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winter in
Rosemère



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presents
budget

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Beating cancer
through faith,
science, and
determination

Villalta with his grandchildren ringing the cancer-free bell at the McGill University Health Centre's Cedars Cancer Centre, marking the end of his treatment and the beginning of remission.

Thérèse-De Blainville
new inspector:
Julien Steben Roman



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TOWN OF ROSEMÈRE

The Town of Rosemère is delighted to invite you to its traditional carnival, which will be held on Saturday, February 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Charbonneau Park. This community event is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the winter season in a festive setting.

There will be many activities to entertain the whole family. Participants can try snowskating or enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride while savouring traditional maple taffy on snow. Skating and sledding will also be available, as well as giant games such as curling, tic-tac-toe and an interactive wall. A DJ will provide lively music throughout the day and hot chocolate will also be available.

Rosemerites are invited to bring their sleds, skates, and helmets to take full advantage of the facilities and activities. We look forward to seeing many of you there to celebrate winter and enjoy a fun and friendly time in the heart of the town.

“The Rosemère Carnival is a not-to-be-missed event where families and friends gather to celebrate winter in a festive atmosphere. With a wide range of activities, young and old alike can get active, have fun and share memorable moments in a friendly atmosphere,” said Rosemère Mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre.

The event will be held regardless of weather conditions, the only exception being heavy rain. See the Town’s website and Facebook page for the latest updates.

Important: Please note that, contrary to the date indicated on the calendar, the event date is February 21 (not February 6).

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Rosemère grapples with fiscal 'imbalance' through two-tiered business tax

2024-2025-2026 property roll had 'major impacts,' Mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre tells CCITB

MARTIN C. BARRY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
marty@newsfirst.ca

In a presentation during a lunchtime gathering on January 28 to North Shore business owners belonging to the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie Thérèse-De Blainville, Town of Rosemère mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre said the years 2024-2025-2026 are being marked by a significant disparity in value growth between the residential and commercial sectors of Rosemère.

Shift to small businesses

"The loss of value in the non-residential sector and the distortion of value gains between the residential and commercial sectors results in a tax shift towards smaller businesses and towards the residential sector," she stated in PowerPoint notes for the meeting, which was organized by the Rosemère wing of the CCITB at Pacini Rosemère.

According to a graph illustrating the disparity, while valuations of single-family and multi-unit residential dwellings in Rosemère have increased by 59.5 and 42.2 per cent respectively, and undeveloped properties have risen by 75 per cent, the value of non-residential properties has dropped.

"The roll that was deposited for 2024-2025-2026, that roll had impacts – major impacts – in terms of fiscal planning we had to endure, firstly on businesses, followed by the residents of Rosemère," said Pitre.

Two-tiered tax system

To reduce a recurring impact from the tax shift, according to the mayor, Rosemère has adopted a new tax strategy. The new two-tiered system is intended to reduce the burden on smaller businesses.

In a section of the PowerPoint entitled

"Increase in general tax – commercial sector," the town's financial administrators state: "The City has implemented value brackets to help small businesses that have been significantly impacted by the decline in value of large commercial spaces.

Correcting a tax imbalance

"The decline in value of the non-residential sector and the imbalance in value increases between the residential and commercial sectors has resulted in a tax shift towards small businesses and the residential sector," they continue.

As such, Tier 1 of the new system will apply to non-residential buildings valued at \$3 million or less, while Tier 2 applies to non-residential buildings valued at over \$3 million.

As previously stated in the North Shore News last December in coverage of Rosemère's 2026 budget, the 2026 financial exercise included an operating budget of \$43,567,000. For the average residential property owner, the general property tax increases by three per cent. Residential taxpayers are also contributing an average of \$54 toward the infrastructure fund, representing approximately 1.5 per cent of the overall tax bill.

Other budget measures

Town officials cited several factors that shaped the budget, including increased financial contributions to partner organizations. Among these was a five per cent increase in Rosemère's contribution to the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain, resulting in a 0.5 per cent increase in the special public transit tax.

The budget also included measures aimed at long-term environmental and financial sustainability. An annual allocation of \$100,000 was set aside to create a climate resilience fund, and a new progressive water pricing system was introduced to encourage responsible water use. The pricing applies to consumption exceeding a



Town of Rosemère mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre told members of the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie Thérèse-De Blainville on January 28 that the municipality is taking measures to deal with a fiscal imbalance brought about by a disparity in the value of properties in the residential and non-residential sectors.
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, North Shore News)

base threshold of 40,000 imperial gallons, with certain exceptions.

'Enriching meeting,' says CCITB

In addition, Rosemère adopted a five-year capital works plan, replacing the previous three-year framework. Town officials said the change would allow for better project sequencing, improved access to funding and greater flexibility in adjusting priorities as needed.

In a post on their Facebook page, the CCITB

called the gathering for the Rosemère mayor's budget presentation, "An enriching meeting that brought together nearly 100 participants to discover the City of Rosemère's 2026 budget and major projects.

They also wished "a huge thank you to our partners: évoilà5, Pacini Rosemère, Turcot Olivier Optometrists, Voyages Brosso Rosemère and the City of Rosemère. And a special mention to the Pacini restaurant team for their warm welcome and impeccable service!"

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OPINION & Editorial



Reflection needed by schools and parents on best preparation for trips and excursions

Accountability lesson learned from Swiss tragedy

In 25 years of field work in education, I led teams of teachers that organized and carried out local, national, and international school trips. These excursions involving over 1500 students and dozens of supervising adults provided extensive knowledge and deep insight into how to bring about safety, security, and well-being for all participants.

With spring break approaching, school boards and organizations across Laval are urged to review safety measures and supervision before approving student trips. The call follows a recent tragedy in Switzerland that revealed how quickly celebration and adventure can turn deadly when oversight fails.

For Laval educators, the message is clear: conditions that led to the Swiss tragedy could exist anywhere if accountability lapses. Many local school trips share similar risk profile - remote venues, unpredictable developments and dependence on responsible supervision. Foreign tragedies aren't distant headlines, they're warnings. On every trip, checklists and inspections are defenses against disaster.

Accountability required

Parents are urged to engage actively in safety discussions. Before granting permission for school outings, they must ask specific questions about preparation: Has the trip undergone school-board safety-check approval? Have weather and travel conditions been assessed? Will trained personnel be on site? These inquiries could help prevent tragedy.

In Switzerland, mourning has turned into reform demands. Families are pressing for tighter regulations and greater accountability from organizers. Their grief has resonated internationally, proving that even rigorous administrative systems can collapse when vigilance fades.

For Laval and nearby regions, the connection is moral and practical. Each tragedy abroad becomes a test of local-readiness. If Switzerland, celebrated for precision, can't prevent such losses, then no community is immune. Safety must start before buses leave school parking

lots. Risk evaluation must be enforced, not assumed. Cooperation among educators and parents is critical.

At onset of many years of privileged work as Europe trip-group-leader, I learned it's not about fear, it's about foresight. Precautions were taken for next year's students to still have the chance to dream, travel, and come home.

