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UMQ warns CAQ not to disturb 'linguistic peace' with Bill 96

Uncertainty whether some bilingual municipalities will be keeping their status

MARTIN C. BARRY l ocal lour n Initiative Reporte For The Laval News marty@newsfirst.ca

While saying they agree generally with the CAQ government's Bill 96 to strengthen Quebec's French Language Charter, the Union of Quebec Municipalities is advising the provincial government to tread carefully so as not to disturb the "linguistic peace" in municipalities that have bilingual status under the current charter.

The UMQ presented its brief on Quebec's controversial new language legislation last week to the National Assembly's Committee on Culture and Education.

Bilingual status issue

Although neither the summary of major points nor the conclusion in the UMQ's brief referred to the bilingual status issue, item one in their document stated that "the measures foreseen in new articles 29.2 et 29.3 appear to be satisfactory since they will allow them [municipalities] to maintain this status.

"They will thus be able, based on our of the proposed legislation, to continue to offer services in English to their Anglophone population as they do currently." The UMQ presently has around 30 members which are recognized by Quebec as having bilingual status.

Questions Rosemère's status

While the CAQ government pledged early on to continue allowing bilingual status in municipalities where it is warranted by at least 50 per cent English-speaking residents, there is concern the government may fine tune some elements of Bill 96's final draft, potentially impacting currently bilingual municipalities where the number of Anglophones has fallen well below half.

Although several Committee on Culture and Education members raised small points about the UMQ's brief, Parti Québécois MNA for Matane-Matapédia Pascal Bérubé was much harsher in his scrutiny.

"So, you find it acceptable that a municipality that has only 12 per cent Anglophones can have bilingual status?" he said, referring to the Town of Rosemère on Montreal's North Shore.

Employment issues

UMQ president Daniel Côté (who is the mayor of Gaspé in Quebec's Gaspésie region) said that based on the currently prevailing rules, which include recognition of an acquired right, he had no problem with it, if the municipality itself wishes to retain its bilingual status.

Bérubé continued, "If I were to suggest to you that I have here in front of me an employment offer from a municipality that has 12 per cent Anglophones and that is demanding bilingualism as one of three conditions for employment that ended last Aug. 20, do you still find that acceptable?"

Municipal autonomy

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Côté answered, "From the point of view where we strive as much as possible to preserve municipal autonomy, while also respecting other linguistic requirements of course, it is municipal autonomy that gets priority, as far as I am concerned."

Bérubé pointed a finger at a second Montrealarea municipality that has bilingual status -Town of Mount Royal.

While maintaining that TMR's Englishspeaking population now stands at 18 per cent,



UMO president Daniel Côté upheld officially bilingual municipalities' right to operate in two languages.

he noted (again citing a recent employment offer) that in order to get a job with the town's public security department, applicants are asked to be proficient in spoken and written English.

'Unacceptable,' said Péquiste

After Côté confirmed again that bilingual municipalities have the legal right to operate like this, Bérubé commented: "I don't know whether it's linguistic peace you're out to preserve or peace in your organization.

"But as concerns us, municipalities that have less than 20 per cent [English] in their population and that want to demand knowledge of English for employment, this is an obstacle. This is unacceptable in Quebec.'

In its brief, the UMQ, representing 85 per cent of the population in municipalities across Quebec, recommended that Minister Responsible for the French Language Simon Jolin-Barrette allow the province's towns and cities an adjustment period so that they can conform to new measures after Bill 96 is passed.

Impact on city contracts

In another recommendation, the UMQ expressed concern that new language requirements applying to municipal administration might lead to the automatic cancellation of certain major contracts awarded by municipalities should the wording of the contracts (some of which might be with suppliers outside Quebec) fall short of new French-language requirements spelled out in Bill 96.

In their brief, the UMQ also expressed concern that an overly rigorous language law restricting the use of English could potentially harm people who are vulnerable.

Impact on the vulnerable

'In as much as it is our wish that the entire population can communicate easily in French with their municipality, this is unfortunately not yet possible for a number of people, notably for those who have arrived more recently in Quebec or who are older," the UMQ brief stated. "They can run into significant difficulties in understanding certain administrative documents, leading them to call the municipality to obtain information?

Regarding the impact of Bill 96 on administrative matters in municipalities, the UMQ noted that Section 1 of the proposed law would allow the provincial government to demand the annulment or the suspension of the execution of any outsourced contract that didn't meet Bill 96's more exacting French language standards.

Coderre promises to make de L'Acadie safe

Ensemble Montreal announces plan to rebuild a "dangerous urban highway"



The announcement was made by mayoral candidate Denis Coderre, borough mayoral candidate Guillaume Lavoie and sitting city councillor for Parc-Extension Mary Deros. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK matias@newsfirst.ca

Ensemble Montréal candidates gathered on Tuesday morning at Centennial Park on Saint-Roch street to announce a plan that would work to rethink and rebuild de L'Acadie Boulevard. They hope the overhaul would make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists while better integrating the neighbourhoods of Parc-Extension and the Town of Mount Royal.

"Anyone who's has eyes can see that a citizen to the west side is obviously much more favoured than one on the east side," said borough mayoral candidate Guillaume Lavoie a mere two blocks from one of the cities busiest arteries. "Our vision, our goal is that there'll no longer be a visible scar there," he added.

