julie Boivin and Benoit Balmana will discuss the progress made under the MRC's Signature Innovation banner, while Alexandre de Planivore will address how AI can

strengthen links between strategic planning and operational decision-making.

For Julie Boivin, deputy prefect of the MRC and mayor of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, the stakes are clear: "In our MRC, we are committed to the continuous improvement of the services we provide to residents. AI is an opportunity for us to deliver services that are not only more efficient but also more accessible, by simplifying how we manage resources. This event is the perfect occasion for our community organizations to discover together how AI can make a daily difference."

The event is open to community organizations, municipal representatives, members of the AIAMM steering committee, and local media including Télévision des Basses-Laurentides and Journal Nord Info. Participation is free of charge, but registration is mandatory at aiaamm.oc@mrc-tdb.org.

By bringing together elected officials, administrators, and innovation specialists, the Thérèse-De Blainville MRC hopes to create a common space for reflection and action around one of the most debated technological tools of the decade. With the AIAMM project, the region is signaling its intent not only to keep pace with global innovation trends but also to tailor them to the needs of local communities.



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OPINION & Editorial



Poilievre is the one thing standing in Poilievre's way

It wasn't the Liberals who cost Poilievre the election. It was the image he projected and the movements he chose to align with

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has cleared the first hurdle in his post-election redemption tour—winning his own seat back in an Aug. 19 byelection. Granted, it was the easy one. What lies ahead makes a root canal look like a day at the spa.

If Poilievre wants to become prime minister, he'll need to stop barking and start leading. Canadians got more than their fill of the growling Opposition pit bull. Now, they'll want to see someone who can govern—not just hurl grenades from across the aisle.

As expected, Poilievre coasted to victory in Alberta's Battle River–Crowfoot riding, pulling in a whopping 80.4 per cent of the vote. It was hardly a race, though that didn't stop the media from breathlessly trying to manufacture one. Even a ballot littered with 214 mostly fake candidates, courtesy of a mischief-making electoral reform campaign, couldn't trip him up.

But that was the warm-up act. The real show starts in January, when Poilievre faces a party leadership review. And let's be honest, some Conservatives are still scratching their heads, wondering how a guy who blew a 25-point lead to the most tired, scandal-plagued Liberal government in recent memory is still calling the shots.

Sure, the party faithful can point fingers: Donald Trump took a swipe at Canada and lit a fire under national anxiety. Mark Carney popped up looking like the Liberals' knight in shining economic armour. And Poilievre's campaign—courtesy of the ever-strategic Jenni Byrne—misread the mood with the precision

of a broken weathervane. But let's not kid ourselves. Those excuses don't hold water.

The blunt truth? Voters saw the scowling, slogan-slinging Poilievre, heard what he was selling, and said, "No thanks." After a decade of Liberal drift, the country was primed for change. All Poilievre had to do was not scare people. Instead, he fumbled the moment.

Two things blew it for him.

First, in the showdown over who could stand up to Trump, Canadians bet on the guy with actual financial gravitas. Mark Carney—former governor of not one but two central banks—looked like the adult in the room. Poilievre? Too many Canadians saw him as Trump-adjacent, with all the bluster and none of the credibility. Even Trump has had warmer words for Carney than for Poilievre, which says something.

Second, Poilievre tried so hard to keep the Conservative tent "big" that he rolled out the welcome mat for the fringe. He didn't lose his Ottawa seat because he forgot the potholes—he lost it because he hitched his wagon to the Freedom Convoy, that anarchist tailgate party that brought downtown Ottawa to a screeching halt. Voters in his own riding watched their MP cheer for the chaos. They didn't forget.

In that, Poilievre is channelling his ideological twin in Alberta, Danielle Smith. Both have mistaken the noisy minority for the silent majority. In pandering to people who won't be satisfied no matter what, they've alienated the moderates they need to win. Worse, he spooked progressive and centrist voters into backing the Liberals just to keep him out.

And then there's the women's vote—or lack of it. A recent Angus Reid poll shows 64 per cent of women have a negative view of Poilievre. That's not just a crack in the base. It's a canyon.

So here's the thing: if he survives the leadership review in January, Poilievre will need a full-blown political makeover. Less "Dr. No," more "Here's how." Enough with the attack ads: It's time to offer actual solutions to issues like Canada's tariff crisis. If he wants to land punches on Carney, he'd better throw something more substantive than "He's doing a bad job."

