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The Best Choice
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Blainville celebrates young innovators with second youth project awards



Blainville unveils the winners of its youth project call for ages 16 to 29. Pictured from left to right: Tristan Richard (winner), Léonard Duval (member of the Relève Blainville commission), Farina Ebrahimialavijeh (winner), Philippe Raynauld (winner), Maude Gagné (member of the Relève Blainville commission), Jade Laporte (municipal councillor), and Sophie Bédard (Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Thérèse-De Blainville).

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The City of Blainville has announced the winners of the second edition of its youth project call aimed at empowering residents aged 16 to 29. The initiative, designed to encourage creativity, civic engagement, and entrepreneurship among young people, has once again highlighted the ingenuity and community spirit of the region's emerging generation.

This year's laureates, Farina Ebrahimialavijeh, Philippe Raynauld, and Tristan Richard, were selected by a multidisciplinary jury composed of members of the Relève Blainville commission, representatives from the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie Thérèse-De Blainville, the Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Thérèse-De Blainville, municipal officials, and city employees. According to organizers, the jury was particularly impressed by the originality, relevance, and feasibility of the projects submitted.

A creative vision for community engagement

Among the winning proposals, Farina Ebrahimialavijeh captured the jury's attention with her concept of an "art hive", a welcoming creative space open to residents of all ages and skill levels. The project aims to provide structured workshops in various artistic disciplines, including clay modeling, painting on different surfaces, drawing, and collage.

Farina's initiative reflects a growing recognition of the importance of accessible creative spaces in fostering both individual expression and community connection. By offering guided

sessions suitable for beginners and experienced participants alike, the project seeks to make the arts more approachable and inclusive for Blainville residents.

Outdoor improvisation to bring people together

Another selected project comes from Philippe Raynauld, who proposed an outdoor improvisation match at the Place de l'étang, a popular public gathering space in Blainville. The event will feature performers from the improvisation league La Pinte, who will compete in an entertaining and interactive format inspired by the well-known Ligue nationale d'improvisation (LNI) model.

Improvisational theatre has long been a staple of Quebec's cultural landscape, valued for its spontaneity and audience engagement. Philippe's project aims to introduce new audiences to this dynamic art form while offering a lively evening of entertainment accessible to all ages.

Organizers believe the outdoor setting will further enhance the sense of community by transforming a public space into a cultural stage, inviting families, youth, and residents to gather and enjoy live performance together.

Awareness through youth-led media

The third winning proposal, led by Tristan Richard, focuses on prevention and awareness through digital storytelling. Tristan plans to produce a series of three short videos addressing critical issues affecting young people, including alcohol use, drug consumption, and violence in schools.

Supported by professionals in relevant fields,

the project aims to deliver impactful messages tailored specifically to teenagers. Tristan hopes the videos will be distributed widely across schools within the Centre de services scolaire des Mille-Îles, expanding their reach and reinforcing awareness about the consequences of substance use and violent behaviour.

This initiative highlights the increasing role of digital media in youth education, particularly as short-form video content continues to prove effective in engaging younger audiences.

Strong partnerships behind youth success

City officials emphasized that the success of the youth project call relies heavily on collaboration between local organizations. The Carrefour Jeunesse-Emploi Thérèse-De Blainville plays a central role in mentoring participants throughout the planning and implementation stages, offering guidance in project development, budgeting, and presentation skills.

Meanwhile, financial support for the program is made possible through funding from the Secrétariat à la jeunesse of the Government of Quebec, demonstrating the province's broader commitment to youth engagement and innovation.

Local leaders believe that initiatives like this not only empower young residents but also strengthen community bonds and contribute to the cultural and social vitality of the region.

Looking back at the first edition

The momentum created by the program's inaugural year continues to inspire new participants. On March 28, the Basketball Royalty Tournament, conceived by Herby Lamarre,

marked the first completed project from the initial edition of the youth call.

Held at Collège Boisbriand, the three-on-three basketball tournament drew more than fifty participants and spectators, earning praise for its organization and energy. The event demonstrated how youth-led initiatives can successfully bring communities together through sports and shared experiences.

Encouraging ambition and leadership

Municipal councillor Jade Laporte, who served on the jury, expressed admiration for the dedication shown by applicants throughout the selection process.

"I was greatly impressed by the quality of the projects submitted," she noted. "Even before knowing whether their project would be selected, these motivated and ambitious young people invested enormous effort in preparing their applications and presenting them before the jury. That alone represents a significant challenge for many. I feel fortunate and grateful to have met these young people full of ideas who wish to benefit the community. Congratulations to the winners of this second edition."

Her remarks underscore the program's broader educational value, encouraging participants to develop confidence, presentation skills, and organizational abilities that will benefit them well beyond the scope of the competition.

Projects to roll out throughout 2026

The selected initiatives will be implemented progressively during 2026, allowing residents to experience firsthand the creativity and commitment of local youth. City officials anticipate strong community participation, particularly given the diverse nature of the winning projects, which span arts, performance, and public awareness.

By supporting young innovators and offering them practical resources, Blainville continues to position itself as a municipality that values youth leadership and invests in the next generation.

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Christine Fréchette elected leader of the CAQ

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The political landscape in Quebec reached a historic turning point on Sunday April 12, as Christine Fréchette was elected leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec. This victory effectively makes her the 33rd Premier of Quebec, succeeding François Legault. Fréchette won 57.9% of the vote at the party's convention in

Drummondville, defeating Bernard Drainville and becoming only the second woman to lead the province in its history.

A vision for a new generation

In her first address as leader, Fréchette characterized her win as a "time of renewal" for the province. She focused her speech on the daily realities of citizens, promising a pragmatic government that prioritizes results over rhetoric.

"You have voted for another style of leadership so that a new generation can lead Quebec," she stated. Her immediate focus will be on economic relief to combat the rising cost of living, alongside investments in hydroelectricity and the continued protection of the French language.

Looking Toward the Election

The transition comes at a high-stakes moment,

with a general election scheduled for October 2026. Outgoing Premier François Legault, who led the party since 2011, urged unity behind his successor to maintain the party's momentum.

Fréchette will now spend the coming weeks finalizing her cabinet. The National Assembly is expected to resume on May 5, 2026, where the new Premier will officially begin defining her administration's path before facing the electorate this fall.

Rosemère invites residents to speak out on regional hub development plans

MARIA DIAMANTIS
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Residents of Rosemère will have an opportunity to help shape the future of one of the town's most strategic areas when a public consultation is held on April 27 regarding new planning bylaws tied to the regional hub development.

The consultation, organized under Quebec's Land Use Planning and Development Act, will focus on concordance bylaws connected to the Special Planning Program (PPU) for the

regional hub. Municipal officials are encouraging residents to attend the session and share their views on the proposed regulations, which address issues such as greening, multi-level parking standards, mobility planning, and environmental performance requirements.

Mayor Marie-Elaine Pitre emphasized the importance of public participation in shaping the area's future.

"Citizen participation is essential to transforming this key area into a living environment that meets residents' needs while reflecting our



values," she stated. "The regional hub is part of Rosemère's DNA and we want this development project to live up to our collective vision."

The upcoming consultation follows an earlier information session held on March 23, during which municipal officials presented an overview of the proposed bylaws. Residents planning to participate are encouraged to review the materials and watch the recording of that presentation, which are available through the town's citizen portal.

The consultation itself will take place on April 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Community Centre, located at 202 Grande-Côte Road, in the Horizon Room. Residents who wish to attend must register in advance by providing their name and address either by email or by telephone no later than April 23.

Citizens who want to share more detailed opinions will also have the option to submit written briefs on the draft concordance bylaws. These submissions must be sent to the town by April 17 at 5 p.m.