The announcement was made by mayoral candidate Denis Coderre, borough mayoral candidate Guillaume Lavoie and sitting city councillor for Parc-Extension Mary Deros. "I was talking to police officers earlier who told me that this is more like a highway. It's really dangerous. When you go from the Rockland center to here, it's hell," stated Coderre.

If re-elected, Ensemble Montréal promises it would work towards making the boulevard more pedestrian-friendly and also remove the fence which has long separated the two neighbourhoods.

Two realities

There are many areas in Montreal that you can see with your own eyes that there is a lack of love for certain neighbourhoods and certain citizens, but I don't think that there are many places that it is as evident as on de L'Acadie boulevard," stated Lavoie. "For me, this is a symbol of social inequities," added former mayor Denis Coderre.

Although no specific plans have yet been put forward, Ensemble Montréal said they would reduce the speed limit to 40 km/h, plant trees on both the middle and side medians and work with the Town of Mount Royal to remove the fence which has long attracted controversy.

"Ville Mont-Royal protects itself with a green wall and a fence so that their families can be safe," said city councillor Mary Deros. "But the kids and the families of Parc-Extension have always been in concrete without any trees," added Deros.

"De L'Acadie has always been just concrete, so it's a project that I am welcoming with great joy," explained the City Councillor.

Should have been done earlier

For her part, current borough mayor Giuliana Fumagalli welcomes any effort at greening streets and making the city more livable. "We need to be able to make de L'Acadie a street where people feel safe and where we actually have more green space so that we don't have heat islands," said Fumagalli.

The mayor nonetheless questioned why de L'Acadie had only now become a priority for Ensemble Montréal and asked why city councillor Deros had not tackled the issue sooner.

"Why does it take them almost 25 years to work on de L'Acadie when they had lots of opportunities and 25 years to actually do something?" she asked, adding that she felt it would advantage residents of Town of Mount Royal (TMR) the most.

"You know what the mayor of TMR wants to do, he wants to take the fence down and he wants to put in a bicycle lane on de L'Acadie. But guess on what side of de L'Acadie? On the TMR side," stated the mayor, adding that it was meant to facilitate access to the metro for TMR residents.

Linear park

In an interview conducted by TVA Nouvelles, mayor Philippe Roy stated he would be open to the idea of taking down the fence, but said this was conditional on appeasing traffic on the boulevard.

"The fence is the result of something. This is the result of the construction of Boulevard de l'Acadie in Montreal, which is a six-lane highway in a residential area," stated the mayor, reminding people it was built for the security of local families. The final decision also rests with his municipality as the fence is on Town of Mount Royal property.

"The fence could be turned into something much more contemporary such as a linear park or a bike path," said Roy to TVA Nouvelles,





The plan promises the removal of a controversial fence that has long separated the two neighbourhoods Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST



The street that some have called a dangerous urban highway Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

mayor will look into solving the matter and

adding "if Montreal is willing to review the development of de L'Acadie, I don't see why the fence would stay in place?

Mayor Roy is not running for reelection in the fall but told LaPresse that he hopes the next

mmission scolaire English-Montréal

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that the city center will cooperate. "We have constantly brought forward ideas on our side over the years, but each time we did not have a follow-up from the city center," added Roy.



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QPINION Editoria



Democracy in action? Voting: is it a decision based on informed rational thought or a subtle insidious act of seduction?

Do politicians evoke ambivalent, often wrong indefensible feelings in the unwashed masses?

"He's better looking in real life!" A spontaneous remark from a woman seeing the Liberal MP leader in the flesh for the first time, brightened up the day's campaign trail, but for the observer (me), it also throws some light on to how voters form judgements about politicians.

The sensible way, surely, to come to a decision is to read the party manifestos, platforms, and promises they make but hardly ever keep, and policies only they know the meaning of, and to make matters worse, they seldom explain their plans for the universal solvent of elect us and we'll bring you to Utopia.

Failing that, there's a substantial supply of election news as well as websites promising to match your values with what the parties are offering. But who said that we're rational beings? Setting aside individuals who earn a living listening to politicians, mainly journalists and economists, most people probably don't read manifestos or carefully digest interviews with politicians. Of course, many people keep across the news - but how many of us could recite each party's position on controlling eliminating the deficit, like the rest of us have to do with our meager family financial resources taxed beyond morality?

Trying to understand why we vote the way we do has kept sociologists busy for decades. There are theories that we vote according to social class, tribal loyalties to a party or because of strong ideological beliefs. It could simply be a matter of self-interest - that we'll be "better off" with one party's policies over another. No one theory can explain the complicated business of voting preference.

Seems like many theories are losing relevance. The prime thing now is the perceived competence and perceived responsiveness of the politician. You shouldn't underestimate looks, either. It's not about physical attractiveness, it's more about how they look under pressure. There's a crude rule of thumb operating. Voters have a gut reaction to politicians. Why do we say we "like" or "dislike" certain politicians we've never even met? Is it relevant if a politician has odd mannerisms or a grating voice? Does it matter how a politician makes us feel?

For those of us old enough to remember the days of Pierre Trudeau and Robert Stanfield/Joe Clark – think of proud charismatic sensual strong-willed Pierre wiping the floor with rational intelligent successful but dull and boring Robert and meek and much too humble Joe, but at least this Joe was not sleepy, just dull and boring. Throw in the Harpers, Scheers, and O'Toole of our recent national crisis, against the appeal of the cute superficial and errant but unpunished cute guy, and what do you get, another minority government and another \$600 million into the deficit.