He needs to show Canadians that behind the slogans is someone with the depth and maturity to lead. Someone who can unite, not just divide.

Even Ontario Premier Doug Ford, not exactly the gold standard for tact and diplomacy, offered advice that Poilievre might consider: "Work with the prime minister—as Team Canada." Being the Opposition leader isn't just about throwing rocks from the cheap seats. It's about proving you can rise above partisanship when the country needs it. And if Poilievre doesn't like Ford's advice, he might want to count up the majority governments. Ford: three. Poilievre: still waiting.

Bottom line? The job ahead is no cakewalk. Judging from his stiff, scripted performances, it's fair to wonder whether he has the range. But the path is clear enough. Either he swallows his pride and changes course, or he cements his place as a colourful footnote in Canadian political history—remembered not for winning power, but for throwing it away.

Doug Firby

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Demi-Marathon de Blainville 2025 breaks participation record



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The 2025 edition of the Demi-Marathon de Blainville turned into a landmark celebration of endurance and community spirit, with more than 2,000 participants taking part — the largest number in the event's history.

Held on Sunday September 7th and presented by Marc-André Roy, the races spanned a wide variety

of distances, ensuring that every age and ability level had a place at the start line. From the 1 km course reserved for children 12 and under to the demanding 21.1 km half marathon, the event offered something for families, recreational runners, and elite athletes alike. The program also included 2 km, 5 km, and 10 km runs, as well as a 5 km urban walk and the increasingly popular "Défi Santé 10 km en équipe."

The atmosphere was festive from start to finish. Volunteers, spectators, and local organizations turned out in force to support the runners. Chip timing by SportChrono ensured professional race management, while water stations, medical

teams, and secure, well-marked routes added to the quality of the experience.

A highlight of the day was the elite 5 km race, which awarded prize money to the top three men and women. In keeping with the event's "Gold" certification by Athlétisme Québec, results are eligible for official record recognition, continuing a tradition that has seen several records set in past editions.

The Demi-Marathon de Blainville also carried a strong community focus. Proceeds supported the Centre sportif Blainville — known for its long-standing fundraising initiatives and support for local families — and the Club d'athlétisme Corsaire-Chaparral, dedicated to promoting track and field across age groups. In addition, the "Défi Santé 10 km en équipe" contributed to the organization of the upcoming Jeux du Québec – Blainville 2026, offering participants a chance to race while also supporting young athletes preparing for the provincial competition.

Each runner crossed the finish line to receive a participation medal, and top performers in age categories for the 5 km, 10 km, and half marathon earned special souvenir awards. For many, the photos included with registration provided a lasting keepsake of their effort.

The 2025 edition not only set a new participation record but also strengthened Blainville's reputation as a hub for athletics in Quebec. Organizers are already turning their attention to next year, when the event will mark its 10th anniversary on September 13, 2026.

Photos: courtesy of Ville de Blainville



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Westram pitches continuity in Rosemère

MATTHEW DALDALIAN

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As Rosemère heads into municipal elections, Mayor Eric Westram is asking voters to weigh his record: eight years as mayor following 12 years on council, and a tenure marked by service to residents, financial caution and ongoing disputes over development.

Background and accomplishments

Westram, a Rosemère resident since 1980, entered politics more than 20 years ago. He served three terms as a councillor before being elected mayor in 2017. He said his main achieve-

ment has been keeping close to citizens.

"I'm very proud to have been chosen by the population for all those years," Westram said.

One of his early priorities as mayor was changing the culture inside City Hall. He wanted staff to understand that "our customers are the taxpayers" and to focus on service. He said that shift took time, but is now reflected across departments.

"You don't change culture over the flip of a coin," he said. But over time, he argues the mandate has taken root.

Westram also pointed to challenges the city faced through the pandemic, when offices were nearly empty. He noted the town managed to restore services while residents became more demanding and anxious. "Society has changed



Mayor of Rosemère Eric Westram at his desk on August 28, 2025.
(Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

as a whole," he said, and city staff had to adjust.

On the environmental front, the town cut down roughly 6,000 ash trees due to the borer infestation, but has since replanted to preserve Rosemère's green character. Westram said maintaining the town's scenery is a priority.

Budget pressures

Inflation and rising costs remain a major concern. Westram said essential expenses such as chemicals for the water plant and asphalt for road work have become much more expensive. Despite that, Rosemère has kept tax increases relatively low compared with surrounding municipalities.

