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Christopher Skeete
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Ogilvy & De Castelnau passageway again blocked. SEE PAGE 11




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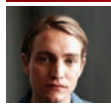
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Permanent residency for all immigrants

Hundreds protesters fill the streets of Villeray



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
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Hundreds of people took to the streets of Villeray on Sunday to demand that the government grant permanent residency to hundreds of thousands of essential workers and people on precarious immigration statuses.

The demonstration was organized by the United Refugee Council Canada and Solidarity Across Borders and demand the regularization of status for immigrants.

The event was attended by many people who are still unsure whether they will ever receive permanent residency status even though they have lived in Canada for several years and have worked hard for it.

"We immensely feel that the front and the back-line workers have the same amount of responsibility," read a statement by Chetan Rajpurohit, one of the organizers of the march, on the role of

immigrants in the fight against COVID-19. He added that they "must be regarded with the same dignity & equality."

Need for an equitable approach

Walking north on Christophe-Colomb Ave. accompanied by loudspeakers and a percussion section, demonstrators marched on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's constituency office on Crémazie. The group then made its way back to Villeray Park where it gathered for speeches and statements.

This comes after the federal government announced a program to regularize approximately 90,000 essential workers, especially those in the healthcare system. But the program is not open to Québec residents as the province has a separate immigration system.

The plan has also attracted criticism as it leaves out refugee claimants and those without status, as well as many who are not deemed essential workers, like those working in supporting services such as food delivery or industry.

Many want an equitable approach that will help all migrants achieve permanent residency,



Demonstrators marched on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's constituency office on Crémazie. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk NEWSFIRST

regardless of status or employment. "The rights of equality should be given to every immigrant," said Rajpurohit.

Visa expiry in two months

One of the protestors that day was Park Extension resident Mansim Ranjeet, who is currently on a student visa and studying early childhood education at Ahuntsic College.

He came here from India in 2018 and still doesn't know whether he will ever get permanent residency status.

"After two months it will expire," said Ranjeet of his student visa, worrying him about whether he will be able to stay in Canada. He added that participating in a protest like this one could help bring visibility to their cause.

"It can help because from the media they can see us, that we want PR and they can come to know," Ranjeet added.

Desire to contribute

Another person who was calling for more to be done to aid those with precarious status was 18-year-old Adler Chouan, an immigrant himself. He came to Canada from Haiti over 17 years ago and is now a citizen.

"I was lucky to grow up here and get my papers very early, but I find it sad that I have friends that still don't have them, and I've known them since elementary school," protested Chouan.

"I find it unfortunate that immigrants who come here for better living conditions and who work hard on minimum wage still can't get their papers after many years," deplored Chouan, saying that immigrants wanted to contribute to Canadian society.

"I would like the Trudeau and Legault government to see that we are here to help," he said, adding that "everyone deserves to be equal."

Will of the people

Borough mayor Giuliana Fumagalli and MNA for Laurier-Dorion Andrés Fontecilla were also present at the rally.

"All Montrealers are for the regularization," said mayor Fumagalli, adding that "status for all is a must."

In February, Fumagalli brought forward a motion at the city council asking both the provincial and federal governments to regularize the status of all immigrants. The motion was adopted unanimously.

"It is telling that we are here next to our Prime Minister's office, reiterating what all municipal councillors voted for. Status for all, solidarity," she stated to the crowd.

Invisible people

That sentiment was also echoed by local MNA for Québec Solidaire Andrés Fontecilla, who gave a speech in Villeray Park.

"There are two distinct classes who have access to all the rights and those with precarious or no status who live without the protections of the state, two classes of people," stated Fontecilla of the current immigration system.

"They live in anxiety that they may have to leave Quebec even if they are an integral part of this society," added Fontecilla, further demanding that both the provincial and federal governments broaden their immigration statutes.

"Immigrant workers have been on the front lines for the past year and they deserve recognition," said Fontecilla adding that "for too long immigrant workers have been invisible."

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Québec's grand reopening

Provincial government unveils its deconfinement plan



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The Legault government unveiled its COVID-19 deconfinement plan on Tuesday during its regular press conference. The plan will take place in a tiered fashion, slowly opening different sectors of society and concentrating on outdoor activities.

The government said they wanted to reopen gradually and make sure that the ground won against COVID-19 in the past months is not lost.

The reopening will take place over the next 6 weeks with 2 weeks intervals between progressive relaxation of measures. The provincial government hopes to see a complete return to normal by late August.

May 28: Curfew and restaurant patios

Starting May 28, the 9:30 PM curfew will be lifted across Quebec for all zones including Montreal. Residents will be able to be outside of their homes at night for the first time in over 5 months.

People will also be permitted to gather outdoors, in back yards or parks, given they respect the maximum of 8 people from different residences and that they maintain physical distancing.

This will be in addition to the reopening of restaurant patios across the province, allowing up to two people from two separate residences, along with their accompanying children who are minors, to go out for an outdoor meal.

Quebecers will also be allowed to travel between regions while cultural and sports venues will be allowed to host up to 2,500 spectators, given they respect certain health guidelines. Respecting certain guidelines, gyms will also be reopened as Montreal will change to an orange zone.

June 11: Indoor dining and bars

Two weeks later on Jun. 11, bars across the province will be allowed to reopen patio service and let people have a drink outside.

Two people from up to two separate households will be able to meet on a bar patio for a drink, as well as all residents of the same address.

That week will also mark the return of group sports. In Montreal, up to 25 people will be allowed to participate in outdoor recreational activities or sports, given they are supervised and without contact.

June 25: Indoor gatherings between vaccinated people

Jun. 25 marks the third step of deconfinement measures. Outdoor events and activities such as concerts and festivals will be allowed under certain conditions. These will be announced shortly.

Measures around the use of masks and physical distancing among fully vaccinated people for indoor gatherings will also be relaxed. This means people who have received 2 doses of a vaccine will be able to gather indoors without certain restrictions.

Outdoor stadiums will also see a relaxation of measures and will continue to receive up to 2500 spectators. Sleepaway summer camps will also reopen, allowing children to partake in stay-away summer activities.