In the third millennium, Canadian politics is becoming increasingly personalized. Appearance and character play too big a role in voters' decision-making. There's nothing new about image-conscious politicians, but what has changed is the amount of attention they get. Makes me wonder if politicians are responding to ideas about voting behaviour.

A lot more thought goes into the psychology of a campaign partly because we know a lot more about what makes voters respond. Furthermore, if a politician can evoke fear in people about something they will start to pay closer attention to it. For example, taxing the sale of your principal home. Good politicians know these things by instinct.

Also, going for the safe choice can create a culture in which, to a casual observer, politicians look and sound the same. Think of our main party leaders. In talk, they're cut from similar cloth – practiced, well-versed and youngish despite overt differences of skin-deep beauty, colour of skin, height and weight, facial and head-top accoutrements, ethno-origin, radical thinking, and absence of linguistic dexterity.

It makes sense for your lead candidate to be easy on the eye so he can get the message over. Image is very important because people take in an immediate perception and it's important that you ensure that perception isn't negative. If politicians can project an image people feel comfortable with, they stand a better chance of being listened to.

When it comes to personality, voters are mainly looking for competence - but also integrity, leadership and warmth. Thinking and feeling go hand in hand. In any decision-making, including political decisions, how people feel about the information they're being given is important. Emotions help people make decisions. It's an unpredictable world. What people are trying to do is assess someone's character, how they respond to unexpected events. That's a perfectly reasonable aspect of voting.

Alas, for a politician struggling to come across well, the good news is that initial impressions can be shifted. The bad news is that negative information tends to stick in voters' minds more than positive information. The people who know a lot about politics will take facts and policies into account. People who are less engaged will form a view based on feelings and general impressions.

Elections, with the relentless media focus on politics, do provide more time and space for politicians to convey their personalities - for better or worse. While it's generally safety first for voters, being too boring can work against aspiring representative and leaders - so add a bit of excitement and a dash of hope.

When it comes to the vagaries of human nature, as we all know, it's difficult to always, if ever, get it right.

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Quebec shouldn't seek 'sovereignty by the back door,' says Julius Grey

Is disturbed neither National Assembly opposition nor Ottawa have questioned Bill 96

'Bill 96 and its

Constitution

amendment may

well be one of the

instalments' leading

towards Quebec

sovereignty,

says Julius Grey



MARTIN C. BARRY Local Journalism Initiative Reporter For The Laval News marty@newsfirst.ca

In *Bill 96: The perils of 'pensee unique'* published in the Toronto-based Lawyer's Daily on May 26 this year, Montreal constitutional lawyer Julius Grey wrote that "Those who consider the proposed Quebec constitutional amendment to be purely declaratory with

no effect are confusing the content of the amendment with its insertion into the Constitution."

Pensée unique?

Perhaps not everyone is familiar with the term pensée unique. When Grey uses it, he is, according to an online encyclopedia, referring to a disparaging expression for mainstream ideological conformism, which is invariably opposed to the views of a dissenting individual.

The expression apparently was popularized by French

editor and journalist Jean-François Kahn in the early 1990s, perhaps as he was trying to describe what his English-speaking counterparts had come to refer to as "political correctness." This, in turn might be understood as a very narrow state of mind that dominates all of an individual's or a society's thoughts and actions.

No one questions Bill 96

In his piece, Grey maintains that "we have become a society of *pensée unique* on controversial questions," as illustrated by some of the pieces of legislation tabled in the National Assembly lately, and he finds it "disturbing that

none of the opposition parties in the National Assembly or the four major federal parties has questioned Bill 96 or even its constitutional change."

While suggesting that under these conditions some really serious crisis could break out without there being so much as a debate, he said it was to be hoped that Quebec's and Canada's judiciary would feel less constrained by "pensée unique," or political officials' need to win seats in elections, so that they might "strike down the amendment

down the amendment and declare that the Constitution of Canada continues to apply in its entirety." No one disputes 'nation'

Noting that the House of Commons in Ottawa and the National Assembly in Quebec City both now are in agreement on the idea that Quebec is a "nation" and no one (except perhaps, we might add, a certain

English-language school board official) is seriously disputing it, Grey goes on to suggest that Quebec society now does indeed resemble such national states as Denmark or Poland.

Although he says one advantage that "nation" status might confer on Quebec is the right of self-determination, he added that "by itself, the recognition of national status adds nothing concrete." He says that "Support for nationalism is rooted in 'identity' not in logic. Whenever 'national' concessions are granted they bring no real advantage to those in thrall to nationalism, except perhaps some leaders."



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Montreal human rights and constitional lawyer Julius Grey notes that no major elected official in Ottawa or in Quebec City has raised any red flags about the Quebec government's proposed Bill 96.

The Bill 96 instalment

He theorizes that many Quebec sovereignists "now see independence as possible only on the instalment plan," and that "Bill 96 and its Constitution amendment may well be one of the instalments." Finally, while noting that Canada obtained its independence similarly in stages, spaced many decades apart at each stage, he speculates that "if such is the goal of the Quebec government, it should state it frankly and openly and not seek sovereignty by the backdoor. All Canadians of both languages deserve that."