The mayor argues careful financial management has allowed the city to maintain services without steep tax hikes, even as residents feel the broader strain of higher living costs.

"And we had to be very careful for every dime that we would invest," Westram added.

Development and disputes

The future of Rosemère's former golf course has become one of the town's most contentious issues. Westram said his team campaigned on a plan to split the land between construction and green space. After the election, divisions within the council emerged, with some councillors withdrawing support.

That disagreement led to a prolonged legal dispute with the property owners. Westram now argues for a negotiated compromise that would allow limited housing development while preserving a significant portion of green space.

Another challenge is Place Rosemère, the regional shopping mall that has lost value and tenants in recent years as online shopping grew.

The town recently adopted a planning framework to allow residential units on the site, following a North American trend of turning malls into mixed-use districts. Westram said

this step should help stabilize local revenues while modernizing the area.

Community concerns

Traffic remains the top concern Westram hears from residents. He said the town has limited exits to Autoroute 640, and congestion has worsened as nearby communities have grown. Rosemère has pushed the province for improvements while making local adjustments to ease circulation.

Residents have also raised concerns about climate change and flooding. Last year, heavy rain damaged many homes. Westram has pledged major investments in infrastructure to reduce future risks.

The mayor's approach

Westram describes himself as a hands-on mayor who listens directly to residents. He said people often approach him in public, and he tries to hear them out even when conversations are difficult. "It's almost more like a psychologist than a manager," he said of the role.

He also points to staff retention at City Hall as a sign of stability. "Any employee here could leave for another city, we have been able to keep our employees here," he said, adding that a change in leadership could disrupt that.

Looking ahead

If re-elected, Westram said his priorities would be to resolve the golf course dispute, implement the new plan for Place Rosemère, and move forward with infrastructure projects to protect against flooding and climate impacts. He framed his pitch as continuity: steady leadership, cautious finances, and a focus on keeping Rosemère's green, small-town character intact.

"I've kept myself close to the citizens," Westram said. The decision, he added, now rests with them.



Mayor of Rosemère Eric Westram says he's kept "close to the citizens" at his desk on August 28, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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Martin stresses stability in Deux-Montagnes

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As voters in Deux-Montagnes prepare for the municipal election, Mayor Denis Martin is pointing to 12 years of work on financial stability, flood protection, and community development as the foundation of his campaign for another term.

Financial turnaround

When Martin took office in 2013, he said the city was in financial difficulty. His administration prioritized debt reduction and balanced budgets, which he argues restored confidence in City Hall. "We turned the city around to be a better financial solidity," he said.

That financial stability, he adds, made it possible to pursue major infrastructure investments and eventually secure grants from higher levels of government.

Flood protection

Flooding in 2017 left a strong mark on the city. Martin's administration partnered with Quebec and the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM) on a pilot project to improve resilience. The program delivered a new dike, stormwater basins and other measures meant to protect homes from rising water.

"Now it's functioning very well," Martin said, pointing to recent storms where damage was limited. A new basin is also planned within two

years to further strengthen defenses.

Community identity

For Martin, civic pride has been another focus. He said residents today identify more directly with their city than they did a decade ago. "Most citizens are telling me they're proud to say they come from Deux-Montagnes," he said.

His administration has added new parks and free family activities, and according to him, aims to make the city attractive for young families. In 2019, publications like Maclean's ranked Deux-Montagnes among the best Canadian cities to raise children, something Martin views as validation of that effort.

Growth and density

The city's growth has created new pressures. Provincial directives required densification near the commuter rail line, and the town's urban plan was updated to allow taller buildings around stations while keeping most neighbourhoods low-rise.

"For a quiet suburb, it's quite a shock for many of our residents," Martin acknowledged. Still, he said the city was able to preserve about 70 per cent of its housing stock as bungalows.

Residents have also raised growing concerns about traffic, especially as nearby municipalities expand. With only a few exits to Autoroute 640, congestion has become a daily issue. Martin said the city is pressing the province for fixes while adding local connections to relieve pressure.



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Mayor Denis Martin in his office on September 3, 2025.
(Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

Public transit and the REM

The REM commuter system is set to begin service soon later this year, replacing the old Deux-Montagnes train line that was among the busiest in the Montreal area. Service interruptions since 2020 have forced residents to rely on shuttle buses and longer commutes.

Martin said the return of rail service will be welcome. The REM will run 20 hours a day, with trains every 10 minutes, and will be fed by nine new bus routes from surrounding towns. But he also noted that the densification tied to the project has been one of the community's biggest adjustments.