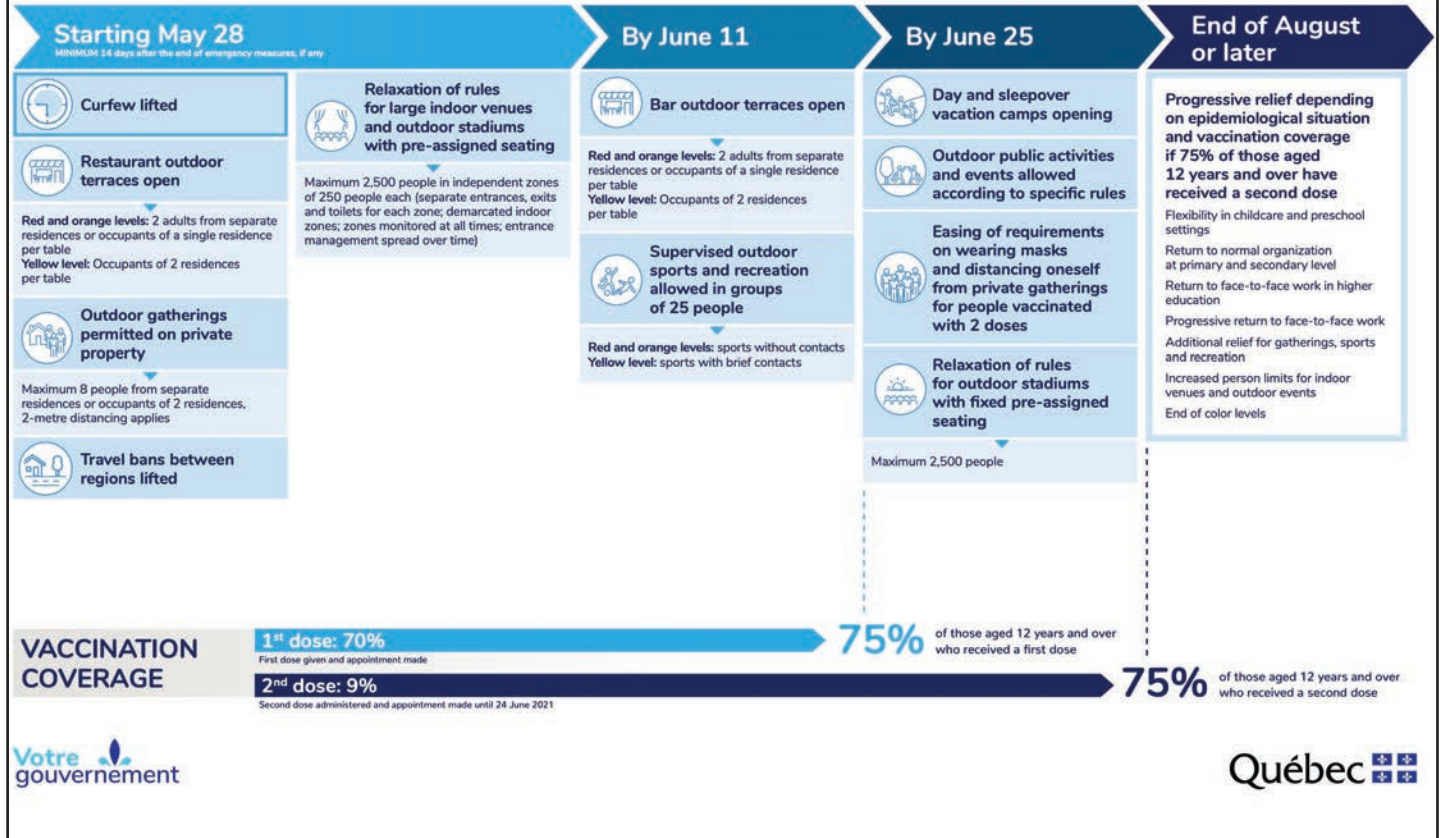
Rest of the summer

The government hopes that these measures will allow for newfound liberties and a more normal summer, all while maintaining the ground gained against COVID-19 over the past months.

Health authorities hope that by August, 75% of Quebecers will have gotten both doses of the vaccine. The province would therefore reach a sufficient level of collective immunity and warrant further relaxation of measures. 75% of Quebecers

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Reopening will take place over the next 6 weeks. Sectors will progressively open according to the government's schedule.

“Today we see that there is hope,”

have already gotten the first dose or have made an appointment.

Once this objective is achieved, primary and secondary schools will progressively reopen while CEGEP and university students will be able to return to in-person learning.

Office workers will also be able to return to in-person work and mask restrictions and physical distancing measures will be progressively lifted. Leisure and cultural activities will also be allowed and the colour systems between regions will be halted.

There is hope

The government sees vaccination as the ultimate way out of the crisis and the key to a return to normal life. “It’s a big day today – we’re taking a big step,” said Premier François Legault on Tuesday. “I can’t tell you how proud I am of Quebecers,” added the premier, saying that he was very happy with the uptake vaccines were having, especially among young people.

The government was hopeful that Quebecers could have a normal summer. “Vacciné, ça rime avec été et ça rime aussi avec petit party” Legault jokingly quipped.

“Today we see that there is hope,” said the Premier, “we can start to see each other again.”



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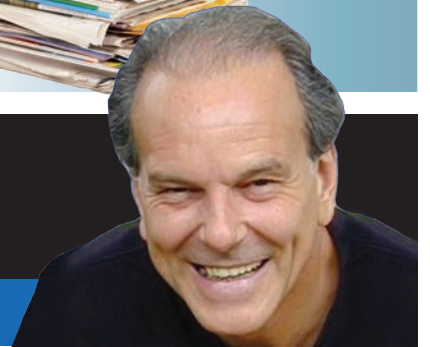
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OPINION & Editorial



THAT'S WHAT I'M THINKING

Robert Vairo

French Québec's "Inferiority Complex"

René Lévesque once told me "it's a sort of inferiority complex", in a discussion about the push back of his government over English domination. It was in the midst of a post interview discussion over Bill 101, when I was a reporter at CJAD. I was often sent to Québec City to interview the various PQ ministers, (some of whom, ironically were more bilingual than Robert Bourassa's Liberal ministers). And that also meant meeting up with Premier Lévesque. The program was called "Québec Report". The "inferiority" comment surprised me. I remember being so upset that I had not gotten that sound bite on tape. I doubt Lévesque would have uttered it on air.

No one separatist or sovereigntist, or Quebec nationalist would disagree with what Lévesque said, then or now. So, is this sense of French Quebec "inferiority" the same motivation today, or is it really about "linguistic transfer" - not sufficient immigrants "transferring" to French? Why is this debate never ending?

I ask because I hear the same rhetoric 45 years later. Especially in this Bill 96 addressing the use of French in the workplace, access to English CEGEPS, French only 'need apply jobs', applying the Charter to the number of employees in small businesses etc. It's all a repeat, but it's taken further now.

Lévesque at the time revealed in one my interviews with him that Québec was going to form its own constitution. Unlike the "inferiority" comment, this was indeed on air. And it made The CTV National News with Lloyd Robertson. I can still hear Lloyd, "A Montreal radio station reported today that Premier René...its own Quebec Constitution..."

