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# The securing of alleys in VSP

## A report on ongoing measures

**DIMITRIS ILIAS**

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Alleys in the Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension (VSP) borough serve multiple functions, from providing access to residences to being spaces where neighbours interact and children play. However, these diverse uses can sometimes come into conflict, particularly when vehicle traffic poses risks to pedestrians and cyclists. To address these issues, the borough has implemented a strategy aimed at securing alleys and managing traffic to ensure safety while maintaining accessibility.

The primary goal of alley security measures is to limit through traffic and reduce vehicle speeds. With these actions, the borough hopes to protect residents, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, from potential hazards. The initiative is part of VSP's broader traffic-calming strategy, which aims to create

safer, more peaceful neighbourhoods by reducing the impact of non-local traffic and encouraging slower driving in residential areas.

The alleys prioritized for these measures are selected based on several key factors. Those near schools, daycares, or parks are given special attention due to the higher concentration of children in these areas. The borough also responds to direct requests from residents, and specific alleys have been identified during consultations held in the Parc-Extension, central VSP, and eastern sectors. In addition, the presence of children, citizen-led initiatives, nearby bike paths, high levels of vehicle traffic, and the width of the alley are considered in the decision-making process.

In practice, securing an alley often involves closing one of the entrances to prevent through traffic from using it as a shortcut. This is typically done using planters, flexible bollards, or concrete barriers. These solutions are intended to discourage non-resident drivers from entering while still allowing access for those living nearby. By controlling traffic in this way, the borough seeks to balance the need for safety with the practical considerations of local access.

It is important to note that this initiative is not without challenges. While residents generally support efforts to make their neighbourhoods safer, some have raised concerns about the potential inconvenience caused by restricted access. There is also the question of long-term maintenance of the barriers and whether the current measures will be sufficient to address more entrenched traffic issues. The borough will need to monitor the effectiveness of these interventions and make adjustments where necessary.

The measures being implemented in VSP's alleys are part of an ongoing effort to address traffic-related concerns raised by residents. These actions reflect broader trends in urban planning aimed at improving pedestrian safety and reducing reliance on vehicles in residential areas. As this strategy continues to unfold, it will be important to assess the impact on both the safety and accessibility of alleyways in the



borough.

While the security measures aim to reduce risks associated with vehicle traffic in residential alleys, their success will depend on continued community involvement and responsiveness to

local needs. The borough's strategy represents a step toward safer neighbourhoods, but ongoing evaluation will be necessary to ensure these measures are effectively addressing the concerns of VSP residents.





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# OPINION & Editorial



## Billions of litres of milk wasted while families go hungry

*Our outdated dairy supply management system is failing the environment, and Canadians*

Canada's dairy system is drowning in waste – up to 10 billion litres of milk discarded over the past decade. This isn't just inefficiency; it's a shocking mismanagement of resources that doesn't fit with today's environmental priorities or changing consumer preferences. The system is broken, and it's time for serious reform to stop squandering billions of dollars worth of milk and resources that could be better used.

Since 2012, Canadian dairy farms have wasted over six billion litres of milk, with some estimates suggesting the figure could be closer to 10 billion litres over the last decade. That's milk valued at up to \$14.9 billion, gone down the drain – literally. This massive waste, highlighted in a study set to be published by the Ecological Economics journal, exposes a dairy supply management system (DSMS) that's completely out of touch with today's market demands and environmental realities.

The DSMS was designed to perfectly match milk supply with consumer demand through production quotas, theoretically eliminating waste. Unlike other countries where overproduction is common, Canada's system was supposed to provide stability and efficiency. But that's not what's happening. Instead, farmers, incentivized to overproduce to hedge against variable cow lactation, are flooding the system with excess milk that ends up being thrown away. The environmental cost of this waste is

staggering. The production of this wasted milk has devoured between 920 and 1,900 square kilometres of arable land and guzzled between 930 million and 1.9 billion cubic meters of water. That's on top of 8.4 million tonnes of CO2 emissions – equivalent to adding 330,000 cars to Canada's roads. In a world increasingly concerned with water scarcity, land degradation, and the fight against climate change, this is nothing short of a catastrophe.