Climate and infrastructure

Martin points to climate resilience as another key part of his record. He argues the flood-control measures are not only protecting homes but also reducing pollution by limiting runoff into

the lake. "We're really for climate change. We're getting on the right track," he said.

Looking ahead, he has promised to re-engineer key corridors like 8th and 15th Avenues to reduce congestion and improve safety. With the city almost fully built out, most of the work will focus on redeveloping existing areas and updating streets to meet today's needs.

The campaign ahead

Martin is emphasizing continuity: cautious finances, steady investments, and an experienced team to manage change. "The experience we have had here for many years is to have plans," he said.

While challenges remain— traffic, growth pressures and climate adaptation among them— Martin argues that he's positioned himself to face them with solid footing. The question for voters is whether that record is enough to carry him into another term.

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Canadians see cost of living, housing, and healthcare as bigger threat than Trump's policies

BY EDDIE SHEPPARD & DAVID COLETTA

As the Liberal cabinet meets this week and Parliament prepares to resume, new polling shows a growing divide between what Canadians want their leaders to prioritize and what they believe Ottawa is actually focused on. Between August 28 and September 2, 2025, Abacus Data conducted a national poll with 1,500 Canadians (aged 18+) to explore whether Canadians feel the federal government is directing its attention to the issues that matter most, both at home and abroad.

While Canadians recognize that managing Donald Trump's policies is critically important – especially for trade, security, and the economy – many fear it may be taking too much attention away from urgent challenges at home, like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs.

A perception gap at the heart of politics

Six in ten Canadians (61%) believe the federal

government is paying too much attention on Donald Trump when urgent domestic challenges – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – need solutions, while just one in three (33%) think Ottawa is focusing the right amount of attention to Trump.

It's worth noting that while dealing with the Trump administration and securing a trade deal is critical to many of those same domestic issues, there is a gap in people's views.

This concern cuts across demographics. Younger Canadians are especially critical, with 70% of those aged 18–44 saying the government is too focused on Donald Trump. Even among Liberal voters, more than half (51%) believe their government is distracted by Trump when pressing domestic problems remain unresolved (compared to 45% who believe it is the right amount of attention).

As Parliament gets set to resume, this perception gap will shape how Canadians judge the government's performance, and whether they believe Ottawa can balance international chal-

Do you think the federal government is paying too much attention to Donald Trump when urgent challenges like housing, healthcare, and rising costs need solutions?

BALANCING TRUMP AND CANADA'S URGENT CHALLENGES

	TOTAL	REGION						GENDER		AGE					2025 VOTE			
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	Male	Female	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and over	CPC	LPC	NDP	BQ	
NET: TOO MUCH	61%	57%	70%	46%	60%	65%	67%	61%	61%	70%	70%	38%	48%	72%	57%	52%	62%	
Yes, far too much	26%	16%	31%	25%	34%	34%	36%	28%	34%	36%	32%	29%	19%	33%	16%	18%	46%	
Somewhat too much	35%	34%	38%	22%	26%	31%	31%	33%	27%	34%	38%	29%	30%	39%	35%	35%	17%	
About the right amount	33%	43%	23%	44%	34%	36%	32%	33%	33%	22%	24%	36%	42%	21%	40%	40%	23%	
Too little	6%	4%	7%	9%	6%	6%	1%	6%	6%	4%	5%	5%	9%	7%	4%	5%	14%	

(BASE) n = 1,500

ABACUS DATA

lenges with urgent priorities at home. It's also an important signal for government to really think about how it frames the work its doing and whether or not its reaching all audiences with its communications.

Next 2 years: domestic issues seen as the greater threat

When looking ahead to the next two years, most Canadians see domestic challenges as the bigger threat:

- 60% say issues like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs pose the greatest risk to the country.
- 40% believe Trump's policies and unpredictability are the larger danger.

Younger Canadians are especially concerned about domestic challenges, while older Canadians are more evenly split. Politically,

Conservative voters are far more likely to see domestic crises as the bigger danger, while Liberal voters are evenly divided.

This indicates that while Canadians understand the significance of Trump's influence, their priority remains solving urgent problems at home. To build their trust, the federal government must clearly demonstrate how tackling global challenges will lead to meaningful, tangible improvements in Canadians' everyday lives, showing how actions on the world stage directly translate into progress on housing, healthcare, and affordability.