Now the minister in charge of the Charter of the French Language, wants to change the Canadian Constitution. It's possible because the CAQ is getting help. Mr. Trudeau's Liberals, our Prime Minister is going to help get Bill 96 passed, by getting Parliament to consent. Have you noticed Ontario's Conservative Premier Doug Ford and Alberta's Conservative Premier Jason Kenney are the constant target of Justin Trudeau? The Prime Minister loves to divert attention, by squabbling with anyone who is not from his ideology, except Québec. Never has he criticized Québec. And that applies to all the marionette ministers. He is silencing negativity towards Quebec because after all, he is from Quebec, a member of Parliament from Papineau who needs to be re-elected, but more importantly because he needs to stop the Bloc. And he's having trouble doing it.

The Bloc (13 points ahead of Liberals among French survey-Leger) is the major obstacle for Trudeau to obtain a majority vote in the next election. That's one big reason why he says nothing to protect our English minority, nothing against the law on secularism, nothing on Quebec events like the

vandalism of the John A. Macdonald statue. But Trudeau will do what he can to get Bill 96 passed.

Suddenly it's not about Liberal ideology.

It's about votes. It's about power.

To be fair, they are all need to sway Quebec votes. The Bloc of course will support Bill 96. Conservative leader Erin O'Toole will support it because the West, the Conservative stronghold, will continue to vote for O'Toole. Frankly, the West does not care what happens to Quebec. And the NDP's Jagmeet Singh, after a disastrous fall from a high of 59 seats thanks to the Jack Layton days, will go with wherever the wind is blowing. He can not afford not to support Bill 96. It's all about votes.

They all just love Quebec, don't they? It's a 'sea of love'. And all federal leaders, Trudeau included, never miss an opportunity for a photo op with Quebec Premier Legault. Why? Because Legault is the most popular Premier in Canada right now. Legault's opinion poll rating is upwards of 60%. Every politician loves to rub elbows with a winner.

Many English-speaking Quebecers are angry and disillusioned, even betrayed by the Liberal party. They stayed, despite the PQ win of '76, despite the referendum of '80 and despite the second referendum that was almost lost in '95. Friends and family left. They stayed.

And now this.

Enough already.

Keep it all in mind when you prepare to cast your ballot at the next federal election. And when will that be? Well technically, the liberals could wait till October 16th, 2023, but they will not. It will be this year. Trudeau's free-spending budget is a clear sign. Besides, Mr. Trudeau is obsessed with having a majority government, so as not to have to deal with an effective opposition in the House of Commons. That is just the way he likes to rule. He will of course blame the opposition. "...the Conservatives' tactics have turned into obstruction. That must end," Liberal House Leader Pablo Rodriguez said in a statement to Reuters.

But make no mistake. The call for an election in large part, depends on the right conditions, like vaccine distribution in Canada. We are the only country in the world to disregard science and stretch out the period from first to second vaccine jabs to 16 weeks, claiming to maximize shots to as many Canadians as possible, Trudeau pretends to lay out "a summer when a vast majority of Canadians have received one dose...where we can see our loved ones and invite our friends over for BBQs"

Isn't that a wonderful uplifting liberal campaign platform!

"That's What I'm Thinking"

Robert Vairo

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Will the CAQ suffer the same fate with Bill 96 as the PLQ with Bill 22?

If you have lived in Quebec long enough, you may have come to realize that language and sovereignty are two issues that are never resolved here and probably won't be hundreds of years hence.

While some Quebecers may have been hoping that the two issues would be behind us by now, others with a little more insight may well have figured out that the scenario shaping up over Bill 96 is yet another example of history repeating itself.

Basically, the CAQ government is in a similar position to that of the Liberal Party of Quebec when the PLQ introduced Bill 22 in 1974.

For those who may recall, Bill 22 was the PLQ's belated response to mounting discontent among the French-speaking majority of Quebec over

the declining status of their language and culture within Canada and North America.

In spite of the Liberals' best intentions, Bill 22 failed to go over well, and the PLQ government fell in the 1976 election, in large part because the French-speaking majority saw Bill 22 as an insufficient measure.

Following the general election that year, the Parti Québécois formed a government for the first time, and in 1977 they introduced the Charter of the French Language, which was much more comprehensive than Bill 22, while raising greater objections than ever from Quebec's anglophone and allophone minorities.

Forty-four years later, the CAQ government faces an ironically similar dilemma. Too little too late for some, the proposed law doesn't quite manage to

please others, leaving both sides alienated. Which is exactly what split the vote and led ultimately to the Liberals' defeat.

If historical patterns prevail, and the CAQ government fails to please anyone in the revived language debate, Quebec's October 2022 election may see the current government leaving behind a permanent legacy as a one-hit wonder that held promise at the outset, but fell while trying to please too many people.

In the meantime, the Parti Québécois is waiting in the wings to begin beating an even more nationalistic drum, in anticipation of a renewed surge like the one that helped them form their first government in 1976.

MARTIN C. BARRY

Legault's anglo liaison Christopher Skeete goes to bat for Bill 96

CAQ government's Bill 101 update draws both praise and condemnation



MARTIN C. BARRY
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Despite concerns by anglophone interest groups over the possible infringement of freedoms and rights, Sainte-Rose MNA Christopher Skeete, Premier François Legault's liaison to Quebec's English-speaking community, is defending Bill 96, the CAQ government's proposed new law updating the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101).

Last week, the Legault government tabled a draft version of the legislation, whose broadest proposal would be to amend Canada's constitution by adding clauses to define Quebec as a "nation," with French as a single official and common language.

An historic Bill 101 update

While months of intense scrutiny and debate over the proposed legislation lie ahead, at the outset it is believed to be the most rigorous revision Bill 101 has undergone since 1977 when the Parti Québécois government, then in its first mandate, passed the Charte de la langue française.

That bill, in turn, extensively added to work that had been started by the Quebec Liberal government, when it enacted the ill-fated Bill 22 under the guidance of then-Premier Robert Bourassa, who was defeated in his own riding in the historic 1976 provincial election when the PQ was first elected.

Facing rising political pressure from Quebec nationalists, as well as academic and anecdotal evidence of the growing dominance of the English language in metropolitan areas while French declines, the Legault government seeks to raise the use of French generally, with increased emphasis on the province's work places.

Bill 96 highlights

Although still in its developmental stages, Bill 96 would include, among other things, the following measures:

- Making Bill 101 applicable to businesses with 25-49 employees as well as all federal workplaces;
- Making all commercial signage with non-French-language trademarks include a "predominant" amount of French;
- Establishing the maximum number of students attending English-language CEGEPs at 17.5 per cent of the overall Quebec student population. Anglophones would also be given admission priority into English CEGEPs;
- For the first time, French language training would be provided by Quebec to residents who aren't already obliged by Bill 101 to go to school in French;
- A municipality's bilingual status would be revoked if census data showed that English is the first language for less than 50 per cent of the population, unless the municipality decided to maintain its status by passing a resolution to conserve it;
- All provincial communications with immigrants would be in French, starting six months after their arrival.