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Coderre promet de rendre de L'Acadie plus sécuritaire

Ensemble Montréal annonce un plan pour réaménager une «autoroute urbaine dangereuse»



Des candidats d'Ensemble Montréal se sont réunis mardi matin au parc du Centenaire sur la rue Saint-Roch pour annoncer un plan qui réaménagerait le boulevard de L'Acadie. Ils espèrent rendre l'artère plus sécuritaire pour

réaménagerait le boulevard de L'Acadie. Ils espèrent rendre l'artère plus sécuritaire pour les piétons et les cyclistes, tout en intégrant les quartiers de Parc-Extension et de la Ville de Mont-Royal.

« Quiconque qui a des yeux peut voir qu'un citoyen du côté ouest est beaucoup plus favorisé qu'un citoyen du côté est», a déclaré le candidat à la mairie de l'arrondissement Guillaume Lavoie, à seulement deux blocs de l'une des artères les plus achalandées de la ville. « Notre vision, notre objectif est qu'il n'y ait plus cette cicatrice visible », a-t-il ajouté.

L'annonce a été faite par le candidat à la mairie de Montréal Denis Coderre, le candidat à la mairie d'arrondissement Guillaume Lavoie et la conseillère municipale de Parc-Extension Mary Deros. « Je parlais avec des policiers tantôt qui me disaient que c'est plus qu'une autoroute. C'est vraiment dangereux. Quand tu vas du centre Rockland jusqu'ici, c'est l'enfer, » a déclaré Coderre.

Ensemble Montréal promet de rendre le boulevard plus sécuritaire pour les piétons tout en retirant la clôture qui sépare depuis longtemps
les deux quartiers si ils sont élus. « Il y a beaucoup d'endroits à Montréal où ça se voit à l'oeil nu qu'il y a un manque d'amour pour certains quartiers et un manque d'amour pour plusieurs citoyens, mais je ne pense pas qu'il y ait beaucoup d'endroits où c'est plus évident que le boulevard de l'Acadie », a noté M. Lavoie. « C'est pour moi le symbole justement des iniquités sociales », a ajouté l'ancien maire Denis Coderre.

Bien qu'aucun plan précis n'ait encore été mis de l'avant, Ensemble Montréal a indiqué de vouloir réduire la limite de vitesse à 40 km/h, planter plus d'arbres aux abords de la route et de vouloir travailler avec Ville Mont-Royal pour retirer la clôture qui a longtemps attiré la controverse.

« Ville Mont-Royal se protège avec un mur vert, avec une clôture pour que leurs familles soient en sécurité», a noté la conseillère du district Mary Deros. «Mais les enfants et les familles de Parc-Extension ont toujours été dans le béton sans arbres», a-t-elle ajouté.

« Sur de L'Acadie c'était toujours du béton, alors c'est un projet que j'accueille avec grande joie », a expliqué la conseillère.

Un problème de longue date

De son côté, la mairesse de l'arrondissement Giuliana Fumagalli salue tout effort visant à verdir les rues et à rendre la ville plus vivable. « Nous devons être en mesure de faire de L'Acadie une rue où les gens se sentent en sécurité tout

Le plan promet de retirer la clôture controversée qui a longtemps séparé les deux quartiers. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

en créant plus d'espaces verts pour réduire les îlots de chaleur », a-t-elle noté.

La mairesse s'est néanmoins demandé pourquoi tout d'un coup ce boulevard devenait un enjeu important pour Ensemble Montréal et pourquoi la conseillère Deros n'avait pas abordé le dossier plus tôt.

« Pourquoi leur faut-il près de 25 ans pour travailler sur de L'Acadie alors qu'ils ont eu plusieurs opportunités et de 25 ans pour le faire? » a-t-elle demandé, ajoutant qu'elle estimait que cela profiterait beaucoup plus aux résidents de Ville Mont-Royal.

« Vous savez ce que le maire de Mont-Royal veut faire, il veut retirer la clôture et aménager une piste cyclable sure de L'Acadie. Mais devinez de quel côté de L'Acadie? Du côté de Ville Mont-Royal!», a précisé la mairesse, rajoutant que leurs objectifs étaient de faciliter l'accès au métro pour les résidents de la municipalité voisine.

Parc linéaire

Dans une entrevue réalisée par TVA Nouvelles, le maire de Mont-Royal Philippe Roy s'est dit ouvert à l'idée de retirer la clôture, mais a précisé que cela était conditionnel à l'apaisement de la circulation sur le boulevard.

« La clôture est le résultat de quelque chose. C'est le résultat qu'on a construit à Montréal le boulevard de l'Acadie, qui est une autoroute de six voies dans un quartier résidentiel », a déclaré le maire, rappelant qu'il a été construit pour la sécurité des familles locales. La décision finale revient également avec sa municipalité puisque la clôture est son territoire.

«La clôture pourrait être transformée en quelque chose de beaucoup plus actuel; on pense à un parc linéaire, ou à une piste cyclable, » a indiqué Roy à TVA Nouvelles. « Si Montréal est disposé à revoir l'aménagement de l'Acadie, je ne vois pas pourquoi la clôture demeurerait. » Le maire Roy n'est pas candidat à une réélection à l'automne, mais a déclaré à LaPresse qu'il espère que le prochain maire cherchera à résoudre le problème et que le centre-ville coopérera. « Nous avons constamment avancé des idées de notre côté au fil des ans, mais à chaque fois, nous n'avons pas eu de suivi du centre-ville », a-t-il rajouté.