The proposed bylaws are part of the implementation process following the final adoption in October 2025 of Bylaw 800-06, which amended Rosemère's urban plan to incorporate the regional hub's Special Planning Program. According to the town, the concordance bylaws were developed after reviewing multiple studies and community discussions aimed at ensuring balanced and sustainable development within the sector.

The Special Planning Program itself forms part of the broader urban plan and is intended to provide more detailed guidance for the development of specific strategic areas. Under Bylaw 24-02 of the Thérèse-De Blainville MRC, which came into force on January 21, 2025, the program establishes long-term planning guidelines for the regional hub through to 2040.

Municipal officials say the consultation will play an important role in ensuring the development reflects both community needs and long-term planning objectives, giving residents a direct voice in decisions that will shape the town's growth in the years ahead.



April 27

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OPINION & Editorial



Fréchette's election challenge: Carney's shadow

The comparison between Christine Fréchette and Mark Carney has rapidly become the dominant storyline in Canadian politics this week. Since Fréchette's decisive victory at the CAQ leadership convention in Drummondville on Sunday, commentators, insiders, and voters alike have begun framing her challenge through a familiar lens. Like Carney before her, she is taking the reins of a governing party that appears electorally exhausted, deeply unpopular, and staring down a daunting polling gap—nearly 20 points—just months before a general election.

It is the kind of inheritance that normally signals defeat, not renewal. Yet Carney proved only a year ago that even the bleakest political math can be overturned under the right circumstances. The question now dominating Quebec politics is whether Fréchette can engineer a similar turnaround—a “Carney-esque” miracle—before voters head to the polls this October. What follows is an examination of the strategy she would need, the advantages she possesses, and the formidable obstacles standing in her way.

The “Carney blueprint”

To assess Fréchette's chances, it is essential to first understand how Mark Carney managed to defy expectations. When he replaced Justin Trudeau, the federal Liberal Party was widely considered a spent force. Polling suggested the electorate was eager for change, the party's brand had grown stale, and Conservative momentum seemed unstoppable. Carney's victory did not happen by accident—it followed a deliberate and disciplined playbook.

First and foremost, Carney did not simply present himself as a refreshed version of the same political offering. His leadership marked a fundamental repositioning of the Liberal brand itself. Gone was the emphasis on personality-driven, legacy politics. In its place came a persona rooted in technocratic competence, economic seriousness, and institutional credibility. For fatigued voters, this shift alone signaled that something substantial—not cosmetic—had changed.

Second, Carney succeeded in consolidating the political center. Rather than leaning into polarizing ideological battles, he focused relentlessly on economic pragmatism. By doing so, he drew voters back not only from the Conservatives but also from the NDP, recapturing moderate voters who had drifted away during the Trudeau years. His message was less about grand visions and more about stability, predictability, and competence.

Finally, Carney capitalized on momentum. Strategic by-election victories—small contests

with oversized symbolic power—allowed him to demonstrate that the political tide was turning. Each win reinforced the perception of inevitability, calming nervous supporters while sowing doubt among his opponents. Together, these elements formed what is now widely referred to as the “Carney Blueprint” for political revival.

Fréchette's path: case for a repeat

Christine Fréchette enters the race with several traits that echo this model, giving the CAQ at least a fighting chance of resurgence. Chief among these is her economic credibility. Like Carney, Fréchette is grounding her leadership in numbers, balance sheets, and policy literacy. Her communication style emphasizes fiscal responsibility and economic realism, rather than ideological spectacle.

This shift in emphasis is significant. By steering the CAQ away from the identity-focused politics that came to define the later years of François Legault's mandate—particularly under figures like Bernard Drainville—Fréchette is attempting to reposition the party as a stabilizing force. Her willingness to adopt controversial but economically driven positions, including her stance on shale gas, signals seriousness to voters who prioritize cost-of-living concerns, investment climate, and long-term growth.

In effect, she is chasing what might be called the “ballast vote”: pragmatic, risk-averse voters who may not be enthusiastic but want a government that feels steady and predictable. In a volatile political environment, that cohort can decide elections.

The “Referendum Chill”

One of Fréchette's most potent potential advantages lies in the broader dynamics of the race. Current polls place the Liberals and the Parti Québécois roughly neck-and-neck, hovering around 32–33 percent, while the CAQ languishes far behind at approximately 13 percent. On its face, this suggests an impending collapse. But beneath the surface, anxiety about the PQ's commitment to a 2030 independence referendum is reshaping voter psychology.

The prospect of another constitutional showdown is creating a quiet but palpable unease among nationalist and moderate voters alike. If Fréchette can convincingly position the CAQ as the only “safe” nationalist option—one that defends Quebec's autonomy without plunging the province into years of political and economic uncertainty—she may be able to reclaim voters currently parked with the Liberals out of fear of a sovereigntist government.

Her leadership also benefits from timing. As only

the second leader in the CAQ's history, Fréchette is not fully entangled in François Legault's late-term baggage. While she cannot erase the past, she can plausibly argue that she represents generational renewal: a reset button for voters who feel disillusioned but not yet ready to embrace either federalism-by-default or independence-at-all-costs.

The obstacles to a miracle

Still, the parallels with Carney have clear limits, and Fréchette's road is arguably steeper. The first challenge is structural. Carney's federal race was largely a one-on-one contest, with Pierre Poilievre as the principal opponent. Fréchette, by contrast, faces a three-party battlefield. She must fight simultaneously against a resurging Liberal Party and a disciplined, focused Parti Québécois.

This “math of three” is unforgiving. Any significant split in the non-PQ vote risks delivering a PQ majority by default. Even modest CAQ gains could inadvertently weaken Liberal resistance and smooth the PQ's path to power.

The second obstacle is credibility as an agent of change. While Carney was an outsider parachuted into an incumbent party, Fréchette is undeniably a creature of the CAQ government. She served as a senior minister under Legault and now occupies the Premier's chair herself. Convincing voters that she represents genuine change—rather than continuity under a new label—will be one of her greatest tests.

A narrow window

Fréchette's victory in Drummondville has undeniably given the CAQ a crucial credibility injection. It has stabilized caucus morale and reopened conversations that many believed were already settled. But history suggests that leadership changes alone rarely produce electoral miracles. For a true repeat of the Carney phenomenon, Fréchette will need not only to redefine her party, but to benefit from a fragmentation—or outright collapse—of the opposition's competing narratives.

If the Liberals and the PQ continue to cannibalize one another over the independence question, an opening may emerge in the political center. However, time is not on her side. Where Carney had roughly a year to reposition his party and build momentum, Fréchette has barely six months before Quebecers vote on October 5.

In that compressed timeframe, competence will not be enough. She will need discipline, luck, and flawless political timing. In short, Christine Fréchette does not merely need to be a capable leader—she needs to be a political magician.

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The Carney liberals secured a historic majority

A night of triumph in Terrebonne and beyond

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In a night that went down as a turning point in Canadian political history, Prime Minister **Mark Carney** and his Liberal Party achieved what many analysts had thought impossible just a year prior. By sweeping all three federal by-elections held on April 13, 2026, the Liberals not only dismantled a decades-old sovereigntist stronghold in Quebec but also officially secured a **majority government** in the House of Commons.

The centerpiece of this victory took place in the riding of **Terrebonne**, where the “operation seduction” led by the Prime Minister and his candidate, **Tatiana Auguste**, finally bore fruit. Despite a relentless counter-offensive by the Bloc Québécois, the Liberals emerged victorious in Terrebonne for the second time in a year—definitively signaling the fall of a sovereigntist “château fort.”

The battle for Terrebonne: a midnight verdict

The race in Terrebonne was a grueling, high-stakes rematch. In 2025, Tatiana Auguste had won the seat by a hair-thin margin of just one vote, only to have the result annulled by the Supreme Court of Canada in February 2026 due to mail-in ballot irregularities. When the new vote was called, the mandate became clear.