Skeete defends Bill 96

Defending Bill 96 on CJAD last week, Christopher Skeete said, "I think if you look at what's being proposed, you see a deliberate attempt to show extreme deference to the English community. I'm talking about solving a historical problem, which has been the growing inability of English-speaking Quebecers to access the CEGEP



MNA Christopher Skeete

system. We're fixing that problem."

He also suggested that the CAQ government is showing "recognition that municipal autonomy needs to be used in order to protect the bilingual status of cities."

And he said English-speaking Quebecers are being granted "the right to learn French in order to be successful in Quebec, which solves a myriad of issues for the English-speaking community, notably accessing the civil service, getting better-paying jobs, fixing other types of access to the wider Quebec society. There are lot of good things in there for the English-speaking community."

'Overrides rights,' QCGN suggests

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) wasn't nearly as receptive to Bill 96.

"The Quebec Community Groups Network deeply regrets that proposed changes to the Charter of the French Language override fundamental human rights and will erode the vitality of our English-speaking minority community," the Montreal-based group said in a statement.

"The proposed legislative changes are more far-reaching than we could have ever imagined," QCGN president Marlene Jennings said, adding that the bill, "which invokes the notwithstanding clause throughout, puts the collective rights of French-speaking Quebec ahead of the fundamental rights and freedoms of individual Quebecers."

Jennings said that at a recent meeting by the QCGN with Jolin-Barrette, "the government had assured us its objective is not to take away or diminish the rights of English-speaking Quebecers, divide the two language groups, or act to the detriment of the institutions of the English-speaking community. Unfortunately, this bill will have the opposite effect."

'Unconstitutional,' says Jennings

The QCGN said it was "taken aback" that the government is proposing to unilaterally amend the Canadian Constitution to recognize the linguistic specificity of the Quebec nation. "That's a constitutional curveball we certainly were not expecting," said Jennings. "This is a fundamental shift in the Canada/Quebec relationship and one we believe is unconstitutional."

"This is a closed-in, narrow vision of a Quebec that is increasingly distancing itself from the rest of Canada," she added. "Stricter regulations for commercial signs and the imposition of the notwithstanding clause to supersede the rights

and freedoms of Quebecers represents a huge step backward that will create unnecessary conflict and division."

The QCGN, which represents up to 60 stake holding groups and organizations across Quebec, said it was also concerned about the plan to extend the application of Bill 101 to businesses with between 25 and 49 employees and the amount of red tape created by a fresh multitude of complicated rules and regulations.

Bad for business, QCGN says

"This bureaucratization will make it more difficult for small businesses to operate and flourish in Quebec, within Canada, and to build strong links with North America and the world," Jennings said.

"The government's priorities are ill thought out. Many businesses are struggling to stay afloat and the pandemic has had a devastating impact on small businesses in every region of this province. This is certainly not the time to make the lives of these hard-working merchants and business-people even more difficult."

However, Jennings said the QCGN "is certainly pleased that the government is widening access to French language training – a longstanding demand of our community, particularly from our youth." She called it "a positive and welcome step



'Unconstitutional,' says QCGN president Marlene Jennings

that will allow more English-speaking Quebecers to find gainful employment and remain in Quebec."

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L'Ombudsman de Montréal dépose son 17e rapport annuel Année record avec 2 150 dossiers traités dont 498 nouvelles enquêtes en 2020 Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension : 65 nouvelles demandes et 9 enquêtes

L'ombudsman de Montréal, Me Nadine Mailloux, a déposé le lundi 17 mai, au conseil municipal son rapport annuel (insérer hyper lien) pour l'année 2020. Présenté sous le thème Ici pour vous, le rapport fait état d'un nombre record de plaintes avec 2 150 dossiers traités incluant 498 nouvelles enquêtes dont 20 lancées à l'initiative de l'OdM, comparativement à 1 966 dossiers traités en 2019. Dans l'arrondissement de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension, l'OdM a traité 65 nouvelles demandes en 2020.

« La dernière année a été marquée par notre enquête sur les aménagements urbains de l'été qui, à elle seule, a regroupé quelque 300 plaintes, mais également par un vaste éventail de sujets traités. La majorité des nouvelles enquêtes, 316 sur 498, concernait des engagements prévus par la Charte montréalaise des droits et responsabilités, qui guide nos interventions depuis sa création en janvier 2006. », explique Me Nadine Mailloux qui, rappelons-le, est entrée en poste au mois d'août dernier.

Discrimination et exclusion

« À cet égard, nous entendons intensifier nos efforts auprès des partenaires et des communautés afin de réitérer notre juridiction en matière de discrimination et d'exclusion, deux principes fondamentaux de la Charte. Nous voulons ainsi rejoindre et tendre la main aux citoyennes et citoyens qui pourraient vivre de telles situations afin qu'ils aient recours en

toute confiance à nos services facilement et qu'ils comprennent que nous sommes là pour les aider. Le thème de notre rapport 2020: Ici pour vous, s'adresse tout particulièrement à ces personnes », ajoute Me Mailloux.

Les principaux sujets de plaintes

Les 1 992 dossiers ouverts en 2020 ont porté sur une trentaine de sujets différents. Parmi ceux-ci, les principales préoccupations concernaient : Travaux publics (239), Services aux citoyens (188), Zonage et urbanisme (154), Nuisances (107), Arbres, Jardins communautaires et parcs (102) ainsi que Stationnement et débarcadères (83). Au total, trois dossiers ont fait l'objet de 19 recommandations, dont un regroupant plus de 300 personnes. La diversité des dossiers traités est tout aussi éloquente que le nombre de sujets abordés et met en scène des citoyennes et des citoyens qui ont trouvé une écoute attentive à leur problème et, la plupart du temps, un dénouement favorable.

Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension : 65 nouvelles plaintes

Dans l'arrondissement de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension, l'OdM a traité 65 nouvelles plaintes qui ont mené à 9 enquêtes. Parmi celles-ci, trois se sont avérées fondées et réglées. Les principales préoccupations concer-

« La dernière année a été marquée par notre enquête sur les aménagements urbains de l'été qui, à elle seule, a regroupé quelque 300 plaintes, mais également par un vaste éventail de sujets traités. »

naient les sujets suivants : Travaux publics (27), Stationnements et débarcadères (17), Nuisances (15), Zonage et urbanisme (15) et Services aux citoyens – Communications, comportements, procédures et délais (7). Le délai de traitement moyen des enquêtes terminées en 2020 a été de 25 jours ouvrables.