Preparation and prevention

Ahead of trip-departures schools must confirm transportation maintenance, emergency-access and clear-communication-procedures. Trip leaders trips must monitor weather forecasts, ensure first-aid-readiness, and maintain appropriate adult-student-ratios. The goal is to strengthen prevention and accountability.

This heightened concern follows the Swiss Club Fire tragedy of New Year's eve 2026. Hundreds of young people, ages 14 to 20, gathered in a nightclub when a blaze broke out just after midnight. Fire spread rapidly through flammable decorations, trapping dozens inside.

Emergency crews fought to rescue victims, but locked exits worsened the crisis. By morning, scores had perished and many were injured. Investigators confirmed expired inspection records, unsafe materials, locked-security-exits, and occupancy violations.

Laval's schools face similar vulnerability if preparation for trips falters. Pre-trip measures must include proof of safety compliance at venues.

Administrators must promote refresher-training for teachers and group-leaders to ensure awareness. Safety-planning must be embedded into every stage of organization.

Prevention depends on shared responsibility. Teachers, principals, and travel companies must be vigilant before, during, and after travel. Transparent communication with parents strengthens oversight and reinforces trust. Parents must ask about safety preparations when giving consent for trips - verifying that school-board approvals are in place, risks have been considered, and trained supervisors will

be present.

Silence is not an option

As Europe-trip group leader from Laval, the strongest safeguard learned was that every precaution ensures students can travel, learn, and come home, safely. Measures must be taken to avoid the deplorable possibility of these excursions emphasizing fun and cultural experience while overlooking safety briefings and contingency planning.

The greatest tragedy would be silence. Governments must tighten enforcement. Fire codes exist for a reason, but too many establishments dodge inspections through bribery-or-bureaucracy.

Real change demands cultural transformation. Parents must ask questions without fear of seeming overprotective. Schools must prepare students with practical survival knowledge, inspectors must enforce rules without compromise. Communities must treat safety as shared moral responsibility, not administrative burden.

Beyond the Alps

This was not merely a Swiss tragedy; it was a human one. The heartbreak ripples far beyond the Swiss Alps, affecting anyone who sends a young person out into the world trusting that safety regulations are followed. Those 40 lives stand as painful symbols of systemic failure of taking things for granted.

Laval not exempt

The 40 young people lost in Crans-Montana cannot be brought back, but their memory can ignite reform that saves future lives. When we choose accountability over apathy and courage over convenience, tragedies like this one will become relics of a less vigilant past. The most meaningful tribute to those who died is not silence but sustained action for safer clubs, better schools, and a culture that values human life above profit and complacency.

Renata Isopo

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Alex Villata beats cancer through faith, science and unrelenting determination

"God, and brilliant doctors guided me"



Villalta and his family embraced surgical oncologist Dr. Sinziana Dumitra in gratitude at the Cedars Cancer Centre, celebrating his cancer-free diagnosis after experimental Y-90 radioembolization treatment.

RENATA ISOPO
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North Shore resident and businessman Alex Villalta's world shattered in an instant back in October 2021. At 62, he was the picture of vitality running his own company with energy, staying active, and cherishing every precious moment with his two young grandchildren. His dream was simple yet profound: to take them to Disney World, creating magical memories that would last a lifetime.

But during a visit to his cardiologist, the physician noticed drastic, unexplained weight loss. Alarmed, Alex was sent for urgent tests at the Cedars Cancer Centre at the McGill University Health Centre. Just 18 days later, came the devastating verdict—a massive abdominal tumor, diagnosed as leiomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive cancer that had already spread. His prognosis: 18 months to live.

Dying wasn't part of Alex's plan, he told *The North Shore News*. Healthy, purposeful, and fueled by his grandchildren's laughter, he refused to surrender. That Disney World dream became his lifeline, his light in the darkest of times.

Alex's case was entrusted to a highly specialized medical team: surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists, along with interventional radiologists renowned for their sarcoma expertise.

What made this group exceptional was their willingness to defy convention and think beyond standard cancer protocols. Together, they built an aggressive, tailored treatment plan aimed at giving Alex more than hope at giving him time.

The war against cancer began with months of gruelling chemotherapy designed to shrink the tumour and delay its spread. Oddly, the side effects weren't brutal for Alex. He endured.

"Each chemo drip felt like poison fire through my veins," he remembers. "Every surgery was a gamble with my life. But I believed God was guiding me through these brilliant doctors at Cedars, helping me fight the monster inside me."

The battle within

When surgery day finally came, the team removed a staggering 4.4-kilogram tumour—a mass so immense it bore silent testament to the battle within. But victory remained elusive. During the operation, surgeons discovered the cancer had metastasized to his liver, making full removal impossible. Instead of despair, innovation took over.

Dr. Sinziana Dumitra, Alex's surgical oncologist, refused to concede defeat. She proposed a bold, uncharted option, Yttrium-90 (Y-90) radioembolization, a targeted internal radiation typically used for advanced liver and colorectal-cancers, but never before applied to sarcoma metastases.

Undaunted, her colleague Dr. Tatiana Cabrera, an interventional radiologist, agreed to pioneer

the approach. Alex was warned: this was experimental for his cancer type, with no guarantees. The risks were real, but so was the potential.

The gamble paid off. The Y-90 therapy obliterated every trace of cancer from the right side of his liver, while residual spots on the left were methodically destroyed with ablation. Today, four years after, at 66 years old, being told he had only 18 months to live, Alex Villalta stands cancer-free, a miracle shaped by faith, science, and unrelenting determination.

"As Alex never stopped fighting, neither did his team," Dr. Dumitra publicly stated to various media. That long-promised trip to Disney World is now officially on the calendar. For Alex, it's more than a vacation, it's a symbol of survival and hope realized.

Deplorable inequity in access to health care

Yet beneath the joy lies a stark reminder of inequity in access to care. Dr. Ali Bessissow, a hepatologist with more than ten years of experience using Y-90, explained that while the therapy has proven remarkably effective for certain liver cancers, its availability depends on geography, not medical need.

Ontario and British Columbia cover it for select indications, but in Quebec, public health insurance (RAMQ) provides no reimbursement. Patients must pay the full cost out of pocket. For Alex, that amounted to \$18,000, thankfully covered by the hospital foundation.

Some hospitals, such as the CHUM, occasionally finance Y-90 treatments through internal hospital budgets rather than government funds, an unsustainable workaround that highlights systemic gaps.

Despite years of discussion, Quebec's Ministry of Health has yet to approve a dedicated Y-90 funding envelope. "It's been on the table for a while," Dr. Bessissow admitted, "but nothing has moved forward."

Voices advocating for justice

For Alex, the lack of public coverage feels deeply unjust. The treatment that saved his life should not depend on area codes or private generosity. It's a sentiment echoed by his doctors, who continue to advocate for equitable access to life-saving therapies across Canada.

"From the depths of my heart," Alex said, "I thank The North Shore News for giving my story, and others like mine a voice." In an era often clouded by bleak headlines, he believes stories of survival and medical innovation remind us of what's possible when courage, science, and community unite. His journey is more than one man's fight against cancer; it's a call to action, a testament to resilience, and proof that miracles happen when hope and expertise walk hand in hand.



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Julien Steben Roman appointed inspector at Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville

The Board of Directors of the Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville (RIPTB) confirmed the appointment of Julien Steben Roman to the position of inspector during its meeting held on Thursday, January 22.