By a margin of **731 votes**, Auguste (**48.4%**) defeated the Bloc’s Nathalie Sinclair-Desgagné (**46.8%**). The final result was not confirmed until 12:15 a.m., following a tense night where the lead swapped hands dozens of times as individual boxes were counted.

The atmosphere at the Liberal campaign headquarters was electric. As the final polls came in, a crowd of volunteers, MPs, and high-ranking ministers erupted in cheers. With this win, the Liberals secured a riding that, prior to Auguste’s efforts, had not been Liberal since 1984. For most of the three decades between 1993 and 2025, Terrebonne had been considered safe territory for the Bloc Québécois—until that night.

“I am ready; we are getting to work,” a triumphant Auguste told her supporters during her victory speech. “I will work every day to ensure that the voice of Terrebonne is heard loud and clear in Ottawa.”

A triple crown for Mark Carney

While the eyes of the nation were fixed on the drama in Quebec, the Liberal machine proved equally dominant in Ontario. The party successfully defended two key ridings in Toronto, completing a “triple crown” that pushed their seat count to 172—the magic number required for a majority government.

- **University–Rosedale:** In the seat formerly held by Chrystia Freeland, Liberal candidate **Danielle Martin**, a well-known physician and health-care executive, secured a massive victory with over **63%** of the vote. Martin’s win was projected early in the evening, underscoring the deep-rooted Liberal support in the heart of Toronto.
- **Scarborough–Southwest:** This riding saw the successful political transformation of **Doly Begum**, the former provincial NDP deputy leader who had crossed floors to run for the federal Liberals. Begum won handily, further cementing the Liberal grip on the Greater Toronto Area and dealing a personal blow to the NDP’s new leadership.

The shift in the political landscape

These by-elections were widely viewed as a

“Test of Year 1” for Mark Carney’s leadership. Since taking the helm, Carney had positioned himself as a steady hand for “middle powers” in a volatile global economy. The results suggested that his brand of pragmatism resonated with voters who might have otherwise drifted toward the opposition.

Conversely, the night was a “cold shower” for the other federal leaders. **Pierre Poilievre’s Conservatives** suffered a staggering loss of support in Terrebonne, where their candidate, Adrienne Charles, plummeted to just **3.3%** of the vote—a massive 15-point drop from previous showings. Poilievre, who did not visit the riding during the campaign, faced immediate questions about his party’s relevance in suburban Quebec.

For the **NDP**, the night was equally grim. Under the brand-new leadership of **Avi Lewis**, who had been elected just weeks prior, the party barely registered on the scoreboard. Their candidate in Terrebonne, Maxime Beaudoin, finished with a meager **0.5%**. The loss of Doly Begum to the Liberals in Scarborough added insult to injury, suggesting that the “Carney Liberals” had successfully poached both the NDP’s talent and its base.

Final results summary

The victory gave the Carney government a clear runway to implement its legislative agenda without the need for opposition support. From the proposed **TGV Alto** high-speed rail project—which the Bloc had fought bitterly—to new national economic measures, the Prime Minister finally held all the cards. As the dust settled, the Liberal Party celebrated a night of historic gains that redrew the Canadian political map.

Auguste signals new era to voters

Auguste’s message to the media post-victory in Terrebonne was not triumph so much as access.

The newly-elected liberal candidate said she considers the result as a chance for Terrebonne to finally have a stronger voice where decisions are made.

She thanked voters for their trust and said she was ready to work with them, repeatedly returning to one idea: that Terrebonne now has a place “at the decision table.”

After a year of recounts, court fights and political suspense, Auguste tried to present the result less as a personal comeback than as a mandate to deliver results for the riding.

She said the campaign had been about getting projects done in Terrebonne and believed voters backed her because, after nine months in the public eye, they fully knew who she was and what she stood for.

“I just wanted to thank the citizens of Terrebonne for the confidence that they put in me,” she said to the media. “I am ready to work with them.”

Auguste also did not pretend the race was comfortable. As results trickled in through a tight count, she acknowledged she had expected a fight and said her team gave it everything it had.

Her caution matched the mood of the evening, with the Liberal candidate holding a lead that remained narrow before winning out against her Bloc Québécois counterpart.

The result returned a Liberal to Terrebonne in a by-election which came about by unusual political baggage.

In her first reaction, Auguste’s message was clear: now that voters know her, she says Terrebonne can expect her to get to work.

Liberals conclude their largest-ever policy convention in Montreal

Prime Minister Mark Carney struck a note of unrestrained optimism

MARTIN C. BARRY
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The Liberal Party of Canada capped off its 2026 National Convention in Montreal last weekend after bringing together a record-breaking 4,500 members, some of whom were perhaps a little on edge about the outcome of impending by-elections that could lead to the Liberals finally having a majority government.

MPs 'energized'

The Liberals' leader struck a note of unrestrained optimism in the keynote address he delivered on the last day in accordance with a political party convention tradition.

"Over the past three days, Liberals have come together with energy and determination to shape the future of our party and our country," said Prime Minister Mark Carney.

A 'decisive moment,' said Carney

"At this decisive moment, Canadians are looking for strong leadership and serious solutions, and that's exactly what our new Liberal team is delivering," he continued. "United, we will build Canada Strong, a Canada Strong for all – a Canada Strong that no one can ever take away."

After Carney spoke to the thousands of Liberal members and delegates waving Canadian flags as well as signs bearing his name, some political observers speculated that the event resembled a pre-election rally more than a gathering for the purpose of discussing and setting new policies.

Among the thousands of members who converged in Montreal, more than half were taking part in a federal Liberal Party convention for the first time, according to Liberal Party of Canada organizers.

Record-breaking fundraising

Delegates engaged in policy discussions, as well as campaign trainings and plenary sessions, while hearing from a range of speakers and voices from across Canada. Party members also came together to help shape policy direction and elect members of the Liberal Party's next national board of directors.

According to the party, up to 300,000 people from across Canada became card-carrying Liberal Party members since last year when the leadership race saw Mark Carney become leader in March 2025. The momentum also translated into record-breaking grassroots fundraising that saw 2025 as the Liberals' best-ever fundraising year.

Carney's message to fellow Liberals came as the



latest of several House of Commons floor crossings strengthened the party's situation, while still falling short of a minimum 172-seat majority.

Five new Liberals at convention

Since he stepped into the Prime Minister's position, Carney's government has attracted a total of five MPs from rival opposition parties. They include Lori Idlout from the NDP, as well as four Conservatives: Chris d'Entremont, Michael Ma, Matt Jeneroux and only last week Marilyn Gladu.

The Liberals held 171 seats in the House of Commons before last Monday's by-elections, in which they were expected to increase their seat count.

The trade war with the United States loomed large in Carney's keynote remarks, with the prime minister pointing to his government's economic agenda. He said a strong economy would be essential to the party's mission of building a just society. Carney received standing

applause when he said a just society is anchored in a woman's right to choose while allowing for a wide range of lifestyle diversity.

Carney's speaking points

Carney's speech also highlighted his government's defence industrial strategy, military spending, infrastructure investments, major projects office and efforts to diversify international trade.

The convention delegates spent last Saturday morning debating and voting on several non-binding policy resolutions. Two resolutions which were adopted related to setting age restrictions on social media and artificial chat bots.

Grassroots members of the party also debated a resolution on restricting use of the notwithstanding clause, by invoking disallowance on any provincial legislation that proactively invokes the clause before court challenges are exhausted.



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Residents of Deux-Montagnes and surrounding communities will have an opportunity to take part in a hands-on environmental initiative next month, as volunteers gather for a spring cleanup of local woodland areas.

The citizen group **Les Amis du Boisé de Deux-Montagnes** has announced its **annual woodland cleanup**, scheduled for **Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** Participants are invited to meet at the **small parking lot near the Deux-Montagnes train station**, where volunteers will receive supplies and instructions before heading into the wooded areas.