À propos de l'OdM

L'OdM intervient sur plainte ou de son propre chef pour s'assurer que les citoyens soient traités avec respect, justice, équité et bienveillance par tous les intervenants de la Ville. Il offre également le seul recours disponible en vertu



L'ombudsman de Montréal, M^e Nadine Mailloux

de la Charte montréalaise des droits et responsabilités. Chaque intervention de l'OdM est une opportunité de promouvoir une culture axée sur la transparence et le respect, la qualité des services et des processus décisionnels justes et équitables.

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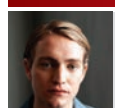


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pour se protéger et protéger les autres.**

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A fence goes up... again

Ogilvy and De Castelnau passageway once again blocked, causing frustration among residents



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

A fence was yet again erected at the passageway between Ogilvy and DeCastelnau last Thursday, blocking residents from both sides from crossing the tracks, frustrating many.

The passageway, which crosses over the train tracks at the Parc Exo station, allows Park Extension residents to reach Jarry Park and shops in Villeray and lets Villeray residents access the train and Metro stations.

The crossing has been at the center of long-standing legal battles between the city and Canadian Pacific, the owners of the tracks. The issue was ruled upon in 2019 by the Canadian Transport Agency in favour of the City of Montreal and is set for completion in September.

The new fence acts as yet another physical barrier around Park Extension, further contributing to the neighbourhoods' isolation caused by large arteries and adjacent train lines.

Residents frustrated

Residents from both sides of the track were visibly furious at the decision, which was taken unilaterally and with no prior warning by the metropolitan train operator Exo. Many took to social media to express their frustration.

While most were turned around at the fence and were forced to take the long detour along Jean-Talon street, others took matters into their own hands and scaled the barricade to get to the other side.

One of the disgruntled residents was Elizabeth Albert who lives close to the passage and uses it regularly. "There's no real use, the train passes but the gates close so it isn't necessarily about security," said Albert, adding that many residents depended on it as a shortcut.

"For someone who lives 100 metres away, it's a really big detour," added Albert of the access-

ibility to the EXO station, which she often uses to go to Saint-Jerome.

Easy solution

"This makes my blood boil," said Mary Deros, city councillor for Park Extension, upon seeing the newly erected fence. She has worked on finalizing the footpath over the tracks for close to 15 years.

Deros says that all that is missing to make the crossing safe is for the city center to pave the remaining section of the gravel path, only measuring about 4 by 8 feet. Note that this is not the jurisdiction of the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension.

"They can either remove this cement division, cut the fence and put asphalt," said Deros, further commenting that "you don't need a civil engineer to tell you how to do that."

"It is so simple to unite two areas of the same district to be able to cross over safely," she added in disappointment.

Decision made in a vacuum

In a statement, Exo said that the fence was an issue between the city and the Canadian Pacific and had been installed to ensure the safety of citizens. When reached for comment, Canadian Pacific referred back to Exo.

In a statement provided to CTV News, Youssef Amane, director of communications for Mayor Valérie Plante, said that Exo had made the decision in a "vacuum."

"We are very surprised by this about-face from Exo," said Amane, adding that they had done it "without notifying its partners."

The same was also said by Mary Deros, by city councillor for Villeray Rosannie Filato and by the borough mayor Giuliana Fumagalli, who all called out via social media the lack of consultation by Exo on the decision.

Electoral issue

Initially, the completion of the footpath was meant to go forward in December 2020 but was



The decision was taken by EXO to ensure the safety of residents and clients who had been using the crossing to cross the train tracks. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk NEWSFIRST

later pushed back to September 2021. Deros feels that this delay by the city's administration is for electoral reasons.

"We have elections on Nov. 7, so they're waiting, the city center is waiting," said Deros, adding that she feels they intend to make it an electoral issue.

"We did this for you just before the elections," said Deros on what she thought was the real intention for delaying the project, adding that it "doesn't make sense."

Nonetheless, the mayor Plante's office stated that they intended to "ensure that this passage not only re-opens but also that it is laid out in a safe and universally accessible manner."

Residents are those most penalized

Regardless of the political or logistical reasons behind the fence, citizens remain the ones bearing the brunt of an unpopular decision that will likely stay in place for the remainder of the summer.

"Park Extension is completely enclaved, it's ridiculous," said Liza Roy, a long-time Park Ex resident who was to turn around during her afternoon walk on Friday because of the fence.

"Why do we need to take a dangerous detour, go under a dangerous viaduct where cars pass at high speeds, just to go to Jean-Talon market. It would take 10 minutes through here," she



A small section of gravel at the crossing is all that's left to be paved in order to make the crossing safe. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk NEWSFIRST

decided.

"It really penalizes Park Extension residents," added Roy.

Note: The word "overpass" was used in a previous article on the Ogilvy/DeCastelnau crossing. This was a poor choice of wording as the path will remain a ground-level railroad crossing.



Many residents were greeted by a newly erected fence on Friday, separating the districts of Villeray and Park Extension. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk NEWSFIRST



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Cricket draws Jarry Park crew closer together Community sport brings mental and physical health relief to Park-Extension

JOE BONGIORNO
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The bowler winds up, leaps, and hurls the ball toward the batter with the acrobatic grace of a gymnast. The batter swings, sending the ball zipping between the rows of light poles and onto the grass by the swimming pool. For many residents of Park-Extension, especially during the pandemic, cricket is more than a game; it connects people to their community and improves their sense of well-being.

Neighbourhood spirit

This afternoon the pitch is a narrow stretch of the park flanked by pavement where cyclists whizz by. A handful of scattered spectators watch on, sitting cross-legged on the dandelions or standing with arms behind their backs.

Amol Uppal is one of the dozen cricket players. Although he used to play the sport regularly in his home country of India, he hadn't played cricket in his five years of being in Canada. But after a year of pandemic isolation, he decided to make the sport he grew up with a greater part of his life again.

"Our parents [used to play] cricket, our dads," he says. "It's kind of our heritage. We have a passion for cricket. Whenever we get a chance, we play."

Samir Singh, also from the Indian state of Punjab, has been playing since was 12 years old. "It means a lot to me," says Singh. "I love to play cricket."

The cricket crew plays on Sundays. "We're busy working all day, so we call each other [to play on the weekend]," Uppal says. "It's kind of like our party."

Most of the players are from Park-Extension, he says, and the pitches at Jarry Park are easier to maintain. "It's big and spacious."

Healthy distraction

Beyond getting together with friends in a safe setting, Uppal says the main reason why he started playing cricket is for the exercise. "We were stuck home, and there was no physical [exercise]. Cricket is a workout."

This winter the indoor cricket league season was cancelled due to the pandemic, says Singh. "We've been sitting home for the past year. With COVID-19, we cannot play [in the league]. We play with friends. We usually play with the club. We [couldn't] do it this year because of COVID."