2021









QESBA asks CAQ government to drop 'notwithstanding' sections from Bill 96

'You don't believe there is a decline in French,' language minister tells Anglo school boards



MARTIN C. BARRY

In a brief presented by the Quebec English School Boards Association to officials in Quebec City last week during public hearings on the CAQ government's controversial updating of Bill 101, the QESBA recommended that several sections of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms be removed from Bill 96 when invoking the "notwithstanding" clause.

Not by infringing

"The Quebec English School Boards Association and our nine English language school boards believe in the need to promote and protect the French language in Québec and indeed throughout Canada," QESBA president Dan Lamoureux and executive-director Russell Copeman said in the 16-page document they tabled.

"We were the pioneers of French immersion, bilingual programs and now what we call Français Plus. We ensure the success in French for all our students and prepare them to live and work in Québec with pride.

"But that protection and promotion should not be done by setting aside the fundamental rights of Quebecers, nor by infringing on the rights of the English-speaking community of Québec. We ask that the government reconsider some of the provisions of Bill 96."

'Never been more French'

Although the QESBA acknowledged that the French language is in a minority position in Canada and North America, and that the QESBA recognizes that legislative, regulatory and collective efforts are needed to protect and promote French in Quebec and Canada, they said they felt compelled to observe, while citing corroborating statistics, that by many





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From the left, QESBA president Dan Lamoureux and executive-director Russell Copeman delivered the association's brief with recommendations on Bill 96 in Quebec City last week.

measurable criteria "Québec has never been more French than today."

As well, the brief continued, "the protection and promotion of the French language in Québec should not be done by infringing on the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms," nor "at the expense of the rights of English-speaking Quebecers and their institutions, including our Constitutional rights to control and manage our school system by virtue of section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

A basic incompatibility

Regarding Section 159 of Bill 96, which unilaterally amends Canada's Constitution Act of 1867 by adding sections stating "Quebecers form a nation" and "French shall be the only official language of Québec" and "the common language of the Québec nation," the QESBA said "this section of Bill 96 seems to be incompatible with section 133 of the Constitution Act 1867 which allows bilingualism in the Québec legislature and in federal and Québec courts." In addition to these claims, the QESBA maintained that proposed new restrictions in Bill 96 on eligibility for English schooling could adversely affect enrolment in the Anglophone system and discourage foreign nationals from moving to Quebec.

Impact on enrollment

Bill 96 seeks to amend the Charter of the French Language to specify that Englishlanguage education certificates for dependent children of foreign nationals temporarily living in Quebec will apply for three years only. Under the present system, the certificates can be renewed as long as the status of the parent remains unchanged.

Although the amendment would affect only foreign nationals, the QESBA asked the government to scrap the clause because of the potential effects on already dwindling enrolment in the English school system. They said it would also hurt Quebec's ability to recruit foreign talent.

QESBA mute on French decline

Quebec Minister Responsible for the French

Language Simon Jolin-Barrette asked Copeman whether the QESBA recognizes that the use of French in Quebec has been declining. "We are not demographers or sociologists," Copeman replied, basically repeating what the QESBA stated in its brief.

"As we stated in our memo, we will not get drawn into a discussion on the relative decline of French ... Are there situations on the island of Montreal? Are there situations elsewhere? Possibly, but this is not our area of expertise. We are here to talk about the impact of Bill 96 on the school network."

French threatened, said minister

Jolin-Barrette persisted. "So, as I understand it, you don't believe there is a decline in French," he said. "Because in Quebec society now, there is quite a bit of consensus to the effect that effectively statistical studies demonstrate – whether it's the OQLF or the Conseil supérieur de la langue française – that there is a decline in French and that French will continue to decline if no measures are taken.

"So, I understand that your organization is not specialized in demographic data. But does your organization acknowledge this decline?" Copeman suggested he had little choice but to give approximately the same answer to what was essentially the same question rephrased.

And the Quebec Nation?

However, the Minister Responsible for the French Language hadn't finished. Noting that the English Montreal School Board (the largest member of the QESBA) had recently denied in a resolution the idea of Quebec being a nation, Jolin-Barrette said he was curious to know what the QESBA thought of that position.

"I think that even as the chairman of the English Montreal School Board himself admitted, the initial resolution was ill-advised," Copeman responded. "This is a conclusion that we share. And the council of commissioners at the English Montreal School Board manifestly came to the conclusion that the resolution was ill-advised, because they annulled it. So, for me that's the end of the story."









Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi at William-Hingston Centre

People of all creeds gather to celebrate the day of love and peace



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The sound of drums and singing resonated throughout the halls of the William-Hingston Centre last Sunday, when dozens of Parc-Extension residents gathered to celebrate Eid-Milad-Un-Nabi, otherwise known as the day of love and peace.

Organized by the Himalaya Seniors of Québec and the Pakistan Organization of Quebec, the event hosted upwards of 60 people in a celebration of love, peace and coexistence.

The event was also attended by several local politicians and dignitaries, including Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli, city councillor Mary Deros, along with the Consul General of Pakistan in Montreal Ishtiak Ahmed Akil.