The appointment was formally announced by RIPTB Director Luc Larocque, who administered Mr. Steben Roman's oath of office and presented him to members of the board. According to the organization, the nomination reflects Mr. Steben Roman's professional background and his continued involvement within the police service.

In his new role, Mr. Steben Roman will serve as an inspector within the Division of Operational Support. The division plays a central role in supporting frontline police work, providing coordination, oversight, and operational assistance to officers in the field. Inspectors assigned to this division are responsible for ensuring that operational standards, procedures, and resources

align with the organization's mandate and public safety objectives.

The Régie intermunicipale de police Thérèse-De Blainville provides policing services to several municipalities on Montreal's North Shore. Its responsibilities include crime prevention, patrol services, criminal investigations, road safety, and community policing. The organization operates under the governance of a board of directors composed of representatives from its member municipalities, ensuring accountability and oversight in accordance with Quebec's policing framework.

RIPTB stated that Mr. Steben Roman's experience and approach are expected to contribute to the operational effectiveness of the organization, particularly in supporting officers and coordinating police activities across the territory it serves.

No further details regarding the length of the appointment or specific operational priorities associated with the position were disclosed.

Seven cities, one cultural map

Deux-Montagnes breaks municipal silos

MARIA DIAMANTIS
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A quiet but significant shift is taking place across the MRC de Deux-Montagnes. Seven municipalities that have long managed their cultural and leisure programming independently are now pooling their resources, opening the door to a shared cultural landscape that crosses municipal boundaries.

Since this winter, residents of participating cities can register for selected cultural courses and workshops offered by neighbouring municipalities, paying the same fees as local residents. The agreement marks a notable change in how cultural access is structured in the region, one that prioritizes collaboration over competition.

For residents, the immediate impact is practical. A pottery class in one town, a dance workshop in another, or a visual arts course elsewhere is no longer restricted by postal code. For municipalities, the agreement offers a way to preserve and expand programming at a time when budgets, staffing, and infrastructure are increasingly under pressure.

A broader offer, without building more walls

By sharing facilities, instructors, and expertise, the seven municipalities aim to increase participation while making better use of existing cultural infrastructure. Rather than duplicating similar programs across city lines, the agreement encourages specialization and complementarity.

Municipal leaders describe the initiative to maintain activities that might otherwise struggle to survive on their own, while also allowing successful programs to grow beyond a single community. The approach reflects a broader shift in municipal governance, where regional cooperation is increasingly seen as a tool to sustain



From left to right:
Marc Lamarre,
Mayor of Saint-Eustache;
Sonia Fontaine, Mayor of Pointe-Calumet;
François Robillard, Mayor of Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac;
Benoit Proulx, Mayor of Saint-Joseph-du-Lac;
Daniel Laviolette, Mayor of Saint-Placide; **Denis Martin,** Mayor of Deux-Montagnes.
Absent from the photo: **Patrick Hardy,** Mayor of Oka.

quality of life.

Saint-Eustache Mayor Marc Lamarre notes that the agreement allows certain cultural activities not only to be maintained, but expanded, ensuring continuity for projects that contribute to community life across the region.

Deux-Montagnes Mayor Denis Martin frames the collaboration as a response to citizen demand, emphasizing easier access to culture and a wider range of activities without added administrative complexity for residents.

How registration works

Each municipality will continue to manage its own registration process, even as it integrates activities offered by partner cities into its programming. Residents must register through the municipality offering the activity, and should expect differences in registration dates, cancellation policies, and refund conditions.

Proof of residence or a citizen card may be required, depending on the municipality. While this means residents will need to pay attention to local procedures, the overall framework is designed to remain simple and accessible.

A regional mindset taking shape

Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac Mayor François Robillard describes the agreement as a way to diversify cultural offerings while keeping activities close to home and affordable. Pointe-Calumet Mayor Sonia Fontaine highlights the economic efficiency of the model, calling it a practical way to expand services while optimizing collective resources.

For Saint-Joseph-du-Lac Mayor Benoit Proulx, the agreement represents a concrete step toward strengthening intermunicipal ties, with citizen well-being placed at the center of decision-making. Oka Mayor Patrick Hardy echoes that sentiment, pointing to the new opportunities for residents to explore and develop culturally. Saint-Placide Mayor Daniel Laviolette emphasizes the value of shared experiences in reinforcing community connections.

Taken together, the agreement signals a growing willingness among local governments in Deux-Montagnes to think regionally rather than municipally when it comes to culture and leisure. While the long-term success will depend on participation and administrative coordination, the framework itself reflects a clear shift in priorities.

For residents, the message is simple: culture no longer stops at the city limit.



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From classroom ideas to regional ambitions: **Défi OSEntreprendre returns to the North Shore**

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

Behind many of the North Shore's small businesses and social enterprises lies a first step that began not in a boardroom, but in a classroom, a community centre, or a kitchen table. The Défi OSEntreprendre hopes to uncover the next wave of those stories as it launches its 28th edition across the Laurentians, with the MRC de Thérèse-De Blainville once again playing a central coordinating role.

The annual initiative, which spans from primary school students to seasoned entrepreneurs, is one of Quebec's largest platforms dedicated to nurturing entrepreneurial thinking. According to organizers, more than 47,000 participants take part each year across the province, supported by a network of over 300 local and regional coordinators.

At the MRC level, the competition focuses on two streams, business creation and Réussite inc., highlighting both emerging enterprises and established entrepreneurs whose journeys are considered inspiring. To qualify, participating businesses must not have generated revenue before April 1, 2025, and must officially launch no later than December 31, 2026. Registration with Quebec's enterprise registry is mandatory, ensuring a level playing field.

Enterprises are evaluated across a wide range of categories, including social economy, technological innovation, commerce, personal services, business services and production or transformation sectors. Evaluation criteria extend beyond financial projections, emphasizing originality, social impact, sustainability and long-term viability.

For Liza Poulin, prefect of the MRC and mayor of Blainville, the challenge is less about trophies than economic resilience. She has described Défi OSEntreprendre as a strategic tool to strengthen the local economy by supporting projects that are innovative, durable and deeply rooted in the community.

This year's honourary president, Olivier Brault, founder of Gamotech, brings a background in environmental technology,



with his company focusing on reducing carbon emissions in municipal and commercial fleets. Brault has publicly encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to see everyday problems as opportunities for meaningful change, a message that aligns closely with the challenge's broader mission.

Key dates are already set. Project submissions must be completed by March 11, 2026, at 4 p.m., with the local gala scheduled for March 25, 2026, at the Externat Sacré-Cœur in Rosemère.

Winners at the local level advance to the Laurentian regional stage, with the potential to represent the region provincially.

For the seven municipalities that make up the MRC, Blainville, Boisbriand, Bois-des-Filion, Lorraine, Rosemère, Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines and Sainte-Thérèse, the challenge serves as both an economic barometer and a reminder that innovation does not always arrive from outside. More often, it is already here, waiting for the right moment to be noticed.