No registration is required, and organizers encourage residents to simply arrive at the designated time. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided, although participants are encouraged to bring their own gloves and reusable water bottles or coffee cups to reduce environmental impact.

A citizen group focused on conservation

Les Amis du Boisé de Deux-Montagnes is a volunteer organiz-

ation whose main goal is to preserve the natural environments found within the woodland areas of the municipality. The group promotes conservation of ecosystems and works to increase public awareness and appreciation of natural resources.

Among its activities, the organization supports projects aimed at protecting wildlife habitats and enhancing biodiversity, including initiatives such as installing nesting boxes and organizing community events related to the woodland.

The group collaborates closely with the **Corporation des parcs et des boisés naturels de Deux-Montagnes**, reinforcing community participation in environmental stewardship.

A woodland of environmental importance

The cleanup takes place in and around the **Boisé Roger-Lemoine**, a woodland area recognized for its ecological value. In January 2013, part of the site was officially designated as a natural reserve under Quebec law, ensuring long-term protection of the area's natural features.

The reserve contains significant biodiversity, including forest and wetland habitats that support a variety of wildlife species. Municipal authorities have emphasized the importance of

Community volunteers invited to spring woodland cleanup in Deux-Montagnes

protecting these environments as part of the city's commitment to sustainable development.

A tradition of community participation

Spring cleanup events have been held for many years and are a recurring part of local environmental activities. In previous years, the initiative has drawn strong participation from residents. For example, a municipal report noted that **140 citizens took part in a cleanup effort**, collecting approximately **150 bags of waste** from the woodland area.

Such volunteer efforts play an important role in maintaining safe and accessible green spaces while helping to protect wildlife habitats from pollution and debris.

Encouraging community involvement

Organizers say the annual cleanup is designed to be accessible and welcoming to all residents, whether they are longtime volunteers or first-time participants. The event offers a simple way for individuals and families to contribute to the protection of local natural spaces.

Deux-Montagnes, located in the Laurentides region northwest of Montreal, includes several protected green areas that form an important part of the city's landscape and recreational life.

With spring underway, the May 9 cleanup offers residents an opportunity to spend time outdoors while contributing to the preservation of one of the community's most valued natural spaces.



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Sainte-Thérèse takes ownership of cultural centre to secure its future

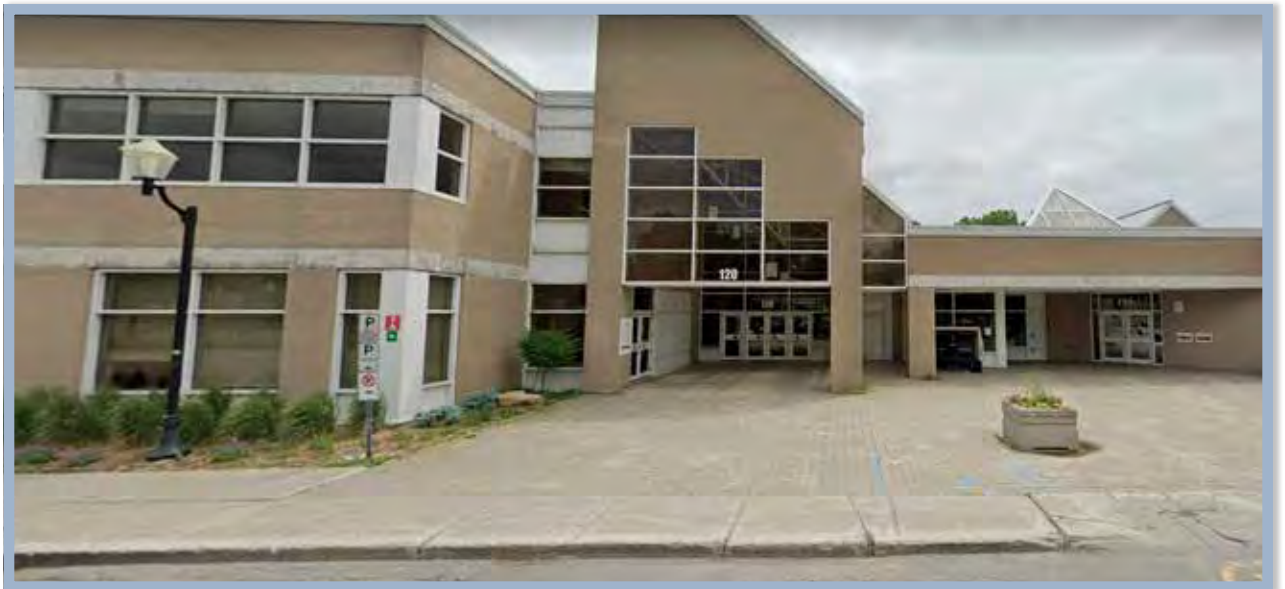
MARIA DIAMANTIS
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The City of Sainte-Thérèse has taken a major step to secure the long-term future of one of its most important cultural and community landmarks, officially becoming the owner of the Centre culturel et communautaire Thérèse-De Blainville, located at 120 boulevard du Séminaire.

The decision, approved by municipal council on April 9, 2026, transfers ownership of the building from the Corporation du Centre culturel et communautaire Thérèse-De Blainville to the City for the symbolic sum of \$1. While ownership has changed hands, daily management of the building will remain with the Corporation, ensuring continuity in the services and activities offered to residents.

The cultural centre holds a significant place in the community's history. It was inaugurated on April 28, 1995, following a major public fundraising campaign that brought together 714 donors, raising \$3.5 million to make the project possible. Since its opening, the building has served as a hub for cultural, educational, and community activities, becoming deeply embedded in the social life of Sainte-Thérèse.

Until this acquisition, the Corporation overseeing the centre included four founding partners: the City of Sainte-Thérèse, the Club Optimiste Ste-Thérèse, the Club Lions Thérèse-De Blainville, and the Centre de services scolaire des Mille-Îles. The City has long played a central role in supporting the centre financially and



operationally, making the transition to municipal ownership a continuation of that partnership rather than a sudden change.

Mayor Christian Charron said the acquisition is intended to ensure the financial stability of the centre while maintaining the services already available to residents. In a statement, he emphasized that the move will allow the municipality to preserve a location considered essential to the cultural and community life of Sainte-Thérèse and the surrounding region.

Although the purchase price itself was symbolic, the agreement includes the City's commitment to assume several financial obligations tied to the building. These include outstanding loans, unpaid municipal and school taxes, and repayment of an existing line of credit. The portion of costs not already covered by earlier municipal advances and building-related loans is estimated at approximately \$756,747, which will be financed using unallocated operating surpluses.

Financial details provided by the City indicate that \$4,714,737 in advances previously made by the municipality will be written off as part of the transaction, while \$750,347 in loans related to the building will be assumed by the City. The remaining financial responsibility includes unpaid municipal taxes totaling \$426,175,

a \$35,000 balance on the building's line of credit, and an estimated \$295,572 in Quebec Sales Tax (TVQ).

City officials noted that the building's location next to the municipal library makes the acquisition particularly strategic, strengthening the connection between cultural, educational, and community services offered in the area.

As part of the transition, the City plans to establish a formal agreement with the Corporation that will define how the building will continue to be managed. This agreement will be presented to municipal council at a later date for approval.

The acquisition reflects the City's longstanding involvement with the cultural centre, which it has supported financially since the building was first constructed. Municipal leaders say the move is intended to protect the centre's long-term role as a gathering place for residents and organizations while ensuring responsible management of public infrastructure.

With ownership now secured, the Centre culturel et communautaire Thérèse-De Blainville is expected to continue serving as a cornerstone of community life, maintaining the cultural, educational, and social programming that has defined the space for more than three decades.