But in addition to physical health, cricket plays a role in the community's mental well-being. "COVID has been very hectic for everybody," says Uppal. "[Cricket] is a kind of a diversion from everything because every day we hear news from India, and people are dying over there. [They are] not getting a proper amount of vaccines."

The Quebec government has stated the importance of sport to both physical and mental health. A 2017 policy report on physical activity, sport, and recreation by Quebec's Ministry of education emphasized the role of outdoor activities, including sports, in "prevent[ing] disease, improv[ing] social connectedness, provid[ing] economic benefits, and contribut[ing] to environmental sustainability."

While public health measures do not currently permit competitions or spectators, the rules allow for recreational outdoor sport as long as social



Cricket bowler winds up for the throw. Photo: Joe Bongiorno Newsfirst

distancing protocols are respected. According to the Quebec government website, "it is permitted to participate in outdoor physical activities provided that a minimum distance of at least two metres is maintained between individuals from different households at all times."

The business of cricket

Bhajooras Sukhdeo is the owner of Sukh's Cricket Store on Liège. Cricket bats dangle from the ceiling, visible through the storefront window.

"As soon as you turn six, seven, or eight years old, you start to play cricket because that was the game that you know growing up," says the store owner who grew up in the colony of British Guyana.

A lifelong player and fan, Sukhdeo says he misses the sport. "I haven't played at all this year," he says. "I miss [being] with the group, socializing, [and] playing."

But business isn't the same since the pandemic. Customers still come to have their bats repaired, or buy gear, but they are fewer in number, he says. "They buy less. They don't come because of the restrictions."

Final inning of the day

When the game is over, the cricket crew clears the pitch and gathers their gear. After games, the friends usually share a meal together, and today is no different. As they depart, a police car patrolling the park drives through where the pitch had been moments before.

Although Uppal has been playing Cricket for only the past few weeks, he is confident he will continue playing after the pandemic.

Sukhdeo is eager to return to his sport once victory is declared over COVID-19.



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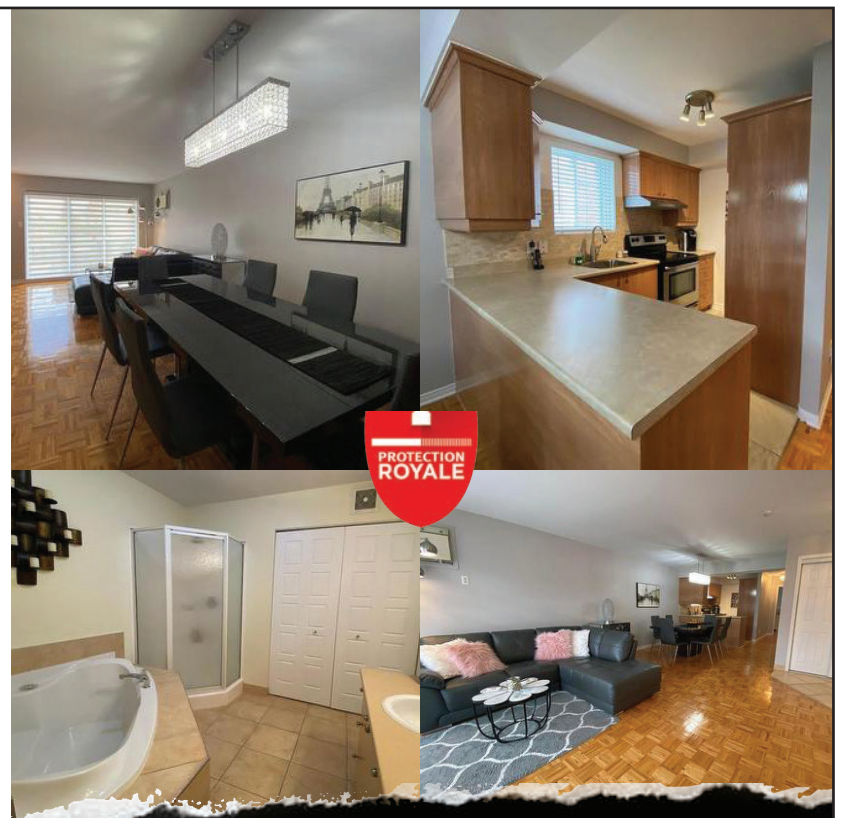
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AVIS DE RADIATION ET DE LIMITATION TEMPORAIRES



Ordre
des infirmières
et infirmiers
du Québec

Dossier
n° 20-20-00796

AVIS est par les présentes donné que, le 14 décembre 2020, le Conseil de discipline de l'Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec déclarait **Emmanuelle Folacci**, infirmière, titulaire du permis n° 215 1511, ayant son domicile professionnel à Montréal, dans le district judiciaire de Montréal, coupable de infractions suivantes, à savoir :

Entre le ou vers le mois de décembre 2017 et le 15 octobre 2018, au Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, s'est approprié, à de nombreuses reprises, des médicaments injectables, dont des narcotiques et des benzodiazépines, tentant de dissimuler ces appropriations par divers subterfuges, contrevenant ainsi à l'article 13 du Code de déontologie des infirmières et infirmiers, pour le chef 1;

Vers le mois de mars 2019, au Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, s'est approprié, à de nombreuses reprises, des médicaments injectables, dont des narcotiques et des benzodiazépines, tentant de dissimuler ces appropriations par divers subterfuges, contrevenant ainsi à l'article 13 du Code de déontologie des infirmières et infirmiers, pour le chef 2;

Entre les ou vers les 1^{er} et 18 septembre 2019, à l'Hôpital Notre-Dame du CIUSSS du Centre-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, s'est approprié, à de nombreuses reprises, des médicaments injectables, dont des narcotiques et des benzodiazépines, tentant de dissimuler ces appropriations par divers subterfuges, contrevenant ainsi à l'article 13 du Code de déontologie des infirmières et infirmiers, pour le chef 3;

Entre les ou vers les 12 et 22 novembre 2019, à l'Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont du CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, s'est approprié, à de nombreuses reprises, des médicaments injectables, dont des narcotiques et des benzodiazépines, tentant de dissimuler ces appropriations par divers subterfuges, contrevenant ainsi à l'article 13 du Code de déontologie des infirmières et infirmiers, pour le chef 4;

Entre les ou vers les mois de juin et de novembre 2019, a fait défaut de faire connaître à la secrétaire de l'Ordre le lieu où elle exerçait sa profession, contrevenant ainsi à l'article 60 du Code des professions, pour le chef 5.

Le 2 mars 2021, le Conseil de discipline imposait à **Emmanuelle Folacci** une radiation temporaire de neuf mois sur chacun des chefs 1 et 2 de la plainte, une radiation temporaire de onze (11) mois sur chacun des chefs 3 et 4, et une période de radiation d'un (1) mois sur le chef 5, ces périodes de radiation devant être purgées de façon concurrente.