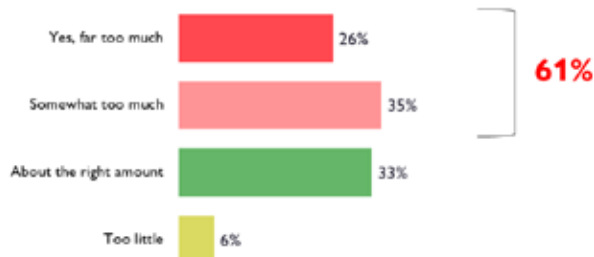
Families are feeling the strain

This sentiment becomes even sharper at the personal level. Nearly eight in ten Canadians

► Continued on page 9

Do you think the federal government is paying too much attention to Donald Trump when urgent challenges like housing, healthcare, and rising costs need solutions?

61% of Canadians say the federal government is too focused on Donald Trump instead of tackling urgent challenges at home.



(BASE) n = 1,500

ABACUS DATA

What poses a bigger threat to Canada's future in the next two years?

BIGGEST THREAT TO CANADA'S FUTURE

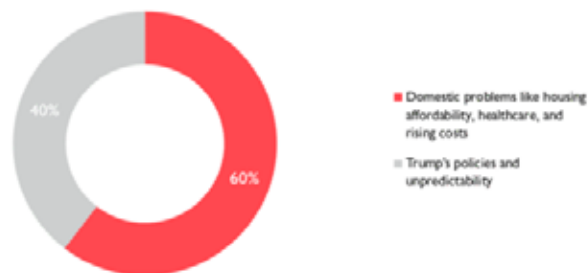
	TOTAL	REGION						GENDER		AGE				2025 VOTE			
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	Male	Female	18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 and over	CPC	LPC	NDP	BQ
Domestic problems like housing affordability, healthcare, and rising costs	60%	58%	77%	64%	60%	54%	67%	61%	59%	66%	64%	49%	72%	50%	61%	45%	
Trump's policies and unpredictability	40%	42%	23%	36%	40%	46%	32%	39%	41%	34%	36%	51%	28%	50%	39%	55%	

(BASE) n = 1,500

ABACUS DATA

What poses a bigger threat to Canada's future in the next two years?

A majority of Canadians (60%) say the real threat in the next two years comes from problems at home – housing, healthcare, and rising costs – while 40% are more worried about Donald Trump's policies and unpredictability.



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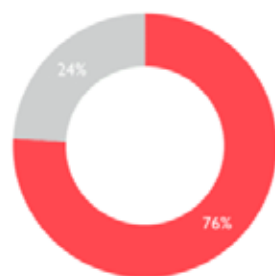
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13 As this point, should Canada's leaders spend more time:

Currently, three in four Canadians (76%) say the country's leaders should prioritize fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home, while just 24% want them focused on managing the impact of Trump's policies.



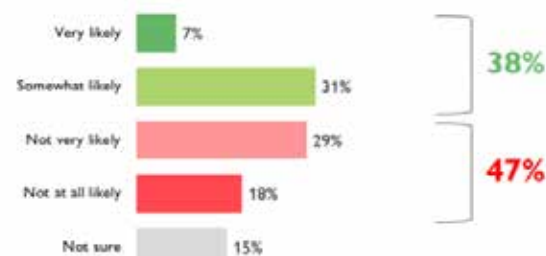
■ Fixing housing, healthcare, and affordability at home
■ Managing the impact of Trump's policies

(BASE) n = 1,500

ABALUS DATA

13 How likely do you think it is that Mark Carney will secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump?

Canadians are split on whether Mark Carney could secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Donald Trump: 38% believe such a deal is likely, while 47% consider it unlikely.



(BASE) n = 1,500

ABALUS DATA

◀ Continued from page 8

(79%) say rising costs, housing, and healthcare will have a greater impact on their families over the next two years than U.S. tariffs or trade policies (21%).

Again, this suggests that people may not understand the relationship between Trump's trade policies and domestic micro-economic and social issues. The federal government may need to spend more time connecting the dots for Canadians, explaining why getting a deal and why it's focusing so much on getting that deal, is important to everything else.

This perspective cuts across all regions, age groups, and political leanings, with the strongest concern among middle-aged Canadians juggling mortgages, childcare, and aging parents (83% of 30-44 and 86% of 45-59). Even among Liberal voters, 71% admit their day-to-day struggles are shaped far more by domestic affordability challenges than by Trump's actions abroad.