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"Big bang" tax reform

Unleashing growth in the Canadian economy

continued from previous edition

NICHOLAS DAHIR, ALEXANDRE, LAURIN, JACK M. MINTZ
CD HOWE INSTITUTE

Past studies have shown mixed impacts. The company income tax has been found to be passed on by corporations as higher prices charged to consumers (Baker et al. 2020), or largely by reducing employment and wages paid to workers (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). An Australian government analysis on the incidence of the company tax finds that two-thirds falls on workers through lower real wages and the rest on capital owners (Rimmer et al. 2014). A German and an American study each found that about half of corporate taxes are shifted onto workers, with the balance onto capital owners (Fuest et al. 2017; Kennedy et al. 2022). Crisan, McKenzie and Mintz assume that the tax on large corporations falls primarily on workers, while owners of small corporations largely bear the corporate tax (roughly one-fifth of taxable business income is earned by corporations claiming the small business tax deduction).

Growth and taxation

Canada's tax system is ailing. It is inefficient and complex. This is certainly pertinent to the fact that Canada has had a decade of lost opportunity. Its per capita GNI growth lags all other G7 economies since 2015. Non-residential investment per worker has declined sharply, and Canada's capital stock per worker is below other G7 countries, especially the United States (Bafale and Robson 2024). Taxes also affect labour supply, human capital accumulation, and the mobility of skilled workers.

Economic growth depends on multiple factors beyond taxation, including interest rates, regulatory frameworks, political stability, and the rule of law. Rigorous studies control for non-tax impacts when analyzing GDP effects. The online Appendix presents recent empirical work. Below is a preview of the main findings from these studies.

Growth and employment, migration effects

Extensive empirical evidence demonstrates that higher personal and corporate tax rates constrain economic performance, while lower rates promote growth and employment. The magnitudes are economically significant. Peterson and Blair (2022) estimate that each percentage point increase in US corporate income tax rates reduces per-capita GDP by over \$1,000. Provincial evidence from Canada shows that corporate tax reductions have lifted GDP per capita by more than 1 percent (Ferde and Dahlby 2019). Analysis of the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act yields GDP-level gains ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.8 percentage points (York et al. 2023; Mertens 2018).

Employment responds similarly. Duan and Moon (2025) find that Quebec's four-percentage-point reduction in small business corporate tax rates increased employment by 1.7 percent and payrolls by 2.3 percent. Conversely, Curtis and Decker (2018) show that start-ups lose 3 to 4 percent of their workforce for each percentage point increase in corporate taxes. Personal income tax changes also influence labour markets: Ferde (2021) finds that a one-point cut in Canada's top federal personal income tax rate increased private employment by 0.25 percent.

Migration patterns confirm that individuals and businesses respond to cross-jurisdictional tax differences. While domestic inventors show limited responsiveness to tax changes (Akcigit et al. 2016), foreign inventors and high earners are more sensitive to tax policies. Akcigit et al. (2016) and Agrawal and Foremny (2018) report that a one percent increase in tax rate results in one to two percent more emigration for these mobile skilled populations. Kalin et al. (2024) document similar migration responses among retirees relocating to Portugal, with emigration effects equal to 1.5

to 2 percent for a percentage increase in the tax rate.

Investment, taxable income, incidence effects

Tax policy significantly influences investment decisions through its effect on the cost of capital. Hartley et al. (2025) estimate that each percentage point decline in the user cost of capital increases investment by 1.3 to 2.4 percentage points. The US tax reform experience provides additional evidence: Chodorow-Reich et al. (2023) and York et al. (2023) document investment gains of 7 to 20 percent, alongside long-run increases in corporate capital stock of 7 to 14 percent.

Taxable income exhibits considerable sensitivity with respect to tax rates, creating revenue feedback effects. Estimates for each percentage increase in the tax rate range from a 0.9 percent loss in reported income for firms (Coles et al. 2022) to over 2 percent for high-income individuals (Gorry et al. 2018). These studies imply that tax rate increases erode the tax base, reducing the revenue gains from higher rates.

Tax incidence studies reveal that workers bear substantial portions of ostensibly capital-based taxes. Corporate tax burdens fall on workers to the extent of 36 to 56 percent (Duan and Moon 2025; Kennedy et al. 2022; Fuest et al. 2017). Provincial corporate tax increases in Canada have reduced wages by more than the additional revenues collected (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). Payroll taxes show similar patterns: Canadian workers bear nearly the full burden (Deslauriers et al. 2018), while US workers bear about 58 percent (Carloni 2021).

Implications

The empirical evidence spanning the past quarter-century documented in the online Appendix consistently supports theoretical predictions about taxation's economic effects. Higher tax rates demonstrably reduce per-capita GDP levels, constrain employment growth, discourage investment, trigger migration of mobile factors, and often fail to deliver proportional revenue increases due to base erosion. These findings highlight the importance of considering economic efficiency alongside revenue needs when designing tax policy. While taxes remain necessary to fund public services, the substantial economic costs documented in this literature review suggest that over-reliance on income taxes should be approached with caution, particularly for personal income taxes on high earners and corporate taxes.

The need for big bang tax reform

Personal income taxes are too high. Canada no longer has a corporate tax advantage to offset other disadvantages for investment. The tax system is inefficient and complex. Further, as global trade realigns in response to US tariffs, economic growth will be a challenge in a world competing for capital.

A modest reform, such as a tax point reduction here or there, will not have much impact on the economy. Instead, we argue that Canada needs a "big bang" reform that substantially restructures the tax system to raise living standards. This is particularly important now given reduced access to the US market and the goal of trade diversification.

We realize that a "big bang" tax reform is not easy to accomplish. Some reforms involve scaling back tax preferences that will raise opposition to reform. If governments lose too much tax revenue, they will have difficulty meeting their budgets. However, a marginal reform such as the recent reduction in the lowest marginal personal tax rate to 14 percent, while welcomed by taxpayers for some relief, will not significantly improve the economy nor make it easier to balance the federal budget. Better reforms of equal revenue cost would have a larger impact on the economy by reducing reliance on the most harmful tax policies. Past major reforms, such as Ireland's

Box A: The Irish Big Bang Tax Reform

The "Irish miracle" goes back to the 1980s when the government adopted a highly successful pro-growth strategy. No longer the poor cousin of Europe that it had been for two centuries, the Irish economy has become one of the richest in the world (Hossein and Walsh 2002). By 2024 per capita GNI of \$77,920 (current US dollars, Atlas Method, World Bank) is now 46 percent higher than Canada at \$53,340. This is in sharp contrast to 1970, when Ireland was poorer (\$1,520) than Canada (\$4,410).

The Celtic Tiger's success has been attributed to several factors, including fiscal discipline, upgrading talent through education, substantial infrastructure investment, access to EU markets, and deregulation. No doubt, its corporate tax rate policy was a major factor in its growth (Hossein and Walsh 2002). Initially, it began with 10 percent on manufacturing and Dublin financial services in the 1980s (6 percent on other sectors) and later applied a 12.5 percent on trading profits (25 percent on passive income) to all sectors since 2003 (with elimination of some targeted measures). The unique, low tax rate drew many multinational companies to hire better-educated Irish workers at higher pay. As profits shifted to Ireland, corporate taxes grew, which led to the EU curbing some incentives. Instead of losing population, Ireland now has net migration inflows. Its poverty rate (below \$1.90 per day) has dropped by over four-fifths since 1990.

While its GDP growth has been impressive, the Irish domestic economy has had its bumps, including weak financial regulations that led to a sharp contraction for several years following the 2008 financial crisis. Driven by foreign investment and exports, Ireland recovered strongly with household disposable income growth outstripping most OECD countries. From 2015 to 2019, inflation-adjusted disposable income grew by 4.3 percent a year, compared to 2 percent in the EU and 1.9 percent in Canada.

Ireland is over-the-top when it comes to investment. Public and private fixed capital formation more than doubled from 2015 to 2019, far exceeding every other advanced country, including second-place Hungary (with a corporate tax rate of just 9 percent) and third-place Estonia, with its unique corporate tax on distributed profits. In contrast, Canadian investment fell by 0.5 per cent.