Le Conseil de discipline imposait également à **Emmanuelle Folacci**, sur les chefs 3 et 4 de la plainte, une limitation temporaire de son droit d'exercice pour une période de vingt-quatre (24) mois à compter de son retour effectif à la profession d'infirmière, période au cours de laquelle elle ne pourra ni accéder, ni manipuler ni administrer des narcotiques ou autres drogues contrôlées.

Ces sanctions imposées par le Conseil de discipline étant exécutoires à l'expiration des délais d'appel, **Emmanuelle Folacci** est radiée du Tableau de l'Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec pour une période de onze (11) mois à compter du 8 avril 2021 jusqu'au 7 mars 2022 inclusivement.

Cet avis est publié en vertu des articles 156 et 180 du Code des professions (RLRQ, chapitre C-26).

Montréal, le 3 mai 2021

La secrétaire du Conseil de discipline,
Gabrielle Blais, notaire



PROGRAM AND EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

The Quebec Community Newspapers Association (QCNA/AJRQ) is seeking a **Program and Events Coordinator** to coordinate the Local Journalism Initiative Program and various QCNA events such as the Annual General Meeting and the Better Newspapers Contest. Other day-to-day office duties are also required.

WHO IS QCNA?

Since 1980, The Quebec Community Newspapers Association is dedicated to the professional and economic development of English community newspapers and their enterprises serving minority communities in Quebec. Recognized as the official representative of Quebec's official language community newspapers by the federal and provincial governments, the public, and by the vast majority of Quebec's community press whether independent, corporate, or not for profit, the QCNA is as unique as the members it serves.

Duties would include:

- Overseeing the Local Journalism Initiative Program
- Creating and developing project documentation in accordance with the project's documentation standards
- Helping journalists and recipients navigate the Portal access, including the reporting process
- Complete all reporting with appropriate documentation to be approved by GM
- Manage Google Drive data storage and update QCNA Website
- Coordinate with judges and contestants for the Better Newspaper Contest
- Improve the operations of the Better Newspaper Contest
- Coordinate the Annual General Meeting including webinars and guests
- Assist in event preparation
- Answer phone and email enquiries and help with other office duties as needed

We are looking for someone who is self-motivated and self-disciplined, has excellent communication skills, can work independently but is team-oriented, and is dedicated to contributing to the growth of the English language community media sector in Quebec. Preference will be made to those who are bilingual and have a track record in applying for government grants.

The QCNA office is located in Gatineau, Quebec.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to: info@qcna.qc.ca

In Memoriam & Obituaries

After you're
GONE

Funerals. Burials. End-of-life services.

Green burials: how death is becoming more environmentally friendly

Increasingly, people who adopt ecologically sustainable practices during their lifetime are forgoing traditional burial practices in favour of those that are more environmentally friendly. Here's what you should know.

Natural burials

Traditional burial practices rely on coffins and urns that release toxic chemicals into the soil. Plus, the carcinogenic compounds used in embalming and treating wood are likely to end up in the water table.

In contrast, natural burials are interment practices that return the deceased's body to the Earth with a minimal amount of environmental impact. They use either biodegradable shrouds, or coffins made of cardboard or untreated pine wood.

If cremation is preferred over burial, biodegradable urns that grow a tree can be used.

Eco-friendly cemeteries

An increasing number of cemeteries are eliminating environmentally damaging practices, such as using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to maintain their grounds. Many are also opting to use small, flat grave makers made of locally sourced stones or plants instead of large headstones.

If you want to be buried in such a graveyard, you'll have to respect fairly strict rules. For instance, some green cemeteries prohibit the use of coffins altogether, or won't allow embalmed remains to be interred on their grounds.

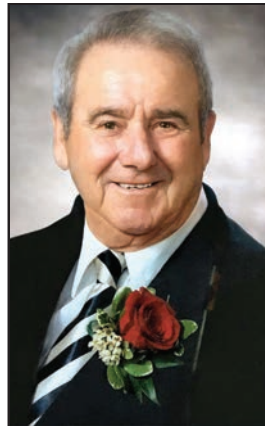
In order to help limit carbon emissions, it's also common for these places to restrict the ways bodies can be transported to their final resting place.

If a natural burial is right for you, consider pre-planning your funeral to ensure your wishes are respected.



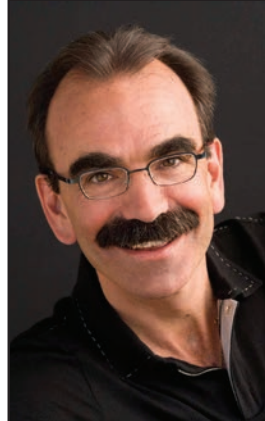
LANGLOIS, Richard
1947 - 2021

In Montreal, on May 13, 2021, at the age of 73, Mr. Richard Langlois passed away. He was the son of the late Laurette Brunelle and the late Marcel Langlois. He is survived by his wife France Thauvette, his children Marie-Pièrre (André) and Denis, his grandchildren Vanessa (Danny), Moëra (Simon), Steven (Dave) and Coralie, his great-granddaughters Emy, Léana, Maïna, Charlotte, Aby and Letty as well as the children of his wife Jessica, Dave and Kevin.



PATERNOSTRO, Vito
1935-2021

In Sunday, May 16, 2021, Lord VITO PATERNOSTRO passed away from the affection of his loved ones at the age of 86. Lord Vito leaves his wife Carmela Guerrera Paternostro in pain, his children Rodolfo (Dominica) and Marco (Carmen), his grandchildren Erik (Deborah), Michael (Nehal), Francesca and Luke, his great grandchildren Ella-Rose and Dante Vito and others relatives and friends. Due to the circumstances, the funeral rites will be celebrated in the intimacy of the immediate family.



GUILBAULT, Marcel
1954 - 2021

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Marcel Guilbault on May 16, 2021. He died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. Marcel will be deeply missed and always cherished by his wife, Sally; his children, Stephanie (Neil), Nadia (Jean-François), Olivier (Katherine) and Catherine (Andrew); and his grand-daughters (Alexandra, Laurence, Alexandra, Raphaëlle and Joséphine).



LAMENTA, Iolanda
1934 - 2021

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of Iolanda Lamenta on Monday, May 17, 2021 at the age of 86. Wife of the late Dragutin Hribar and predeceased by her sister Maria, brother Filippo and brother-in-law Salvatore. She will be sadly missed by her loving children Nick (Maria), Mario (Anna), Paula (David), her cherished grandchildren Kristen, Breem, Daniel, (Alexandra), Jordan, Sabrina, Marissa, nieces Lisa, Ely (Mark), Giovanna, Silvana (Fernando), nephews Carmelo (Angie), Robert (Joanne), Marco (Marissa), sister Amalia, sister-in-law Carmela, brother-in-law Nicola, as well as other relatives and friends.