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FEBRUARY IS

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*The **Harlem Renaissance**: a cultural explosion in art, music and literature*

Every February, Black History Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, resilience and creativity of Black communities. One of the most transformative periods in African American history was the Harlem Renaissance. This movement redefined art, music and literature.

WHAT SPARKED IT?

In the early 20th century, thousands of African Americans left the rural South and moved to northern cities in what became known as the Great Migration. The New York City borough of Harlem quickly emerged as a vibrant hub filled with Black-owned publishing houses, newspapers, music companies, playhouses, nightclubs and cabarets. It was an ideal setting for a cultural revolution.

WHAT WAS IT?

From the 1910s to the mid-1930s, the Harlem Renaissance ignited an extraordinary wave of creativity that challenged racial stereotypes and celebrated Black

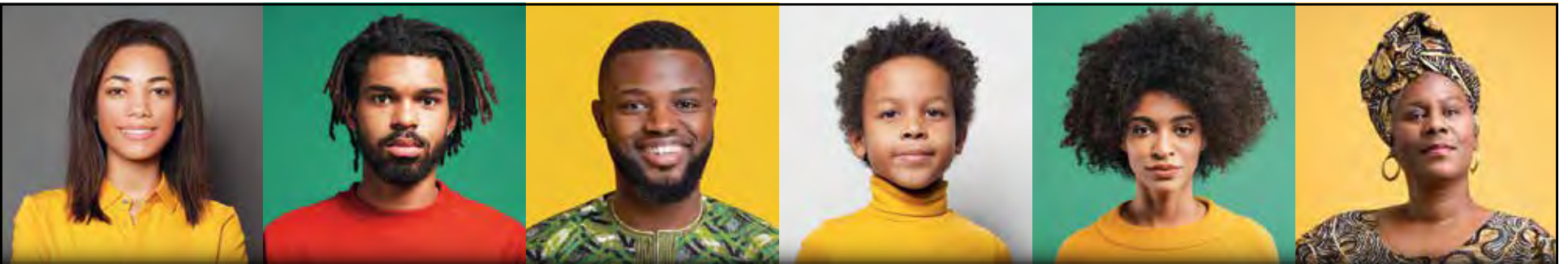
identity. Jazz and blues defined the era. Legendary artists like Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington transformed music forever.

Through powerful poetry, fiction and essays, writers like Zora Neale Hurston, Effie Lee Newsome and Countee Cullen explored the complexity of Black life. Visual artists like Aaron Douglas and Augusta Savage brought bold, modernist esthetics to galleries, depicting African heritage and contemporary struggles through powerful imagery.

MUCH MORE THAN ART

The Harlem Renaissance wasn't just about creative expression; it reshaped how African Americans were perceived. It was also a declaration of self-worth and cultural pride.

This Black History Month, take a moment to reflect on the Harlem Renaissance as a reminder of the powerful role creativity plays in inspiring change and shaping history.



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Black female leaders who will inspire you

February is Black History Month. It's the perfect opportunity to honor the remarkable contributions of Black women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable America. Here are five leaders making waves today:

1. **Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson** is the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, appointed in 2022.

An advocate for justice and equality, she has become a trailblazer in American law and given a powerful voice to underrepresented communities.

2. **Ijeoma Oluo** is a celebrated American writer and the author of *So You Want to Talk About Race*, a New York Times best seller. Her work sparks crucial conversations on dismantling racial

inequality and has helped many confront and understand systemic racism.

3. **Cori Bush** is a former nurse and activist who has served on the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a vocal advocate for policies on police reform, healthcare reform and affordable housing. Bush is dedicated to serving marginalized communities and advancing


social justice through policy.

4. **Dr. Sharon Knight** is a race and social justice activist with expertise in culturally responsible leadership. Her work emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and equity in educational spaces and leadership roles.

5. **Maya Manus** is a community organizer and social justice advocate. She aims to promote policies that address housing, healthcare and racial equity. Manus is focused on amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and pushing for systemic changes.

This Black History Month, celebrating these leaders is an excellent reminder of the ongoing work for equality and the power of representation in creating a more just society.






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Examining federal debt in Canada by prime ministers since Confederation

JAKE FUSS – FRASER INSTITUTE

Over the last century and a half, Canada's 24 prime ministers have helped shape the country in countless ways, leaving legacies that affect all Canadians. Each prime minister's legacy is ultimately influenced by whether he or she left the federal government more or less indebted than when taking office. Understanding the trajectory of debt is important because as the debt burden grows, tax dollars must be diverted from public programs to service the federal government's annual interest payments. High amounts of federal debt may also cause the government to raise taxes in future, which burdens future generations with the cost of past spending.

This bulletin examines the history of federal debt in Canada since Confederation and analyzes the impact that various prime ministers have had on debt accumulation throughout their tenures.¹ The bulletin has two main sections. The first describes the method used to measure the change in federal debt. The second provides a comprehensive overview of the changes in federal debt under each prime minister.

Measuring the change in federal debt

Debt legacies for the prime ministers are measured by calculating the change in debt during their respective tenures. The first step in the analysis is to allot the period(s) of tenure for each prime minister as listed in table 1.

We allocated years of tenure for every prime minister using the methodology of Fuss, Palacios, and Clemens (2019), who analyzed spending levels by prime minister since 1870. Transitional years—years of overlap in which prime ministers shifted power—are allocated to whichever prime minister was in office for the majority of the year. If a year was nearly evenly divided between two prime ministers, we assigned responsibility for that year to whichever prime minister delivered the year's federal budget, and we list the allocated tenures in table 2.²

There were three instances where prime ministers had non-continuous tenures. For example, William Lyon Mackenzie King served as Canada's prime minister from 1922 to 1930 but was defeated by R. B. Bennett, and then reassumed office in 1935 for his second tenure.

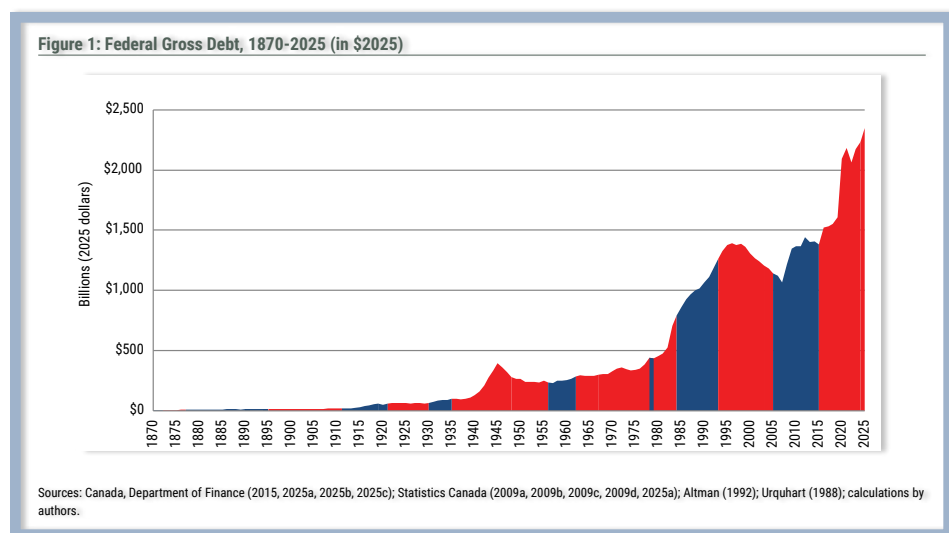
Sir John A. Macdonald also served twice (1867–1872 and 1878–1890), as did Pierre Trudeau (1968–1978 and 1980–1984). We chose to divide the time in office for these prime ministers into separate tenures to ensure the change in federal debt that happened under another prime minister was not allocated to these three prime ministers when they were out of office. This approach ensures, for instance, that R. B. Bennett's debt between 1931 and 1935 is not allocated to William Lyon Mackenzie King.