Growth slowed during the pandemic but rebounded strongly in 2024, reaching 7.4 percent (World Bank). Currently, Ireland's fiscal position is far better than Canada's (IMF Fiscal Monitor 2025). Government revenues equal 27.8 percent of GDP (compared to 42.6 percent for Canada). It has a general government budgetary surplus in 2024 equal to 4.4 percent of GDP (in contrast to a 2.1 percent of GDP deficit in Canada) in part due to its corporate tax revenues received from a tax settlement with Apple (this surplus is expected to drop to 1.7 percent of GDP in 2025). Gross government debt stands at 41.1 percent of GDP, compared to 110.8 percent in Canada.

No doubt, "big bang" corporate tax reforms paid off handsomely for Ireland in the past final decades.

unique corporate tax strategy (see Box A), demonstrate how a "big bang" tax reform can strengthen growth while sustaining public revenues. That is our goal in the proposals below.

Big bang personal tax reform

Canada's overreliance on personal income tax is the result of higher tax rates across the income spectrum, particularly at higher income levels. The first stage of our growth-oriented tax reform lowers personal income tax rates where they most affect growth, while also introducing a generous basic allowance. This allowance, consolidating numerous tax preferences into a simplified tax credit, will disproportionately benefit lower-income earners.

Taxpayers who would benefit more from itemizing tax provisions rather than claiming the simplified tax credit would still have the option to do so. However, a simpler system – with lower documentation and filing costs, and greater certainty of outcomes – will reduce pressure on politicians to maintain or expand special tax preferences. Many countries operate far simpler personal tax systems. In jurisdictions with fewer opportunities for tax optimization, filing is often far easier, and in some cases tax returns are automatic or unnecessary (Laurin and Dahir 2022). The simplified tax credit would move Canada toward a system where filing could eventually become much easier.

Reducing personal income tax rates

We propose reforming the federal personal income tax schedule to compress marginal tax rates at higher income thresholds while maintaining the government's recent reduction in the lowest tax bracket. As discussed earlier, rate reductions are more economically effective at higher income levels, while the new simplified tax credit will disproportionately benefit lower-income workers.

The reform lowers the marginal tax rates applying to income above roughly \$117,000 while preserving current rates at lower income levels. The proposal aims to enhance economic efficiency by reducing disincentives to earn additional income, particularly among higher-income earners, where behavioural responsiveness to tax rates is well documented (see online Appendix).

Provinces may reduce, increase, or maintain their current personal tax rates. If they leave rates unchanged, the top tax rate will be, for example, 46.53 percent in Ontario and 41 percent in Alberta. These rates are somewhat above the top rates in 2011, with Ontario at 46.41 percent and Alberta at 39 percent. An important principle, argued by the Carter Report, is that top rates should be below 50 percent to balance social fairness with economic pragmatism,

▶ Continued on page

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since high rates discourage effort, initiative, and tax compliance.

Before accounting for behavioural responses, the proposed rate changes would reduce federal personal income tax revenues by roughly \$15.5 billion in 2026 (Table 6). However, taxpayers are known to respond to lower marginal tax rates. Empirical research suggests that higher-income individuals exhibit greater responsiveness to marginal tax rates through a variety of channels, including labour supply, tax planning, and income shifting. Estimates suggest that a one percent reduction in after-tax income resulting from a higher marginal tax rate would lower the taxable income of high-income individuals by approximately 0.4 to 0.7 percent – known as the elasticity of taxable income (ETI).

In this analysis, a 0.4 percent response for the top tax bracket is applied to reflect this behavioural adjustment, consistent with estimates from the Department of Finance and other sources (Canada 2010; Laurin 2015; Milligan and Smart 2014; Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO] 2022). Following the PBO (2022) guideline assumptions, individuals in the fourth bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.2 percent, while those in the third bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.1 percent. These conservative response estimates were chosen to keep the focus on the fiscal cost estimates, rather than on the precise value of the ETI. After incorporating behavioural responses, the net fiscal cost of the reform is reduced by approximately one-third to roughly \$10.9 billion (Table 6).

While immediate effects on labour supply will be modest for some taxpayers, particularly primary earners, the cumulative impact of reduced marginal tax rates can be substantial over time, particularly when considering the broader, long-run impacts on work experience, skills development, and productivity (Keane 2010). The rate reductions will also help attract high-earning talent to Canada and encourage entrepreneurs to invest in riskier ventures. By targeting rate relief where behavioural responsiveness is highest, the reform provides a more efficient path to boost productivity and strengthen long-term economic growth than broad-based cuts.

Critics argue that reducing top personal income tax rates favours higher-income Canadians. This is not surprising since higher-income taxpayers account for most of the personal income taxes paid. Those with incomes above \$117,000 pay 55 percent of total personal income taxes, while those with less than \$60,000 pay only 11 percent, even though the latter represent more than 60 percent of all tax filers.

Nevertheless, individuals in the first and second tax brackets would also see a reduction in the amount of personal income tax they owe, through a simplified tax credit described below.

A simplified personal income tax credit

To reduce complexity and improve transparency, we propose a new optional non-refundable simplified tax credit that would replace numerous existing deductions and credits. The simplified credit amount would be set at \$10,000 and added to the existing Basic Personal Amount. As a result, individuals could earn more than \$26,000 tax-free.

The reform would also lower the federal age credit base amount to \$4,000 from roughly \$9,000. Seniors today are the least likely age group to live in poverty (Statistics Canada 2022), given the importance of Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and provincial credits targeted at low-income seniors. Most seniors eligible for the age credit will benefit from the new simplified credit, more than offsetting the age-credit reduction, and resulting in a net reduction in tax payable.

The simplified credit would be optional. Tax filers could claim the \$10,000 simplified credit or retain access to all existing provisions by forgoing it. A limited set of targeted provisions would remain within the simplified system, namely: allowances for social security and tax-recognized savings, recognitions for work-limiting circumstances such as caregiving or disability, charitable donations, personal/corporate tax integration provisions, and expenses incurred to earn income. For those opting in, the tax form would retain only a small number of credits and deductions.

	\$Billion
Larger PIT Rates	-15.4
Taxable Income Response	4.1
Subtotal Larger PIT Rates	-11.3
Simplified Tax Credit*	-3.6
Total Revenue Shortfall	-14.9

Note: *The Simplified Tax Credit amount is inclusive of the reduced federal age credit base amount.
Source: Author's calculations using SP22/MLA 35.3

These would include:

Non-Refundable Credits:

- Basic Personal Amount (and Unused Amount Transferred for Spouse/Child).
- Simplified Tax Credit.
- CPP and EI contribution credits.
- Disability and caregiver credits.
- Charitable donations credit.
- Federal dividend and foreign tax credits.

Deductions:

- RRSPs, registered pension plans (RPPs), and other tax-deferred contributions.
- Alimony paid.
- CPP/QPP on self-employment income.
- A 50 percent capital gains inclusion.
- Select employment and business-related deductions.

Filers claiming the simplified credit would forgo other provisions, including:

- Pension income splitting.
- Employment credit.
- Union and professional dues.
- Childcare expenses.
- Moving expenses.
- Capital gains exemption (LCGE).
- Tuition tax credit.
- Age and pension credits.
- Volunteer firefighter credit.
- Home accessibility and home buyers' credits.
- Medical expenses and refundable medical supplement.
- Canada Training Credit.
- Political contributions credit.
- Investment and labour-sponsored fund credits.
- Many other narrow provisions.

By reducing line items and eligibility calculations, the simplified option would ease the tax filing burden for many Canadians, lower their compliance costs, and facilitate tax-filing automation by greatly increasing the number of people with basic tax returns. As the federal government moves to expand automated tax-filing options for low-income Canadians, the new simplified tax credit will make this process much easier, since overcomplexity is the main barrier (Laurin and Dahir 2022). Over time, it could also curb the tendency of elected officials to introduce narrowly targeted tax preferences as tools for political gain or broad policy objectives, fostering a more neutral tax system.