And it's not just about environmental harm. The DSMS also ignores the fact that Canadians' dietary preferences are shifting. More people are choosing plant-based alternatives for health, ethical, and environmental reasons. Meanwhile, food insecurity is rising, with more Canadians turning to food banks to survive.

How can we justify throwing away billions of litres of milk while families go hungry?

The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC), the crown corporation that oversees these quotas, needs a drastic overhaul. For starters, milk waste on farms should be made illegal. The CDC should also implement a milk rescue program, converting surplus milk into powdered form for strategic reserves, much like it does with butter. This wouldn't just cut waste – it would create a safety net for times of market fluctuation, ensuring that surplus milk benefits Canadians instead of becoming an environmental and moral liability.

The time for change is now. First, transparency in the DSMS must be increased. The U.S. dairy industry has systems in place to document and report milk waste, and Canada should follow suit. This would help provide an accurate picture of the problem and encourage more responsible practices.

Second, it's high time to rethink the quota system. It's based on outdated assumptions about the indispensability of milk, and it no longer reflects the realities of today's dietary landscape. Quotas should be adjusted to accommodate the growing demand for plant-based alternatives, moving Canada toward a more sustainable agriculture system.

Finally, exporting surplus milk could be a temporary fix, but it must be done carefully to avoid creating dependency on volatile global markets – something that could sabotage long-term sustainability goals.

If politicians are so eager to defend Bill C-282, which would protect supply management during future trade negotiations and is facing resistance in the Senate, they should also be willing to start an honest conversation about how to make the system work for all Canadians – not just the dairy sector elite

It's time to stop crying over spilled milk and take concrete action to prevent it from happening again.

*Dr. Sylvain Charlebois*

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# A colourful tribute

*PONY's new mural graces La Maison Bleue in Parc-Extension*



## DIMITRIS ILIAS

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A vibrant new mural now adorns the walls of La Maison Bleue in the Parc-Extension neighbourhood, adding a splash of color and a message of solidarity to the community. The artwork, a collaboration between renowned artist PONY and muralist Julien Sicre, was completed by the team at MU, a Montreal-based non-profit that specializes in transforming public spaces through murals.

This latest creation celebrates the women of La Maison Bleue, a social perinatal center dedicated to supporting vulnerable pregnant women and their families. Through a colorful depiction of women as flowers, the mural symbolizes their

strength and the deep roots they form within the community. The imagery reflects both growth and resilience, embodying La Maison Bleue's role as a safe haven where diverse cultures come together and flourish.

The mural was officially unveiled on October 9, 2024, during an event attended by several dignitaries. Among them were Ericka Alneus, a member of Montreal's executive committee responsible for culture, and Sylvain Ouellet, the deputy mayor of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension. The gathering also included Amélie Sigouin, co-founder and general director of La Maison Bleue, the artist PONY, and the team from MU, along with various project partners.

This project is part of Montreal's ongoing Mural Art Program, which aims to beautify

urban spaces while fostering a sense of belonging within communities. It was made possible through the support of the city and the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension.

## About the artist: PONY

Gabrielle Laïla Tittley, better known by her artistic name PONY, has been captivating audiences with her unique visual storytelling since discovering her passion for drawing as a teenager. Now in her 30s, PONY has expanded her creative horizons by founding her own clothing brand and establishing herself as a force in the visual arts. Her signature style blends bold, flat colors, graphic lines, and minimalist shapes, creating playful yet meaningful narratives that are accessible to everyone.

## La Maison Bleue: a pillar of support

For over 17 years, La Maison Bleue has been a lifeline for pregnant women facing social vulnerability, helping them overcome challenges while promoting the optimal development of their children from pregnancy until the age of five. The organization operates with an interdisciplinary approach, offering a wide range of services under one roof, including medical, psychosocial, educational, and legal support. Since its founding, La Maison Bleue has assisted over 7,300 individuals and now operates five centers across Montreal, including one in Parc-Extension.