What Canadians want leaders to prioritize

Three in four Canadians (76%) believe federal leaders should spend more time fixing problems at home – housing, healthcare, and affordability – while just 24% want them focused on managing Trump's policies.

This consensus spans party lines: 82% of Conservative voters and 69% of Liberal supporters agree that domestic issues must come first.

The takeaway for Ottawa is clear: Canadians expect their leaders to keep their eyes firmly on challenges at home, even while managing the complexities of the U.S. relationship.

Canadians divided on Trump and trade

While Canadians want their leaders to focus on domestic issues, they also recognize that Trump matters. But they are divided on whether Prime Minister Mark Carney can successfully navigate a trade deal – 38% believe Carney is likely to secure a fair trade deal with the U.S. under Trump while 47% believe it is unlikely. Younger Canadians and Liberal voters tend to be more optimistic, while older Canadians and Conservatives are far more skeptical.

This split highlights two things. One, that many Canadians don't think a secure and fair trade deal with the U.S. is likely to happen – either because they don't think Trump will ever agree to one or because they don't think the Carney government can achieve it. Second, it also suggests that only a small minority of Canadians expect one to be reached, providing evidence that the Carney government may not be blamed if a good deal is not achieved.

Exhaustion with Trump coverage

Perhaps the strongest signal in the data is emotional: 85% of Canadians say they are tired of hearing about Donald Trump.

This fatigue is shared across the political spectrum – 87% of Conservative voters and 82% of

Liberal voters feel the same way.

Canadians understand that managing Trump and his policies is important, but they don't want it dominating headlines or overshadowing the urgent problems they face at home – like housing, healthcare, and rising costs – that demand immediate attention.

The upshot

Managing Trump's unpredictability is undeniably important for Canada's future and a key concern for governments at every level. Getting it right creates an opportunity to build trust and momentum, showing Canadians that skillful management of global challenges can lead to stability, growth, and meaningful improvements in their daily lives. Getting it wrong, however, could derail progress on every other priority, undermining public confidence and leaving Canadians feeling unprotected both at home and abroad.

This is where the perception gap emerges. While Ottawa may view global negotiations and U.S. relations as essential to Canada's long-term stability, most Canadians are focused on the here and now – housing they can afford, healthcare they can access, and rising costs they can manage. For many, these urgent domestic crises feel disconnected from the government's trade agenda, fueling a sense that their immediate struggles are being overshadowed by debates and decisions that seem distant from their daily lives.

To close this gap, Ottawa must help Canadians see the connections between the macro and the micro. Decisions about trade, cross-border

tensions, and economic stability need to be clearly linked to tangible, local benefits. Canadians need to understand how actions taken on the global stage lead to shorter ER waits, more affordable groceries, and greater housing stability. Voters are open to growth and stability narratives – but only if they feel real, relevant, and fair.

As Parliament resumes, the challenge for the Liberals isn't just navigating Trump; it's convincing Canadians that their government understands what matters most to them and can deliver on it. This means demonstrating that every move – whether a trade negotiation or a response to Trump's policies – has a direct and visible payoff for Canadians at home.

For the Conservatives, the opportunity lies in positioning themselves as the party laser-focused on the everyday struggles Canadians face. By framing the Liberals as distracted by international affairs and disconnected from real-world challenges, they can make the case that they are the party best equipped to restore balance and put domestic priorities first.

In the months ahead, the battle won't just be about Trump or trade deals. It will be about whether Canadians believe their government understands what they need and is focused on delivering it. The party that closes this perception gap will not only win the political debate but will define the direction of the country heading into the next election.

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Week of **September 14 to 20, 2025**

The luckiest signs this week:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO



ARIES

This week, you'll be in high demand with your clients and loved ones. Your efficiency will put you in the spotlight. If you're single, love may surprise you when you least expect it.



TAURUS

Don't be surprised if you find yourself falling in love this week—with a vehicle! If you're patient, the salesperson could sweeten the deal with an even better offer. At work, your team will support you when your workload feels overwhelming.



GEMINI

Take a fresh look at your budget. You might find you can afford a little more luxury, like an unforgettable romantic getaway. Change will be highly beneficial at work, especially if you overcome your fear of the unknown.



CANCER

It's time for change, whether in your relationship, household or work life. Let your emotions settle, and resist the urge to make hasty decisions. Some decisions take time to think through; impulsiveness won't serve you well.