The new optional simplified tax credit, including the baseline reduction of the federal age credit base amount, would cost approximately \$13.6 billion. We expect more than 90 percent of filers to choose the simplified credit rather than itemizing individual deductions and credits. Over time, as provinces align and taxpayers adapt, the option to itemize could be phased out, allowing the tax system to play a more limited role in social policy.

Big bang corporate tax reform

With the goal of building up productive capacity, a big-bang approach is needed to put Canada into a better position to attract investment and reduce distortions in the business tax system. There are some major revenue-neutral reforms that could improve neutrality and simplify what has become an overly complex corporate tax.

One option, following the United States, would be to expand and make permanent accelerated expensing of machinery and

equipment to all business activities, beyond its current application for manufacturing, clean technology, exploration, and research and development. Expensing could also be widely implemented for all capital expenditures, including structures, inventories, and land and development expenditures in the resource sector.

However, when coupled with interest deductibility on debt used to fund capital expenditures, expensing can lead to negative effective tax rates, as the value of tax deductions exceeds the cost of purchasing capital. Expensing policies also favour short-lived capital (e.g., machinery) over long-lived capital like structures, thereby increasing distortions. Many expenditures, such as inventories and land purchases, do not qualify for incentives. Because of the richness in deductions, many companies accumulate tax losses to be carried forward against future profits. Firms may then use after-tax financing and other schemes to transfer these losses to other companies, reducing revenue predictability.

A second option is to adopt a rent-based corporate tax that allows companies to write off the cost of new equity financing, including changes in the tax value of retained earnings. A rent tax, in principle, is neutral for marginal investments since the full cost of capital is deducted. Only the return in excess of the cost of investment is subject to tax. Two approaches have been used to tax rents:

1. Allowance for Corporate Equity (ACE): Firms deduct the cost of equity financing in addition to interest, while capital is depreciated.
2. Cash flow tax: Firms expense capital fully which is equivalent to deducting net interest and equity financing costs.

The ACE approach has been used in a few countries, and the cash flow approach has been used as a means of levying profit-based royalties on non-renewable resource companies (as seen in Alberta's oil sands and British Columbia's mining profit taxes).

A rent-based approach has merit, especially if the personal tax is also converted into a tax on earnings and economic rents (above-normal returns). A personal tax would remove limits on deductions for RRSP savings (dissaving would be fully taxed), and other net capital income, including housing, would be taxed in excess of the "normal return to capital." This is an appealing approach towards a full expenditure-based personal tax that exempts savings from taxation, but it requires greater study since it could lead to higher income tax rates being levied to maintain tax revenues. A related model is the Scandinavian "dual income tax," which taxes capital income at rates less than labour income. For example, Norway's top personal income tax rate is 47.4 percent, while its corporate and capital income tax rate is 22 percent.

While the rent-based approach to corporate tax alone offers an interesting way to tax all corporate investments, it is not consistent with the personal income tax system. Corporate rents would still face taxation at both corporate and personal levels, encouraging firms to recharacterize rents as wages or deductible payments. Further, deducting equity costs at the corporate level without corresponding adjustments to personal capital gains taxation would create mismatches (see Canada 1997). Investors could deduct interest personally while corporations deduct equity costs on the same financing, creating unintended advantages.

Below, we suggest two types of reform: adopting an "Irish-style" low corporate tax rate or implementing a corporate tax that exempts retained profits invested in business activities from taxation (a corporate tax on distributed profits).

An "Irish" approach to corporate tax reform

Consistent with past approaches to corporate tax reform in Canada, a major reform would be to substantially reduce the corporate income tax rate while broadening the corporate tax base to eliminate as many non-neutralities as possible. Lowering the rate would reduce non-neutralities across sectors and make Canada more attractive for companies to shift investment and profits into the country. A uniform corporate rate for all businesses, large and small, would also simplify the system by eliminating the small business deduction and consolidating the two dividend tax credits into one.

continued next edition

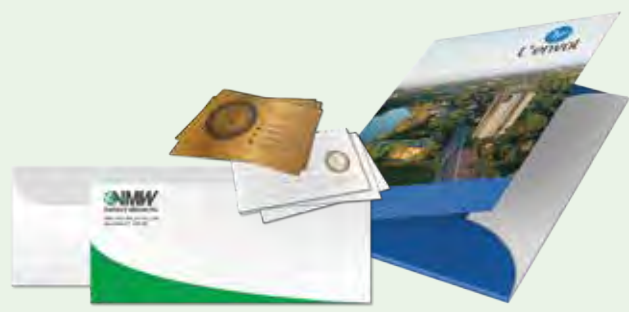
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WRONG EXAMPLE

Q I think I'm in a tight spot. My older brother is married with two young children. He was caught having a little Internet fling a few years ago.

Nothing happened, but I suppose the correct way of putting it is he emotionally cheated.

He felt like crud, and we all thought he had put this behind him. He and his wife have been to counseling, and he did his best to be the best husband ever. Currently they're tense whenever they are together. You can cut the air with a knife, and it seems they are always ready to snap at each other. It's not easy to be around them.

My brother and I went to lunch today. Lately he's been constantly texting on his device, and today it lit up with a text. I glanced at what he was typing, thinking it was business. I saw him type, "So u say u like to role play. Tell me..." I stopped and looked at the ground. I got a sick feeling in my stomach.

So now, what do I do? I really don't think he was texting his wife. They're not sexual or

warm toward one another, and even if they were, he would know her likes by now, right? It's a new girl. Got to be. Do I tell my fiancée, who is friends with my sister-in-law?

Dennis

A Dennis, will you share your thoughts and events of the day with your life partner? Or will you compartmentalize what you say to her?

Your brother's marriage has reached a point where he is leading a second life away from his wife. That's not because it doesn't concern her, but because he has become a double agent. Such a divide is always present with two people who don't belong together.

You know what is right in a relationship. You saw a wrong happen, and you are affected by it. Your fiancée is also likely to be affected by it. By all means share what you saw. With her you want the closeness, love, and trust which is missing from your brother's marriage.

Wayne & Tamara

STICKS AND STONES

Q I am newly remarried and recently my husband compared a part of my body to his ex-wife, who I will call X. We were fooling around, and he grabbed my breast and said, "Nice, but X's are bigger." I freaked.

I flipped him out of his chair, kicked him, and pushed him down the hallway, hitting and screaming at him. Last time I had that much anger and acted like that, I was in my 20s, angry at my first husband, and alcohol was involved.

I feel bad I hit him and have made an appointment for counseling. My husband has apologized, but now I am thinking he must still be thinking of his ex, since he mentioned her body parts like that. I was not previously jealous, but now I am.

He has to maintain a relationship with her as they have a young child together. I am attractive, and she is fat and not very pretty. Should I

just drop this? Maybe I am making a big deal out of nothing.

Staci

A Staci, the old line about sticks and stones is false. Words do hurt, especially from a loved one.

The real story is your feelings toward his ex-wife. In marrying him, you became her hostage. She is a cash and time drain on your marriage. Their child is a reminder of their sexual relationship. Even though you both have a past, you have to wonder, what did he do with her? How do I compare?

The issue to explore in counseling is the basis of your gut reaction. Love, not looks, is the real basis for comparison with the ex-wife. If you and your husband share the deep emotional connection which holds two people together, there is nothing to worry about.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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Quebec to require official recognition for most home daycares starting September 2026

MARIA DIAMANTIS
info@newsfirst.ca

Quebec will introduce a major regulatory change to family-based childcare services beginning September 1, 2026, requiring most home daycare providers to obtain official recognition from a coordinating office in order to continue operating legally.