## MU: art with a social mission

MU is a charitable organization that has been enhancing Montreal's public spaces for the past 17 years through large-scale murals that are deeply rooted in the communities they serve. MU's mission is to bring art to daily life, foster social transformation, and create a lasting legacy in the form of an open-air museum across the city. To date, MU has completed over 250 murals in Montreal's neighbourhoods and has developed an extensive educational component, facilitating the creation of more than 500 murals with community involvement. The organization has been widely recognized for its cultural contributions, including receiving the prestigious 34th Grand Prix from the Montreal Arts Council for its innovative social and artistic vision.

With PONY's mural now gracing La Maison Bleue, the community of Parc-Extension gains not only a beautiful work of art but also a reminder of the strength and unity that define the neighbourhood.

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# Park Extension's winter car shelter: how to install safely and legally

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If you're planning to set up a temporary car shelter this winter, it's essential to understand the rules and regulations that apply in your borough to ensure both compliance and safety. Fortunately, no permit is required to install this type of seasonal structure, but certain guidelines must be followed.

In the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, temporary car shelters can be installed from October 15 to April 15. After this period, it's mandatory to fully dismantle the structure, including its metal frame, and remove it from the property. The shelter must meet specific criteria, including a maximum height of 3 meters and a width that does not exceed 6.5 meters. Additionally, it should be firmly secured to the ground using either appropriate anchors or counterweights.

When selecting a location for your shelter, make sure it is installed within your residence's designated parking space and positioned at least 0.75 meters away from the sidewalk. If your home is on a street without sidewalks, the shelter must maintain the same distance from the public road. Furthermore, it is essential to ensure that the structure is at least 1.5 meters away from any fire hydrants and 5 meters from intersections if your house

is on a corner.

Only one temporary shelter is allowed per residence, so planning its location and installation is key.

Regarding materials, the rules specify that the shelter should be made from synthetic fabric that is white and translucent, with a removable metal frame. If the shelter is installed less than 3 meters from the sidewalk or public road, it must have a window of at least 0.5 square meters on each side. These windows must be positioned at least 2 meters away from the access point to the shelter, ensuring good visibility and safety for drivers and pedestrians alike.

It's important to note that temporary shelters are not permitted in heritage zones. If you are unsure whether your property is located in such an area, contact your borough office for clarification.

Should you need more information or have questions about the rules, you can reach out to your local authorities by dialing 311 within Montreal or 514-872-0311 from outside the city. Operating hours for this service are Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM, and on weekends and holidays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure the safe and compliant installation of your temporary car shelter this winter, while avoiding any potential issues with local regulations.



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# Incumbent EMSB chairman Joe Ortona seeks another term

*'EMSB is much better off today than it was four years ago,' he says*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
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In addition to electing a new slate of commissioners, the Nov. 3 English Montreal School Board elections will also be a vote of approval for Team Ortona's overall efforts to promote education as well as English-language rights, says Joe Ortona, the incumbent chairman of the EMSB's Council of Commissioners.

## 'Better off,' says Ortona

"A vote for me is a vote for recognizing that by every objective measure, the EMSB is better off today than it was four years ago," Ortona said in an interview with *Nouvelles Parc Extension*



News earlier this week.

Ortona was asked whether he believed this school board election is different from previous EMSB elections in past years.

"With a government that's increasingly hostile towards minorities and the English-speaking community in particular, this election is ensuring that we have strong representation to defend our right to manage and control our English institutions, our public schools," Ortona said.

## Higher turnout expected

Although voter participation in school board elections is usually low compared to other types of elections, Ortona believes the voter turnout for this one will be higher because of what is at stake. "We expect it to go up – especially now," he said.

"People understand how important these elections are. And we know that the government is trying to use a low voter turnout to justify abolishing school boards and create service centres. So, I think that is certainly one motivator that people will be using to get out and vote."

Ortona noted that in the last four years, he and the commissioners on his team were at the forefront to legally challenge the Quebec government's Bill 21, Bill 40 and Bill 96.

## Three legal challenges

"When we the school boards challenged the government of Quebec, we were doing it under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which falls outside the Notwithstanding Clause that the government invoked, and that protects the school boards and guarantees that they're managed and controlled by the linguistic community in Quebec," he said.