LEO

Your loved ones will encourage you to do more to treat yourself. You may decide to indulge in self-pampering, perhaps with a new look or by following the advice of an expert. Calm your anxiety to regain your energy.



VIRGO

Get ready to steal the spotlight this week as you attract attention in unexpected ways. You'll lead a group that will acknowledge your hard work. A well-deserved promotion awaits you. You'll be recognized for your achievements.



LIBRA

If a joyful event, like a birth, is on the horizon for your family, you may also experience a home relocation in the near future. Be sensitive to those around you who may feel vulnerable during this time; your support will mean a lot to them.



SCORPIO

Prepare for lively discussions, especially at work, where you'll be at the heart of the conversation. This is your chance to expand your professional and personal networks. You'll forge new friendships, leading to enjoyable, enriching experiences.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll manage to get out of a tricky financial situation this week. You must carefully choose your words to persuade those around you. In your love life, clear and open communication will help strengthen your relationship.



CAPRICORN

You'll have to make a decision without having all the facts. Trust your instincts and judgment to make the right choice. Avoid long-term financial commitments this week, as they could add unnecessary stress.



AQUARIUS

A tempting work proposal will come your way. Take the time to discuss it with your loved ones before deciding, even if it's your dream job. In your relationship, affection will come naturally as soon as you're in the right mindset to receive it.



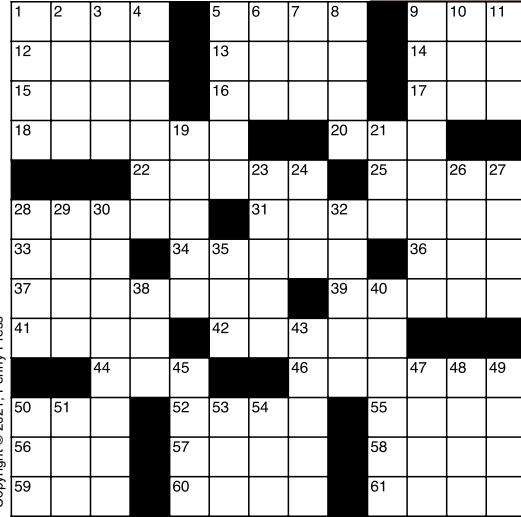
PISCES

You'll spend a lot of time on social media this week. If you want to reignite passion in your relationship, consider doing more to include your partner in your activities. At work, your expertise will be invaluable to your team.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 287



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ACROSS

- "____ Old House"
- Untidy condition
- For what ____ worth
- Sprint
- Kind of exam
- Touch-me-____
- Higher than
- City auto
- Bashful
- Cease
- ____ your request
- African shrubs
- Dancer's jump
- Winesap, e.g.
- Wrap
- Grief
- Choice group
- Alter a skirt
- Springy
- Legal papers
- Mediocre: hyph.
- Literary composition

DOWN

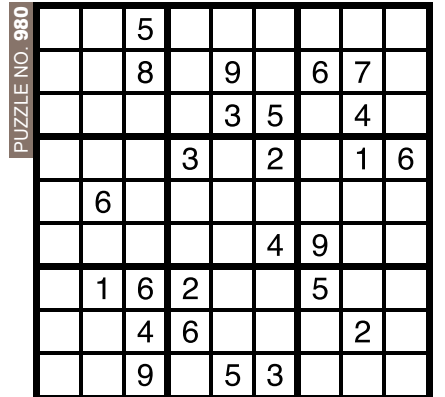
- Walked
- Possess
- Chills
- Done in installments
- Slogan
- Historical epoch
- Jazz instrument, for short
- Undergarment
- Grow larger
- As well
- Porker's pen
- Icy rain
- Forest animal
- Heroic stories
- Posed
- Like some wine
- Church furniture
- Fills with wonder
- Game on horseback
- Farm laborers
- Fragrant wood
- Falsehood
- Grass-covered ground
- Facial feature
- Rigid
- Soft belt
- Chess term
- Kitchen cooker
- Flock papas
- ____ leaf
- Maven
- Feathered neckwear
- Decree

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

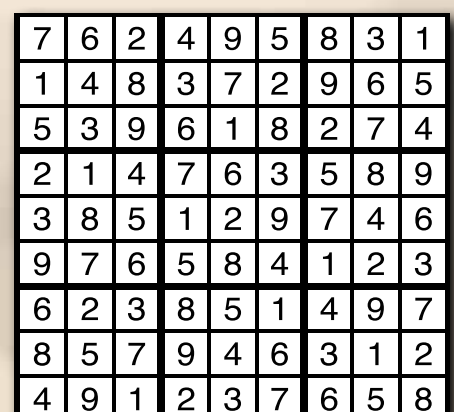


Last Issue's Answers

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Sudoku



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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

UNFAIR PRACTICES

Q I work for a small company that offers several online courses that start new every month. The start date is the third Wednesday of the month.