There are 21 prime ministers included in this analysis, as opposed to 24, because the tenures of three prime ministers were too short for us to allocate a budget year to them. Sir Charles Tupper was prime minister for two months, and Kim Campbell and John Turner each held office for three months. Notwithstanding the exclusion of these three prime ministers, table 2 lists 24 tenures because each of Macdonald, Mackenzie King, and Pierre Trudeau had multiple tenures.

For the 2015/16 fiscal year, Fuss et al. (2019) made an adjustment for the transition from Stephen Harper to Justin Trudeau. We have made a similar adjustment because Justin Trudeau increased government spending immediately upon taking office in 2015. The original 2015 budget, under Stephen Harper, planned for a surplus (\$1.4 billion), while the immediate spending increases introduced by Justin Trudeau ultimately led to a budget deficit (\$2.9 billion). These spending changes meant that more debt was amassed by Trudeau than was planned for under Harper (Canada, Department of Finance, 2015 and 2024).³ As a result, the cut-off period for debt accumulation under Harper was adjusted to reflect the debt projected in the original 2015 budget (\$1.4 trillion in 2025 dollars). The beginning point for the change in debt during Justin Trudeau's tenure is also the 2015 budget number.

Measuring federal debt

Collecting comparable data on federal debt is an important step in measuring the debt legacies of the prime ministers. Gross debt directly measures the degree to which the various prime ministers increased or decreased Canada's financial liabilities. It is defined as the federal government's total amount of financial liabilities including employee benefits (pensions), interest-bearing debt, and accounts



payable.

Net debt is gross debt less financial assets, the latter of which governments may sell when needed to meet liabilities. Hence, net debt might serve as a measure of a government's potential financial capacity. However, in this bulletin, we focus on gross debt as a measure of federal debt for two primary reasons. First, it might be difficult for the federal government to sell some financial assets, such as employee or public pension assets, in part due to liquidity issues; further, there may be valuation questions surrounding outstanding loans, equity investments, and advances, among instruments on the asset side of the balance sheet. Second, the interest that governments pay on liabilities is determined by gross debt rather than net debt. Significant research has found that high gross debt levels may harm economic performance through, for example, the potential for higher future taxes (see Reinhart and Rogoff, 2010; Chudik et al., 2015; and Lammam et al., 2017 for a review of this research).⁴

Data on federal gross debt come from different sources. The Canada Year Books for 1940, 1950, 1960, and 1967 were used to collect federal debt data from 1867 through 1966. Debt figures from 1967 to 2023 are drawn from the Fiscal References Tables published by the Department of Finance, and federal debt for 2024 and 2025 are based on Budget 2025 (Canada, Department of Finance, 2025).

Two adjustments were made to enable us to more easily compare changes in federal debt over a long time. As in Fuss et al., 2019, we account for changes in the general price level (inflation) using a GDP deflator. The starting year for the analysis of federal debt is 1870 since that is the first year for which the GDP deflator price index is available.⁵

Figure 1 exhibits federal gross debt (inflation adjusted) from 1870 to 2025. The colours in

the area graph are either red or blue, representing each prime minister's affiliated political party during their tenure. Areas in red indicate debt levels for Liberal prime ministers, while Conservative prime ministers are displayed in blue.

Figure 1 shows a clear pattern of increasing gross debt since 1870, though the dollar values were low through to 1940. However, during World War II, inflation-adjusted federal gross debt increased almost 300 percent, as it grew from \$99.2 billion in 1938, the year before the war, to \$395.6 billion in 1945. Notwithstanding the immediate fall in gross debt following the end of the war, post-war debt levels did not return to pre-war levels. Beginning in the 1950s, federal gross debt steadily increased until 1997.

In the mid-1990s, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien introduced important fiscal reforms, and gross debt began to decrease until the 2008 recession, when it again began to climb upward. In 2025, federal gross debt is expected to hit its highest point in Canadian history at \$2.35 trillion (inflation adjusted).

Although federal gross debt has mostly increased throughout Canadian history, the country's population has also grown. Canada's population has grown from 3.5 million people in 1867 to 41.7 million people in 2025 (Statistics Canada, 2025b; Urquhart, 1988). As the population grows, the debt burden is shared by more people, so we report inflation-adjusted gross debt per person.

Another way of measuring debt accumulation by prime minister would be to examine changes in the debt-to-GDP ratio, rather than debt per person. The debt-to-GDP ratio summarizes the ability of the government to sustain a given amount of debt based on the size of the economy, but it would produce misleading results

▶ Continued on page 11

¹ This bulletin is based on and draws partly from work by Di Matteo (2017), Lammam and MacIntyre (2017), and Fuss et al. (2019).

² Prime ministerial tenures range from a single year to 15 years, which means that some prime ministers were in office longer than others to either accumulate or reduce federal debt. However, longer tenures do not necessarily translate into larger total increases or decreases in debt. In fact, the correlation between length of tenure and the total increase in debt per person over that tenure (the measure used in this bulletin) is relatively weak ($p = 0.35$).

³ Notably, program spending was ultimately \$10.4 billion or 4.0 percent higher in 2015/16 than what was planned in the 2015 budget.

⁴ A previous version of this paper also used gross debt data as its measure. Converting gross debt to net debt was considered for the methodology in this paper, and ultimately rejected for viability and consistency concerns. In recent years, the definitions and dollar amounts assigned to federal financial assets have changed substantially (e.g., equity investments and loans, etc.). Concerns about asset valuations and liquidity are reiterated here. For further details, see Lammam et al. (2017).

⁵ Data coverage is more complete for a gross domestic product price deflator as opposed to a consumer price index, which guided our choice. We use a GDP deflator with sources as follows: for 1870 through 1930, Altman (1992); a GNP deflator; for 1931 through 1960, Urquhart (1988); for 1961 through 2024, Statistics Canada (2025a); and for 2025, Canada, Department of Finance (2025).

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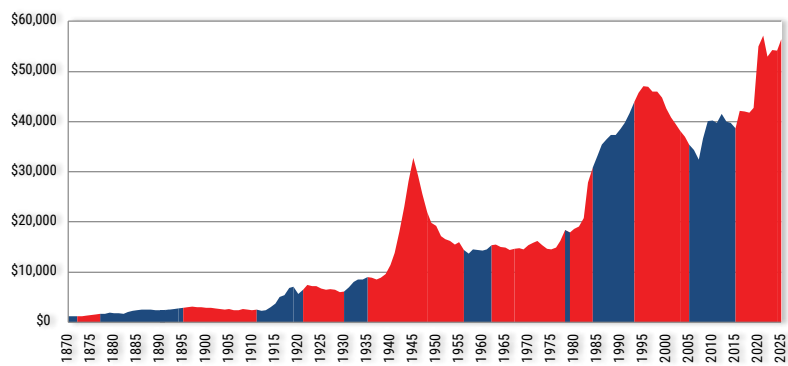
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Figure 2: Federal Gross Debt per Person, 1870-2025 (in \$2025)



Sources: Canada, Department of Finance (2015, 2025a, 2025b, 2025c); Statistics Canada (2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2009d, 2025a, 2025b); Altman (1992); Urquhart (1988); calculations by authors.