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HOROSCOPE

Week of MAY 23 TO 29, 2021

The luckiest signs this week:
CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES



ARIES

You'll be feeling irritable and overly sensitive. Perhaps radical changes are afoot. You may need to strengthen certain areas of your life to put you on solid ground.



TAURUS

Your love life will be the focus of your attention this week, including planning your future as a couple. If you're single, you'll be actively seeking a romantic partner.



GEMINI

Your health will be a priority. You might commit to a new lifestyle that will prove quite effective. It won't be long before you see results, and you'll inspire others to make similar changes.



CANCER

You'll stand out from the crowd at work or elsewhere. You'll be proud of a rather daring feat, which will increase your leadership abilities. Mars in your sign will give you strength.



LEO

You'll spontaneously decide to buy or sell a property. You'll find a place that better suits the needs of your family, even if it's slim pickings and you wait until the last minute.



VIRGO

You'll have a lot of ideas to share, or you'll give a speech that will be well received. You'll get help from people who know how to solve complex financial problems.



LIBRA

You'll have a lot of shopping to do this week. Keep an eye out for good deals, or try to negotiate a better repayment plan for any loans so you can pay less interest.



SCORPIO

It'll be a busy week, and you'll set in motion a number of projects that inspire you. It's only by going after your dreams that you can accomplish great things in life.



SAGITTARIUS

A loved one might need your help. Also, health concerns or fatigue could slow you down. Take some time to recharge and improve your well-being.



CAPRICORN

You'll expand your social circle and your professional network. You'll be responsible for a large-scale event that will be a huge success despite numerous restrictions.



AQUARIUS

You'll find yourself with a long list of personal and professional obligations. If you have young children, you'll be involved in their end-of-year school activities, which will make them very happy.



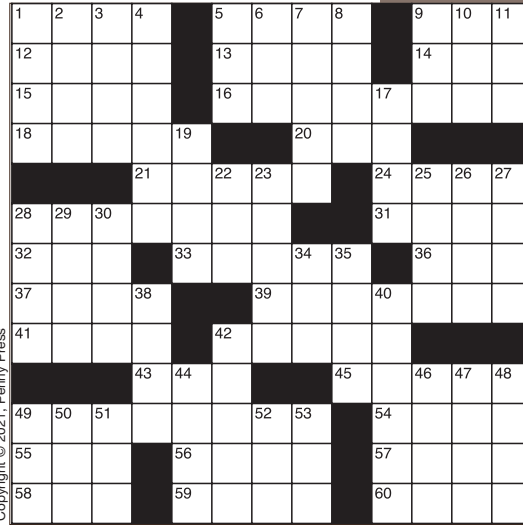
PISCES

The time has come to plan your next vacation; treat yourself to a luxurious trip. There will be a lot of details to consider, especially if several people want to come with you.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 1007



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ACROSS

- Mispronounce
- Military installation
- As well
- In the past
- Verbal
- Wise bird
- Leading actor
- Hated
- Remedy
- Mouse chaser
- Cut
- Refs' kin
- Insect home
- ___ citizenship
- "___ Whom the Bell Tolls"
- Exercised
- "A Tale of ___ Cities"
- Powerful particle
- Clear to see
- Perform again
- Heroic
- Rowboat need
- Moray fisherman
- Most questionable

- Long skirt
- Greedy person
- Do a fall chore
- Sermon topic
- Mama sheep
- Rind
- Go out with

- Nailhead
- Trim
- Entirely
- Trickier
- Speechless
- Chess piece
- Bank opening
- Off at a distance
- Observe
- Trampled
- Ms. Peron
- Go off the high board
- Attitude
- Considered
- Hiatus
- Put on ___ (act snobbishly)
- Volcano's output
- Door sign
- Agitate
- This girl
- In what way
- Mature, as wine
- Jump or lift
- Toe count

DOWN

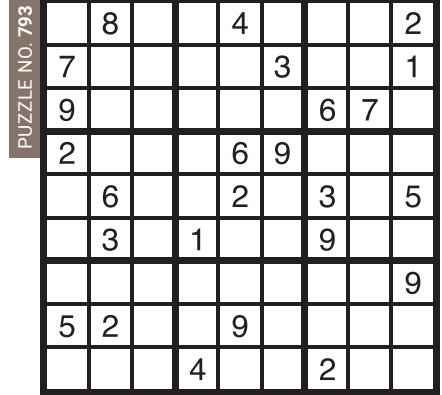
- Didn't win
- Involved with
- Look over quickly
- ___ the thought
- Atlantic food fish
- Exist
- Equal
- Not guilty, e.g.
- Small child
- Be obliged to pay
- "The ___ Curiosity Shop"

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

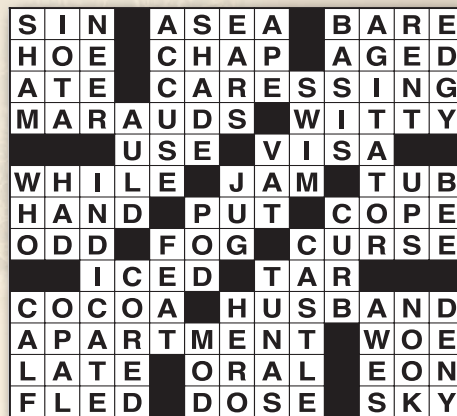
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**

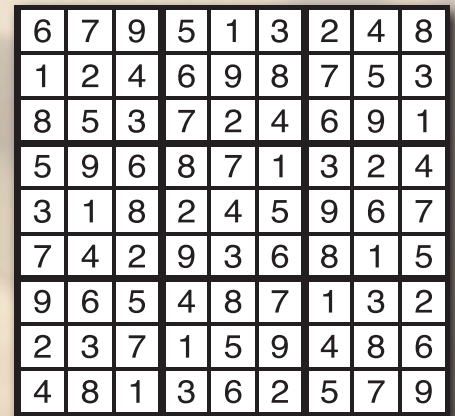


Last Issues' Answers

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Sudoku



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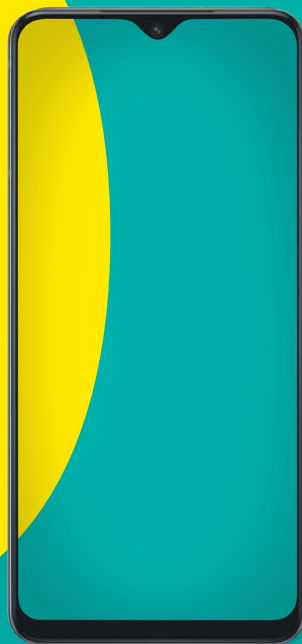
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