Although an Islamic religious event, the general public was invited and people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds were in attendance to celebrate, in what organizers said was the spirit of the event and a good representation of the social makeup of Parc-Extension.

Day of love and peace

The celebration is a recurring annual event organized by the Himalaya Seniors of Québec organization. "We started 20 years before and every year we are doing the same event, the day of love and peace," said Nizam Uddin, general secretary of the Himalaya Seniors Association.

"We call from the Jewish community, from the Christian community, from other Hindu communities," explained Uddin, underlining the multi-religious nature of the event. "Usually they take part and make speeches," added Uddin.

"It's a very multicultural event," said Uddin, nonetheless underlining that the ongoing pandemic forced them to make the event smaller this year. In previous years, Uddin said that there had been upwards of 200 people, whereas this year they had to limit capacity to 80 people maximum.

The celebration included songs, music and stories about the Prophet Muhammad and an explanation of how Islam is a religion that fundamentally espouses the philosophies of love and peace.

"The Prophet Muhammad is the best messenger, best prophet, the best of mankind, but he was a human being," explained the event's master of ceremonies, before breaking into song with a group of 10 singers and musicians.

Parc-Extension as a microcosm Among those in attendance for the celebration



The event was organized by the Himalaya Seniors of Québec and the Pakistan Organization of Quebec. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST



The celebration included songs, music and stories about the Prophet Muhammad. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

were local politicians Mayor Giuliana Fumagalli and City Councillor for Parc-Extension Mary Deros, who both gave speeches to those gathered.

"Nizam and the Himalaya Seniors have been promoting love and peace since I can remember," said Deros. "We have communities from 115 different regions from all over the world," she added, underlining how Parc-Extension was the perfect example of coexistence between different people.

"We are Montrealers, we are Canadians, and if you're not a Canadian yet, then you will be soon," concluded Deros, thanking the organizations behind the event and all those in attendance.

Need for community action

Mayor Fumagalli also spoke to the crowd of people celebrating, mentioning that she too was the daughter of immigrants and that everyone could aspire and become a meaningful productive player in their community.

"So when we come here to celebrate peace and love, it goes beyond just the words love and peace," stated Fumagalli, adding that people had to do their part to change the community



"We started 20 years before and every year we are doing the same event, the day of love and peace," said Nizam Uddin, general secretary of the Himalaya Seniors Association.

they lived in for the better. "We have to actually translate that into actions," she underlined.

Fumagalli said that such action needed to be geared towards changing the unfortunate realities of many people in the borough, including the rampant lack of access to adequate and affordable housing, systemic racism and problems regarding the integration of immigrants. "This is what I mean by peace and love, working together, supporting each other, and growing as a community, sharing as a community," she said.



"We only have one planet

Thousands take to the streets to demand action on climate change



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Thousands gathered at the foot of Mount Royal last Friday, Sept. 24 to demand that politicians around the world take decisive action to address the ongoing climate crisis. It was one of the many climate demonstrations taking place both in Canada and around the globe that day.

Organized by *Pour le Futur Montreal* and *The Racial Justice Collective*, the demonstration attracted thousands to the George-Étienne Cartier Monument before the group walked down Parc Ave. and through downtown Montreal holding up placards and chanting slogans.

Although mainly concentrated on the climate crisis, the demonstration tackled several different issues. "The climate crisis does not exist in isolation," read a statement put out by the organizers. "It is tied to and is amplified by other crises such as racism, sexism, ableism and class inequality," they continued.

Most attending the march wore masks and did their best to social distance in the crowd of thousands. Protestors of all ages waved signs with slogans such as "#uprootthesystem" and "we only have one planet."

Greta Thunberg

The annual demonstration originated with Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's first climate strike in 2018 when she walked out of her classes in protest of the climate crisis. Many soon followed in her footsteps, creating a global environmental movement in the process.

"They created the hashtag #FridaysForFuture, and encouraged other young people all over the world to join them," said *Pour le Futur Montreal*'s spokesperson in an interview with CTV News.

"Their call for action sparked an international awakening, with students and activists uniting around the globe to protest outside their local parliaments and city halls," continued the organization. "Along with other groups across the world, Fridays for Future is part of a hopeful new wave of change, inspiring millions of people to take action on the climate crisis."

Wide-ranging demands

Although it was clear that their demands were varied in scope and breadth, the organization behind the protest released several key policy The demonstration attracted thousands to the George-Étienne Cartier Monument before the grow walked through downtown Montreal. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST.

demands they wanted to see governments put in place.

"An immediate end to all fossil fuel production and exportation," was one key demand put forward by the group, in addition to financial compensation for workers in polluting industries to make up for the potential loss of employment.

"Enhanced and expanded protection of natural environments, and restoration of damaged ecosystems," was another of their major demands, adding that this could be achieved by diminishing people's general material consumption.

Their policy recommendations were also economic, with activists demanding a push towards the retrofitting of houses and apartments to be more eco-friendly and the reduction of the workweek in order to "reduce the consumption of material goods and allow more time to dedicate to family, community, sports, preparing healthy meals, tending to vegetable gardens, etc."

Largely peaceful march

Given a large number of people in attendance at the protest, the accompanying police presence was also heavy, including several riot control units and a helicopter.