6 The population in Canada grew at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent from 1867 to 2025. The standard deviation is 0.8 percentage points. The average annual change in inflation-adjusted GDP is 3.7 percent from 1871 to 2024.

Continued from page 10

for changes in debt levels by prime minister for several reasons. For instance, the GDP growth rate is more variable, year-to-year, than is population, and is subject to factors outside the direct control of prime ministers, such as recessions or booms.

To focus on changes in the debt-to-GDP ratio would therefore penalize prime ministers who served during recessions and would benefit, by happenstance, prime ministers who served during periods of economic expansions. When recessions occur, the debt-to-GDP ratio tends to rise due to automatic increases in government spending (e.g., employment insurance), any stimulus spending, and the decrease in economic output. Conversely, prime ministers who preside over strongly positive economic growth may be more likely to record falling debt-to-GDP ratios.

As an example of how variations in economic growth can dominate results, consider the 8.1 percent growth in real GDP during R. B. Bennett's 1935 tenure. While debt as a share of GDP decreased by 1.1 percentage points that year, debt increased by 6.5 percent or \$5.9 billion in 2025 dollars; the decrease in debt-to-GDP was due to economic growth. Conversely, following the debt per person measure, debt increased by 5.5 percent in 1935. Moreover, because population growth is less variable over time than economic growth, as mentioned above, we believe population-adjusted debt is better than the debt-to-GDP ratio as a measure of debt accumulation by prime minister.⁶

Debt per person from 1870 to 2025

To provide historical context, figure 2 shows federal debt per person (in 2025 dollars) from 1870 to 2025: since Confederation, per-person federal debt levels have generally been rising. However, some periods are noteworthy for their sharp increases and declines. For example, federal debt per person rapidly increased during both World War I and World War II. Prior to World War I, in 1913, federal per-person debt amounted to \$2,426, but had grown to \$6,822 by war's end (1918). Similarly, with respect to World War II, debt per person rose from \$8,894 per person, in 1938, to \$32,772 in 1945 (all figures in 2025 dollars). Following each world war, federal debt per person in Canada declined, but did not in either case fall to prewar levels.

There was another general increase in federal debt per person from the mid-1960s until 1995.

Federal debt per person grew 226 percent from 1966 (\$14,452) until the historic peak in 1995 (\$47,048). After the mid-1990s, debt reduction continued to be a focus for Jean Chrétien, Paul Martin, and for the first two years of Stephen Harper's tenure.⁷ Federal per-person debt fell to \$32,395 in 2007, the lowest value since 1984. However, the 2008 financial crisis in the United States prompted a recession in Canada and federal debt began to sharply increase once again. Federal debt per person increased from \$36,598 in 2008 to \$42,746 in 2019.

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Trudeau government increased federal debt per person to \$57,113 by 2021, an increase of 33.6% from the level in 2019. While federal debt per person is decreased in 2022 to \$52,904, per-person debt continued to increase near the end of Justin Trudeau's tenure and reached \$54,158 in 2024. Mark Carney has not been a prime minister for a full fiscal year yet, but projections from his first budget indicate federal per-person debt will again increase by 4.2% in 2025 and total \$56,432.

Changes in federal debt per person by prime minister

When evaluating debt accumulation under the various prime ministers, historical context is an important consideration. Federal debt per person increased dramatically during each world war, as shown in figure 2. Sir Robert Borden and William Lyon Mackenzie King were the prime ministers during those wars, and each of them increased federal debt to finance Canada's war efforts, which plays a role in how we might understand their debt legacies.

Economic downturns also contribute to the accumulation of debt by prime minister. During periods of recession and declining market incomes, the federal government receives less tax revenue and automatically increases spending owing to programs like Employment Insurance and the presence of incomed-tested benefits.⁸ As a consequence, governments are likely to face declining budgetary balances during recessions; while the debt accumulated by prime ministers during downturns is not entirely out of their control, we also consider the state of the economy in evaluating debt legacies.⁹

There are different aspects to measuring economic downturns. One involves assessing the years in which economic output shrank in real terms. In Canadian history, there have been 24 years in which there was a year-over-year real decline in GDP (table 3). The largest reduc-

tions in GDP occurred in 1931, 1932, and 1933, depression years during R. B. Bennett's tenure. The recession during 2020 due to COVID also represents a significant drop (5.2 percent) in economic output.

However, there are years where the overall growth rate was positive, but the economy nonetheless showed a downturn; such circumstances may have adverse effects on federal debt accumulation and we seek to account for this. For example, Canada experienced downturns, or recessions, during John Diefenbaker's tenure, in 1957–58 and in 1960–61, and during Pierre Trudeau's first tenure.

Percent change in federal debt per person by prime minister

Federal debt per person increased during 15 out of the 24 tenures that we examined; increases in federal debt per person coincided with a world war and/or an economic downturn in 12 out of the 15 cases. Sir Mackenzie Bowell emerges the largest debt accumulator (4.7 percent) of any prime minister who did not experience a world war or an economic downturn during his tenure, and Mark Carney (4.2 percent) came in second place on this measure. In contrast, five out of the eight prime ministers who did not experience a world war or economic downturn during their tenures successfully reduced federal debt per person. The list includes prime ministers Jean Chretien (-13.1 percent), Paul Martin (-7.2 percent), and Lester Pearson (-4.5 percent).

The prime minister during World War I, Sir Robert Borden, oversaw by a wide margin the largest percentage increase in debt per person. Borden served from 1912 to 1919 and federal debt per person increased by 188.1 percent in that time. However, Borden's tenure coincided with a decline in economic growth in four out of the eight years that he was in office (1914, 1917, 1918, and 1919) in addition to fighting World War I.

Table 3: Years and Amounts that (Real) Inflation-Adjusted GDP Declined, 1870–2024

Year	Percent Decrease	Sitting Prime Minister
1875	4.2%	Alexander Mackenzie
1876	1.7%	Alexander Mackenzie
1878	3.0%	Sir John A. Macdonald
1893	0.5%	Sir John Thompson
1894	0.4%	Sir John Thompson
1908	4.6%	Sir Wilfrid Laurier
1914	6.8%	Sir Robert Borden
1917	1.1%	Sir Robert Borden
1918	6.1%	Sir Robert Borden
1919	4.6%	Sir Robert Borden
1920	0.5%	Arthur Meighen
1921	3.5%	Arthur Meighen
1929	0.2%	William Lyon Mackenzie King
1930	3.8%	William Lyon Mackenzie King
1931	13.5%	R. B. Bennett
1932	9.2%	R. B. Bennett
1933	7.1%	R. B. Bennett
1945	3.1%	William Lyon Mackenzie King
1946	1.0%	William Lyon Mackenzie King
1954	0.7%	Louis St. Laurent
1982	3.2%	Pierre E. Trudeau
1991	2.1%	Brian Mulroney
2009	2.9%	Stephen Harper
2020	5.0%	Justin Trudeau

Sources: Statistics Canada (2025c); Altman (1992); Urquhart (1988); calculations by authors.