"So, we really are the only institutions that can fight Bill 40, Bill 21 and Bill 96 under Section 23 grounds. That's why the court challenges are so important. And it's also important to note that we've won all but one of those court challenges so far.

## 'We're winning these challenges'

"The only exception is Bill 21 at the Court of Appeal. But on Bill 40, and Bill 96 and even on Bill 21, we won all of the other cases, and on Bill 21 we're appealing to the Supreme Court, so there's going to be a final judgment there.

"So, for the most part we're winning these challenges. Everybody sees that, and I think that's why everybody's proud of the work that we're doing – fighting for our community.

"A vote for me is a vote of approval for the strong stance we took on the court challenges." Ortona added. "I think people know where I stand on the court challenges. I think people know that we're going to continue to defend the English-speaking community.

## Education also improved

"And whenever the government tries to adopt legislation that creates further restrictions on our guaranteed Section 23 rights, they know that a vote for Joe Ortona means we're going to be standing up and defending those rights."

In addition to Team Ortona's legal efforts over the past four years, Ortona said that a vote for his team will also be a vote of approval for all of their accomplishments in education in the last four years. "We have the highest success rate in the province of Quebec," he maintained.

## Student success soared

"We obtained a 95.9 per cent success rate last year. We surpassed the private sector, which is remarkable, something no school board had ever done before. We invested massively in our infrastructure and in major renovations for our older buildings.

"We made sure to provide services in the classrooms, that the resources are there, that we have all the patrols that are necessary in order to allow for the kids to succeed. All of those things we've accomplished in the last four years."



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# Federal officials touch base with English-speaking communities

*'Dialogue Days' focused on social economy's role for Anglos in Quebec*

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In a bid to expand the federal government's understanding of issues and challenges relating to the entrepreneurship and economic development of official language minority communities, officials with the government met online on Oct. 8 with the leaders of several Quebec English-language organizations with a related stake.

## Dialogue Days

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) hosts bi-annual stakeholder consultations with official language minority communities (Francophones outside Quebec and Anglophones in Quebec), known as Dialogue Days.

This year, the consultation focused on social economy, the goal being to explore the Quebec economic ecosystem and complement other federal initiatives.

## ID'ing the priorities

Discussion questions during the meeting dealt with identifying what are the top priority needs of the Quebec English-speaking communities that the social economy model could address, and what strategies/actions or other mechanisms could improve social and economic development change.

Other objectives included bringing together different stakeholders of the English-speaking communities of Quebec and actors of the social economy ecosystem, and deepening the government's understanding of the social economy as a means for social and economic development for the ESCQ and exchange on the needs and priorities of the community.

## Views on English-speaking Quebec

One of the community group representatives, John Buck, president and CEO of the Montreal-based Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), said the CEDEC is now actively promoting two Quebec English-speaking community economic development objectives and four related targets for the next ten years.

He said the English-speaking community of

Quebec "must increase its participation in and contribution to growing Quebec's economy and reap the tangible economic benefits derived from this contribution."

As well, he said Quebec's economy should be leveraged to address the economic disparities and disadvantages the English-speaking community of Quebec is experiencing.

He said that over the next ten years, the English-speaking community of Quebec should seek to create or expand 250 businesses or social enterprises, create or fill 1,000 jobs, attract \$5 million in investment, and reduce by 50 per cent the economic disparities and experiences that the English-speaking community in Quebec is subjected to.

## Promoting social economy

Canada Economic Development for Quebec says it would like to pay particular attention to the role of the social economy in the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec, in complementarity with other federal programs, and considering the Quebec ecosystem.

In that context, the ministry would like to deepen its knowledge of the sector and its players, gain a better understanding of how the social economy can contribute to regional economic development, and identify official language minority communities' needs.

CED says it supports the economic development of official language minority communities with its regular programs and through the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) – Official languages.

## Nationwide program

The nationwide initiative has been implemented since 2008 by the regional development agencies (RDAs) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED). The initiative was also renewed under the Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028.

ISED coordinates the EDI at the national level for reporting, consultation, evaluation activities and conducts research and policy analysis on official language minority communities.