According to the Government of Quebec, any person offering childcare services in a private residence will be required to be recognized by a **bureau coordonnateur de la garde éducative en milieu familial (BC)**, the regional authority responsible for supervising family-based daycare services.

The new requirement applies to individuals caring for more than two children who do not ordinarily live together. Exceptions will apply only to caregivers who provide services to a **maximum of two children**, or to children who normally live in the same household, such as siblings.

Mandatory recognition after September 1, 2026

Until the implementation date, some childcare services in private homes may operate without recognition. However, the government has confirmed that this flexibility will end on **September 1, 2026**.

After that date, anyone operating a home daycare that does not meet the new legal requirements risks being forced to cease operations.

The recognition system applies specifically to family-based childcare providers operating in residential settings. Childcare centres and daycare installations already require permits issued by the Ministry of Families.

Application process and timeline

Individuals wishing to continue offering childcare services must submit an application for recognition to the coordinating office responsible for their geographic area.

The government specifies that the coordinating office has **up to 120 days** to analyze an application once a complete file has been submitted.

Applicants are encouraged to begin the process as soon as possible in order to ensure compliance before the September 2026 deadline.

Recognition confirms that the provider meets established requirements related to the **health, safety, well-being, and development of children**, and allows the service to operate within Quebec's regulated childcare network.

Responsibilities of recognized providers

Recognized home daycare providers are subject to ongoing monitoring and inspections carried



out either by the Ministry of Families or by the coordinating office. These inspections verify that facilities meet regulatory standards and that services comply with provincial childcare requirements.

Recognition also allows eligible providers to offer **reduced-contribution childcare spaces**, depending on availability and community needs.

According to provincial guidelines, recognized providers typically care for **up to six children** when working alone, including a maximum of two infants under 18 months of age. With the assistance of another adult, the number may increase to **nine children**, subject to specific limits.

Current rules remain in effect until deadline

Until September 1, 2026, individuals may continue to offer childcare services in a private residence without recognition, provided they comply with existing conditions set out in Quebec legislation.

Under current rules, a non-recognized provider

may care for up to six children, including their own children under nine years of age, and must meet certain requirements such as holding first-aid certification and liability insurance.

These existing provisions will be replaced by the new recognition requirement once the transition period ends.

A province-wide change to family childcare

The upcoming regulatory change applies across Quebec and will affect both caregivers and families using home-based childcare services.

Officials advise providers who intend to continue operating beyond September 2026 to contact their local coordinating office as early as possible and submit all required documentation within the prescribed timelines.

The Government of Quebec has indicated that after the deadline, operating a home daycare that does not comply with recognition requirements may result in enforcement action and closure of services that exceed permitted limits.



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Week of April 19 to 25, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

♈ ARIES
Your confidence will help you express your ideas clearly and convincingly. This attitude will reinforce your credibility and earn you greater respect, strengthening your leadership skills and helping you perform better on your projects.

♉ TAURUS
To strengthen your relationship, break with the old routine and try more open communication. The idea of moving in together or taking a meaningful step forward could deepen your emotions and solidify your bond.

♊ GEMINI
A dynamic period has begun! It's all about action this week. New challenges, stimulating experiences and professional opportunities will drive your intellectual and spiritual growth, paving the way for major career progress.

♋ CANCER
Taking a step back can give your path more clarity. Make informed financial or relationship decisions to help restore balance. Your creativity will flow freely this week. The artist within you will find inspiration to create remarkable works.

♌ LEO
Your career is thriving, bringing a welcome boost in income. Your love life is also on the upswing. Your partner or an admirer will show unexpected affection, boosting your confidence and deepening your happiness together.

♍ VIRGO
A powerful revelation will guide your upcoming choices, illuminating the path toward your goals. Now's the perfect time to start a new project that's close to your heart, symbolizing renewal and unwavering motivation for your future.

♎ LIBRA
A transformative training course will open new perspectives and broaden your horizons. This experience will rekindle your enthusiasm and self-confidence, filling your life with inspiring discoveries and promising ventures.

♏ SCORPIO
Prepare for a lot of intense emotions this week as a wave of passion will sweep through your life. If you're in a new relationship, you'll receive a clear sign of commitment. These positive changes will bring you happiness and mark the start of a bright new chapter.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
Before making a major decision, consider the repercussions. Your generosity will strengthen your emotional bonds and inspire your loved ones. Sharing your joy comes naturally, highlighting the relationships that matter most and reinforcing your personal values.

♑ CAPRICORN
Small dietary adjustments could boost your well-being. In love, an open conversation will prevent misunderstandings and strengthen your relationship. Simple gestures and tenderness will nurture your emotional connection.

♒ AQUARIUS
A selfless gesture, such as listening, lending a hand or offering support, will strengthen your position with others. At work, your good mood will lighten the atmosphere and spread optimism, earning respect from those around you.

♓ PISCES
Moving is becoming increasingly important to you. You'll start looking for a place that truly fits your needs and those of your loved ones to create a more harmonious space conducive to comfort and sharing.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 302

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19			20	21			
22	23	24	25								
26	27	28	29				30	31	32	33	
34				35			36				
37				38			39				
40	41										
42	43	44					45	46	47	48	49
50				51	52	53	54	55			
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

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ACROSS

- 1. Grimm heavy
- 5. Catcher's glove
- 9. Garden veggie
- 12. Bubble
- 13. Aloft
- 14. Lick
- 15. Possesses
- 16. Mimicking bird
- 17. Employ
- 18. Wound up
- 20. Behind bars
- 22. Put out
- 26. Military rank
- 30. Agave
- 34. Agenda
- 35. Fate
- 36. Chapel seats
- 37. Bullets
- 38. Pacts
- 40. Stingy people
- 42. Brew hue
- 45. Attuned
- 50. Heartache

- 51. Word of regret
- 55. Secret language
- 56. Malt brew
- 57. Cab
- 58. Gigantic
- 59. Slangy affirmative
- 60. Woolly females
- 61. Mine metals

- 23. Flavors popcorn
- 24. Night noise
- 25. Express
- 26. Fitness place
- 27. Large tree
- 28. Female sheep's mate
- 29. Elflike being
- 31. Honolulu garland
- 32. Have debts
- 33. Superman's emblem
- 39. Solicit
- 41. Extremely annoyed
- 42. Not here
- 43. Birthmark
- 44. Horn sound
- 46. Canyon sound
- 47. Thine
- 48. Hem
- 49. Poor grades
- 52. Canon
- 53. Lumberman's tool
- 54. Bro's sib

DOWN

- 1. Wind instrument
- 2. Formal dress
- 3. Lemon peel
- 4. Besides
- 5. Dad's partner
- 6. Poison
- 7. Commandment number
- 8. Hint
- 9. Promote
- 10. Lessen
- 11. Imitated
- 19. Game cube
- 21. Conform

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 995

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

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

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

Sudoku

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



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BIG BASKET (\$40)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vine Tomatoes (pack) | 9. Lettuce (Romaine) (organic) |
| 2. Baby Broccolini (organic) | 10. Cucumber |
| 3. Cauliflower | 11. Avocados (2) |
| 4. Strawberries | 12. Baking Potatoes (4-5) |
| 5. Spinach | 13. Bananas |
| 6. Cantaloupe | 14. Clementines (4-6) |
| 7. Zucchini (2) | 15. Oranges (3) |
| 8. Cremini Mushrooms | 16. Ginger |
| | 17. Mango (2) |

SMALL BASKET (\$22)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vine Tomatoes (pack) | 6. Avocado |
| 2. Baby Broccolini (organic) | 7. Cucumber |
| 3. Strawberries | 8. Lettuce (Romaine) (organic) |
| 4. Zucchini | 9. Oranges (2) |
| 5. Baking Potatoes (3) | 10. Bananas (3) |
| | 11. Mango |

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