Conclusion

Federal debt per person changed remarkably and in different ways during the tenures of each Canadian prime minister from 1870 to 2025. Mark Carney, Sir John Abbott and Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Canada's third and fifth prime ministers respectively, are the only prime ministers to increase federal per-person debt without experiencing a global conflict or an economic downturn. In 2025, federal debt per person was projected to be \$56,432, which is the second highest amount in Canadian history.

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6 The population in Canada grew at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent from 1867 to 2025. The standard deviation is 0.8 percentage points. The average annual change in inflation-adjusted GDP is 3.7 percent from 1871 to 2024.
7 For a discussion on fiscal reforms under Jean Chrétien, see Clemens et al. (2017).
8 During a downturn, spending on Employment Insurance tends to go up as the newly jobless make claims and unemployment spells lengthen; if household incomes decline, the value of refundable credits and income-tested benefits are likely to increase. Such automatic stabilizers are distinct from the discretionary choices governments may make in response to a downturn.
9 Major government undertakings such as the construction of national railways under Sir John A. Macdonald and Alexander Mackenzie, and the expansion of social programs under Pierre Trudeau, might provide economic context for increases in federal debt while remaining discretionary policy choices.

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FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

SELF-DEFENSE

Q I am one of a group of mothers with children in the same preschool. We share play dates together. At one play date with two other mothers at my house, one of them became angry with me.

I couldn't think of a thing I did to offend her, so I asked the other mother. She couldn't think of anything either. She suggested confronting the first mother, but I decided against that, thinking if she was truly a friend she would approach me.

But she didn't. She stayed angry. I think she is jealous of the rapport the second woman and I share because our children are the same age. The first woman has gone to extraordinary lengths to make me feel excluded when we are all together. She invites the other woman to events without extending the invitation to me and my daughter.

I am finding it harder and harder to be in the group without her taking a passive stab at me. I no longer want to be friends with her, but that also means I have to give up my other friends and so does my daughter, which is not fair.

Every time I try to turn down invitations from women in the group, they won't let me bow out gracefully. If you haven't guessed by now, I do not like confrontation. How can I back away without hurting feelings and making it more awkward?

Pat

A Pat, most of the lasting lessons we learn are from our parents, and often those lessons were never directly taught. If you are

passive, your daughter may learn to always give in to people who act badly. Solve this problem for yourself, and you are likely to solve it for her as well.

Reacting appropriately in each situation, instead of reacting the same way in all situations, is a valuable skill to possess. Though being passive works sometimes, if your only defense is avoidance, you will often find yourself defenseless.

Perhaps your life has been mostly calm water; perhaps you don't like confrontation because you have no experience with it. In that case, get a book or take a workshop on assertiveness training.

That would be one way to begin. Or you could think outside the box. Women often enroll a daughter in dance class, but few consider tae kwon do, judo, or another martial art. These methods of training are not the latest hip thing but approaches to life which have existed for centuries.

Martial arts develop self-confidence, poise, and restraint. They help people protect themselves emotionally as well as physically, and it is something you and your daughter could do together.

We are not trying to make either of you Bruce Lee, but this is one method of solving a problem without appearing to work on it. In addition, when your daughter is 18, she will have a safeguard dance class can never give her.

Wayne & Tamara

PLAN OF ATTACK

Q I can't begin to tell you the hopelessness I feel, so I'll spare all details. The summary is I stayed 40 years in an alcoholic marriage, watching helplessly as the environment destroyed my children and turned me into a sickly, fearful woman. I worked, cared for my children, and just kept going.

My husband is now retired, and I help care for my grandchildren while their divorced moms try to pick up the pieces of their own lives. I

don't know how to leave. I am so ashamed of my part in this mess. My children will not involve themselves. What can I do?

Catherine

A Catherine, the answer today is what the answer has always been. You must act. A lawyer can tell you what you are entitled to. A women's shelter, and if need be the police, can help you exit the marriage. It is never too late to accept the challenges of life.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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AVIS PUBLIC – Présentation publique du rapport annuel 2024-2025 de la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné qu'en vertu de l'article 220.1 de la *Loi sur l'instruction publique*, la Commission scolaire Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier présentera son rapport annuel pour l'année scolaire 2024-2025 à la séance ordinaire du conseil des commissaires le 25 février 2026 à 19 h 30.

Les réunions du conseil se tiennent dans la salle 32A du centre administratif situé au 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6, et seront diffusées en ligne. Les membres du public peuvent assister aux réunions du conseil à distance sur le site Web suivant : <http://bit.ly/swlsbcouncil>. Les procédures pour poser des questions se trouvent sur le site Web de la Commission scolaire.

Fait à Rosemère (Québec), le 23 janvier 2026

M^e Anna Sollazzo, secrétaire générale

PUBLIC NOTICE – Public Presentation of the 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, in accordance with section 220.1 of the *Education Act*, the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board's 2024-2025 Annual Report will be presented on February 25, 2026, at 7:30 p.m., at the regular meeting of the Council of Commissioners.

The meetings of the Council are held in room 32A of the administration centre located at 235, montée Lesage, Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y6, and broadcast online. Members of the public can attend Council meetings at a distance on the following website: <http://bit.ly/swlsbcouncil>. The procedures for asking questions can be found on the school board's website.

Given at Rosemère (Québec), on January 23, 2026

M^e Anna Sollazzo, Secretary General

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Blainville council confirms standing committee appointments and special portfolios

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

On January 20, the municipal council of Blainville formally approved the composition of its standing committees, establishing the working structure through which a range of municipal files will be examined and advanced.

The standing committees serve as internal working bodies where elected officials review and address issues tied to the administration's major priorities, as well as the objectives set out in the City's 2024–2029 strategic planning framework. In addition to council members, the committees are supported by the City's general management, department directors, and senior staff, who provide administrative and technical expertise.

Ecological transition and mobility committee

The Ecological Transition and Mobility Committee will be composed of councillors Francis Allaire (Notre-Dame-de-L'Assomption district) and Nathalie St-Laurent (du Coteau district). Its primary mandates include the implementation of the City's Ecological Transition Plan and the development of the active transportation network.

Safety and infrastructure committee

Councillors Patrick Marineau (des Hirondelles district) and Philippe Magnenat (du Plan-Bouchard district) will sit on the Safety and Infrastructure Committee. The committee's work will focus on the second phase of the school-area safety improve-



ment plan, as well as projects associated with the 2026 Capital Expenditures Program and the management of municipal assets.

Culture, recreation, community and associations committee

The Culture, Recreation, Community and Associations Committee will include councillors David Malenfant (de la Côte-Saint-Louis district), Michèle Murray (de la Renaissance district), and Marie-Claude Collin (du Blainvillier district). Its mandates encompass the implementation of the municipal social development policy, a revision of the policy governing support for community organizations, annual activity programming, and the conceptual planning of the citizen hub.