There were three arrests made over the course of the protest. These included different situations involving alleged mischief, making threats and assault on a police officer. One person was also seen tearing down Ensemble Montréal election posters on Parc Ave. and Sherbrooke.

"So three arrests were made by the Montreal Police Department side, no one was injured, and at this moment the protest is now over," said SPVM spokesperson Jean-Pierre Brabant to CTV News.

Regularization of immigrants

Although not directly related to the topic of the march, organizers were also calling for the regularization of status for all immigrants and



refugees as well as the defunding of the police. "According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, 24,9 million people were forced to migrate due to climate change in 2019," read part of their statement, adding that accepting refugees is part of guaranteeing climate justice.

The groups also called for funds that are currently going towards policing to be reallocated to address the factors that lead to crime. "Within the context of the climate crisis, where

heat waves, floods, pandemics, etc. are increasingly frequent, it is essential that everyone has access to services that allow them to lead a better life, as opposed to receiving punishment that does nothing to address the root problem," concluded the statement.

Natural processes

Edouard Hipollyte is a recently graduated environmental geographer and was one of the many people who took part in the march last Friday. "It's a problem that everyone has a stake in," he said.

"My path in environmental geography made



me understand that climate change was a lot more complex than I thought it was before," he explained, clarifying that the scientific processes contributing to climate change are completely natural but are severely accelerated by human activity.

Although he appreciated the intersectional nature of the varying messages at the rally, he also felt it somewhat lacked direction. "It's important to have focus," said Hippolyte, explaining that activists needed to know who they were talking to so they can tailor a concise and convincing message

"Seeing as we are responsible for these problems I believe we're also able to make the necessary changes," he added, underlining that he felt optimistic at solving the challenges ahead. "Going to these gatherings helps you realize your part of a movement and helps diminish your anxiety towards it."



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Working from home has its perks but for some people, it can be more challenging to remain on task. Here are some tips for being efficient, productive and motivated if you work from home.

1. Have a fixed schedule

To stay focused when working from home, many people benefit from having a fixed schedule that reflects the average nine-to-five workday, complete with the standard coffee and lunch break. Having a set schedule also means truly logging off when the workday ends. Let your colleagues know when you'll be reachable.

2. Invest in your office Working from home is much more pleasant and productive when you have a good work setup. Get the furniture and equipment you need to work in comfort. An ergonomic chair and desk are essential, as is good lighting. In addition, now may be the time to invest in that second monitor, those noise-cancelling headphones or that fancy espresso machine.

3. Stay in touch with colleagues

For many people, the lack of face-to-face interaction with co-workers and clients is one of the main challenges of working from home. Find ways to stay in touch with your colleagues, whether it's through videoconferencing, telephone calls, online messaging or the occasional in-person meeting.

The most important thing is to figure out what works best for you, as everyone has their own style of working. Don't be afraid to try different approaches, and don't get discouraged if it takes time for you to find your groove.

How to avoid hiring the wrong candidate

Poor recruitment practices can cost a business a lot of money. Here are some tips for weeding out unsuitable candidates and finding the best person for the job.

Be clear about your expectations

Your job posting should be as precise as possible. Include the qualifications and experience you require from the candidate, the tasks the job entails and,

if applicable, the duration of the employment contract. This will help to limit the number of applicants and attract the talent that truly meets your company's needs.

Verify candidates' qualifications

Ask technical questions and administer aptitude tests to ensure that candidates have the skills and qualities they profess to possess. In addition, be sure to check up on their references in order to form a better idea of their past job performance and personality. If they have no references, that's a big red flag!



Watch out for "job hoppers"

Hiring and training new staff is costly, so be on the lookout for people who switch from one job to another on a regular basis. Frequent job changes and gaps in candidates' resumes are possible indicators of a lack of commitment.

Once you find the person you want to hire, consider instituting a trial period before you fully bring them on board. At the end of this interlude, both you and the new hire will be free to continue or terminate the collaboration.

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SAINT-MARTIN

In Memoriam & Obituaries



Surviving the loss of a parent

Usually, the parents are the first to go. More often than not, unless a sickness or an accident alters the normal course of things, the children must mourn their parents. However, mourning the people who gave you life, the people you love who taught you everything, is never easy and it can change a child forever.

An intimate bond is broken with the loss of a mother or a father. With such a strong attachment, the sorrow can be extremely difficult to overcome. Shedding tears, being sad and heartbroken, are normal and essential steps in the mourning process. The grief of an orphaned child is one of the greatest hardships in life.

It is strongly suggested that you share your pain with the people close to you. Only by living through your grief can you overcome it. Feeling angry and frustrated, or relieved and at peace, are other feelings that some will experience. If your loved ones were suffering or if you lost them in an event that you feel was unfair, it is quite normal to experience a range of emotions. However, mourning and grief are always unique and personal.

> Sharing your memories with the people who are still here and talking about the beautiful moments you shared together is one way to overcome your anguish. Psychological support can help you get through the difficult days, months, or even years.



Campeau, Denis 1945 - 2021

À Montréal, le 27 septembre, à l'âge de 76 ans, est décédé Denis Campeau, époux de Florentine Fortin. Outre son épouse, il laisse dans le deuil son fils David-Eric (Geneviève Vigneault), ses petits-enfants Francis (Catherine Daigle-Roy), Joey (Catherine Dupuis) et Loryan ainsi qu'autres parents et amis.