Three weeks in advance, I requested an hour off on the Monday of last month's start week, to take my daughter for her one-year checkup and shots. My boss denied the request because it was a start week. Then she sent an email emphatically stating that no time off will be given during start week.

This was last month. This month another new mother in my department took the actual start day completely off to take her daughter to the doctor for a checkup and shots. She was allowed to do this by our boss.

Because of her denial for my hour's early leave, I had to reschedule my daughter, making her two months late for this checkup and shots. This seems to be a double standard, and I am unsure how to approach this issue.

Millie

A Millie, a few years ago primatologists Frans de Waal and Sarah Brosnan reported an experiment they did with capuchin monkeys. Capuchins like cucumbers but they love grapes.

The capuchins were trained to exchange pebbles for food, and when one monkey got a grape for a pebble, while another got cucumber, the second monkey was miffed. That monkey might throw the cucumber away or refuse to pay a pebble for it.

de Waal noted that we are taught to believe fairness is an idea developed by wise people. Actually, the idea may be wired into our genes. That's why you feel angry, insulted, and embarrassed.

The question is, what to do about it? The standard advice says communication is the key. Don't get emotional, document what happened, and pick an opportune time to discuss this with your boss. But if you

felt you could talk to your boss, or if your company had firm procedures, you would not be writing.

Here's the problem. Shove the idea of fair play into the face of someone who does not play fair, and it could backfire. Whistleblowers don't usually get rewarded. They get sacked. And people who hold grudges remember every slight, every roll of the eyes, and every slow response to, "I'm right, aren't I?"

There are only two good answers to unfairness in the workplace: rank so high in the social network you are protected, or perform your job so well you are indispensable. You'd like to have an hour-long bitchfest with your girlfriend, drown your sorrows in chocolate cake, and then tell your boss where to go. But you know that won't do any good.

What will help is asking yourself the most basic questions. Why did someone get a day off when I could not get off even for an hour? Am I held in low esteem here? Are the rules quirky and capricious? Is my boss unapproachable? Answer those questions and a strategy will emerge.

If communication is out of the question, make sure the favored people don't know of your resentment and find an outlet for your anger. We don't normally recommend this kind of gamesmanship because it comes with a high emotional cost. Unfairness makes us wear even more of a masked face than we typically wear in public.

If you are deeply upset with what happened yet powerless to change it, you have to get out of that zone. Tonight, instead of watching a movie on Netflix, spend two hours working over your resume, looking at job postings, or upgrading your skills.

We have to react productively to the foibles of those in power. If you believe the chef will spit on your food if you send it back, the only power you have is not to go there again.

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

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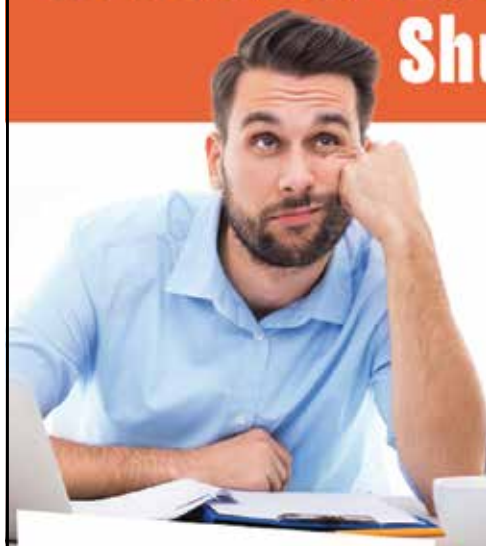
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- Mini Bell Peppers (Québec)
- Green Beans (Québec)
- Zucchini (2) (Québec)
- Portobello Mushrooms (3) (Québec)
- Corn on the Cob (3) (Québec)
- Cabbage (Québec)
- Bananas (4-5)
- Oranges Cara Cara (3)
- Green Apples (3)
- Garlic (Espagne)
- Lettuce (Québec)
- Grape Tomatoes (Québec)
- Potatoes (~3lbs) (Québec)
- Small Leek (Québec)

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