Communications and citizen relations committee

Councillors Marie-Claude Perron (Fontainebleau district) and Jade Laporte (Saint-Rédempteur district) will serve on the Communications and Citizen Relations Committee. Responsibilities assigned to this committee include annual communications planning, oversight of the participatory budget process, municipal outreach, and citizen engagement initiatives.

Additional appointments aligned with council priorities

Alongside the standing committees, the council assigned specific portfolios to several elected officials in line with its broader priorities. Councillor Nicole Ruel (Chante-Bois district) was designated as the council's representative for matters concerning seniors. Councillors Marie-Claude Perron (Fontainebleau district) and Nathalie St-Laurent (du Coteau district) were assigned responsibility for family-related issues and matters concerning persons with disabilities, respectively. Councillor Jade Laporte (Saint-Rédempteur district) will represent the municipal council on the Relève Blainville commission.

The City also confirmed that Councillor Nicole Ruel (Chante-Bois district) and Councillor Stéphane Bertrand (d'Alençon district) will continue to serve as vice-presidents of the executive committee. The committee is chaired by Mayor Liza Poulin. In addition, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Jean-François Pinard (Henri-Dunant district) will also sit on the executive committee.

The committee structure is intended to support council decision-making throughout the current municipal term, providing a framework for detailed review of files before they are brought forward for formal consideration by council.



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Week of February 8 to 14, 2026

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ARIES

Emotions will be running high within your circle of friends this week. On a romantic level, you may need to re-evaluate your situation if you want to truly flourish. You'll no longer tolerate compromise, and this will prompt you to take a long, hard look at your relationship.



TAURUS

Despite some tension at work, you'll be able to use your teamwork skills to move forward. In matters of love, starting a relationship will require you to overcome doubts so you can build a richer and more promising future together.



GEMINI

In your professional life, your efforts will pay off, even if you're feeling worn out. You'll have to get more involved to expand your client base, and this will give you more durable financial stability for the years to come.



CANCER

Your self-esteem needs a boost. Although you give generously to others, you need to devote more time and attention to yourself. This is especially true in the case of some people who tend to take your kindness for granted.



LEO

Most of your energy will be focused on your family this week. In the short term, a move or major change in your personal or professional life may be necessary and could prove particularly beneficial.



VIRGO

Your social circle will grow as you increase your presence on social media. Your skills and professional activities will gain visibility, bringing you greater recognition and financial benefits.



LIBRA

You'll finally receive the green light to finance a project, and you'll take immediate action. The coming week is also the perfect time to settle some of your debt, marking a new beginning.



SCORPIO

Expect big changes in your romantic, professional and personal spheres this week. You'll feel justifiable pride in your achievements while putting in the effort needed to ensure the success of your projects.



SAGITTARIUS

It's time to recharge your batteries. Be present and get some rest. A loved one will need your support this week. If you're feeling creative, you'll draw inspiration from your intuition.



CAPRICORN

You'll be responsible for a large-scale project involving several people around you. Despite some challenges in getting everyone on board, your determination and organizational skills will lead you to well-deserved success.



AQUARIUS

You'll take on new responsibilities in both your professional and personal life. Your commitment won't go unnoticed. You could be rewarded with a promotion and a raise, giving you a good reason to celebrate.



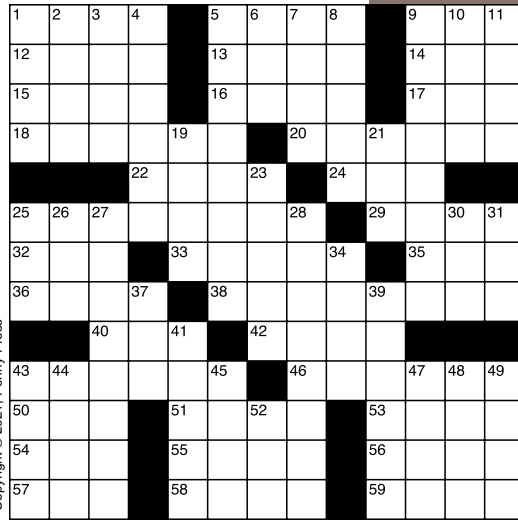
PISCES

You'll feel inclined to embark on a pilgrimage. You must carefully prepare everything over several months if you want this adventure to become a source of deep inspiration that guides you on your search for meaning and fulfilment.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 297



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ACROSS

1. Glass piece
5. Go through water
9. Situate
12. Tavern treats
13. 24th letters
14. "___ Day Now"
15. Bygone
16. Black and Bering
17. Small bite
18. Say
20. Dedicate
22. Watched
24. ___ Francis Drake
25. Stewed
29. Doll's cry
32. Master
33. Catch
35. Angry
36. "Wish You ___ Here"
38. Toy racers: 2 wds.
40. Sick

DOWN

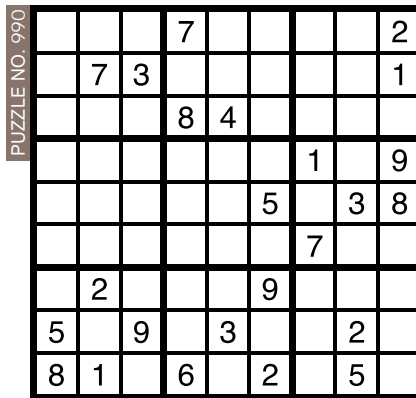
42. Similar
43. Blew a horn
46. Phantoms
50. Coop product
51. Flounder or bass
53. Eroded
54. Common ailment
55. Step quickly
56. Revise text
57. Shirt style
58. Evergreen shrubs
59. Obstructs
10. Combat group
11. Variety
19. Seeded breads
21. Vigor's partner
23. Distributes
25. Cutting instrument
26. Rink surface
27. Pie topping
28. Dry spells
30. Impair
31. TV promos
34. Write with acid
37. Broad-antlered deer
39. Ate heartily
41. Southpaw
43. Weight
44. Gape
45. Disastrous
47. Fizzy drink
48. In good shape
49. Matched collections
52. Female pig

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.

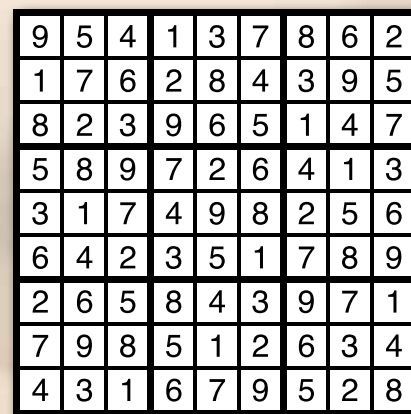


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



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THIS WEEK'S BASKET:



- Orange Cauliflower
- Black Grapes
- Honeydew Melon
- Pomelo Citrus
- Peppers (2-3)
- Cabbage
- Beets (bag)
- Lemons (2)
- Potatoes (~3lbs)
- Nectarines (3)
- Bananas (4)
- Romaine Lettuce
- Radishes
- Onions (~2lbs)
- Tomatoes (3)
- Garlic
- Cilantro
- Giant Avocados (2)

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