Patel,Babubhai 1941-2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Babubhai PATEL at the age of 79.



Bélanger, Denise 1944 - 2021

In Legardeur, on September 26, 2021, at the age of 77, passed away Mrs. Denise Bélanger. She is survived by her children Steeve D'Amours, Marie-Josée D'Amours (Benoit Decelles), her grandchildren Anthony, Charlie, Alexi, Marjorie, her brother Gaston Bélanger (Diane Bourassa) and many other relatives and friends.



Butcher, Real 1941- 2021

In Montreal, at his home, on September 22, 2021, at the age of 79, passed away Mr. Réal Boucher. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Suzanne Fontaine, his sons Michel (Karine) and François Boucher (Émilie), his grandchildren Marilyne, Élizabeth, Mathieu, Nicolas, Sabrina, Aurélie, Loïc, Lucas, Antoine and Félicia, his great-grandchildren Hadrien, Damien, Abigaëlle and Mégane, his sister Denise and his brother Jean-Serge Boucher other relatives and friends



Honor and celebrate life in accordance to your traditions, values and customs, while easing your experience during the difficult moments.

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HOROSCOPE Week of OCTOBER 3 TO 9, 2021

The luckiest signs this week SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS AND CAPRICORN

ARIES

At work, you'll gather your colleagues or clients to-gether for the exciting occasion of signing a large contract or ending a conflict. When it comes to mat-ters of the heart, you'll receive a sign of commitment. If you're single, you'll be coveted.



TAURUS

Your work or health will be front of mind. In either case, you'll resolve the issue and take big strides to improve your circumstances going forward. In your love life, an important conversation will help you get your emotions in order.

I GEMINI

You owe it to yourself to invest in some self-care. You'll be applauded for one reason or another and put on a pedestal. You'll have a lot to be proud of. As for matters of the heart, you need to be more consistent about turning passion into affection.

$\left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \right)$ CANCER

Happiness is within you. When you find it, the joy will radiate from your heart throughout your home, to family and other loved ones. It's sure to spread. Every day has its share of happy moments.

6 LEO

You'll have a lot of running around to do, both for work and your personal life. You'll have your concerns about social contact, but basic hygiene measures will help. In your love life, the words you use will be a re-flection of your emotions.

Mb) VIRGO

You'll double down on your efforts at work, which will allow you to generate some extra income. Your zeal will lead to a promotion from your boss. Additionally, remember to be generous in your love life and you'll receive the same in return.

Ω LIBRA

There's a lot happening around you. Not only will you find yourself with a massive workload, but many ac-tivities will be added to your social calendar at the last mi-nute. You'll find the right balance between leisure time and your responsibilities.

M. **SCORPIO**

This week, the atmosphere will be rather ambiguous. You might try to paddle against the current, but it's best to just let it guide you to safety. Stress will force you to listen carefully to what your body tells you.

SAGITTARIUS

You could make a few new friends online or expand your network of contacts. It won't always be easy to balance your work and family life with such a busy schedule. What you need is to better manage your time.

CAPRICORN

You'll struggle to finish an overwhelming amount of work in multiple areas of your life. You'll manage to complete everything on time though. A bit of fun will put a smile on your face; treat yourself to a co-medy show or something similar.

AQUARIUS

You'll organize a lovely getaway at the last minute. You'll be in the mood for a learning experience, which will inspire you to pursue a new and exciting career. You'll explore new horizons as you break out of your routine.

(\mathcal{H}) PISCES

Your soul is full of passion and dreams, and your ideas are beyond words. To make your desires a reality, you'll need to be determined and bold. Don't try to please everyone, but rather build your world as you envision it.

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku

contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box

few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a

the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

HOW TO PLAY:

PUZZLE NO. 096 ACROSS Wednesday Not this Rot uns Take off, as clothes Service charge

13 Roomy 14. List of dishes 15. Roofing material 17. Breakfast flakes 18. Type of snake 19. Remorse 21. Bridge payment 24. Milky stone 26. Lacking moisture

27. Hunch 28. Zeroes in

- 30. Make ready to publish 31. Lodging house
- 32. Scored on serve
 - Boat'
- 39. Finished dinner
 - - 9. Got word

5.

7.

8.

6. Citrus beverage

Urban problem

Land

45. Game tile with dots 47. To each his 49. Yoked beasts 50. Salad-bar items 55. Ice arena 56. Female wool-givers 57. Noah's transport 58. Wraps up 59 Printer's term 60. Cheerful DOWN Fore's opposite Ocean 3. This lady 4. "____ the night before . . ." African animal, shortly

e Break

10. Become a member of 11 Powderv 16. Roof of the mouth 20. Popular street name 21. Hitch 22. Unusual 23. Hawaiian necklace 25. Group of judges 29. Parlors 31. Spurned 33. Dirty Harry, e.g. 34. Abel's mother 35. Cozy place 37. ____ Quixote 39. Revere 41. Change, as text 43. Sing like the Swiss 48. Sharp-witted 51. Admiration

- 52 Witch 53. Historical epoch 54 Heaven
- 2 3 9 7 8 1 5 4 9 4 5 6 9 5 4 2 8 1 7 3 5 1 9





40. Poison 46.Signs

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