The research aims to expand the federal government's understanding of the issues and challenges relating to official language minority communities' entrepreneurship and economic

development and to build capacity and partnerships in this area.

## Discussing opportunities

CED says events like the Oct. 8 online meeting allow participants to discuss opportunities and challenges that impact the economic development of OLMCs and can help inform the

implementation of the EDI and other federal programs.

CED says its mission is to promote the long-term economic development of the regions of Quebec by giving special attention to those where a low economic growth is prevalent or opportunities for productive employment are lacking.

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Officials with the government met online on Oct. 8 with the leaders of several English-language organizations with a related stake.

# Public concern about climate change drops 14-points since last year. Why?

**EDDIE SHEPPARD**

From September 19 to 25, 2024, Abacus Data conducted a national survey of 1,701 Canadian adults (18+) to examine their perspectives on climate change and their priorities in the context of pressing immediate challenges, such as the cost of living and housing affordability. Results reveal a significant focus on short-term relief, with many Canadians prioritizing immediate socioeconomic issues over long-term climate action, while also shedding light on the political implications of these perceptions, emphasizing the critical role leaders play in navigating the intersection of immediate concerns and environmental sustainability.

## Shifting priorities amid immediate challenges

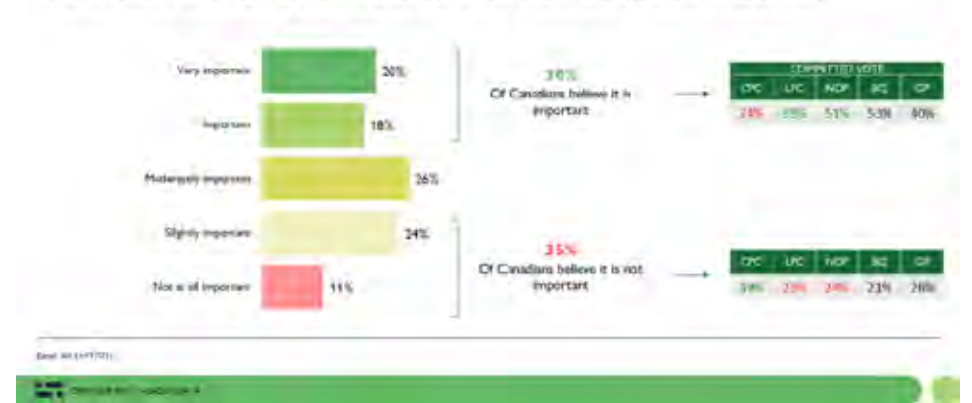
62% of Canadians are concerned about climate change and its potential impact on our future, while only 13% indicated that they are entirely unconcerned. Liberal (76%) and NDP (74%)

supporters are the most concerned with climate change, while just 49% of Conservative Party supporters share similar concerns. Further, nearly 1 in 4 Conservative supporters indicate that they are not at all concerned with climate change and its potential impact on our future (22%).

Notably, concern about climate change has decreased 14 points since October 2023, which revealed that 76% of Canadians were worried about this issue.

In exploring the reasons behind this decrease in concern, the data reveal that 72% of Canadians prioritize immediate issues over climate change, with only 5% placing a greater emphasis on environmental matters. Among those focused on immediate concerns, 82% who intend to vote Conservative Party hold this view, compared to 57% for Liberal and 65% for NDP supporters. Interestingly, Liberal supporters are more likely to recognize the importance of both climate change and issues related to the cost of living and housing equality, with 32% prioritizing both compared to just 15% of Conservative voters.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A GOOD PLAN FOR TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADVANCING CANADA'S GREEN ECONOMY IN THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTION



This decline in concern regarding climate change, coupled with the majority of Canadians focusing on immediate challenges, suggests that while climate change remains important for many, Canadians are increasingly preoccupied with pressing issues such as the cost of living and housing affordability and a scarcity mindset is framing their priorities at the moment. As these urgent matters demand immediate attention, individuals are shifting their focus toward short-term relief rather than long-term solutions like climate action.

## Divided opinions: balancing economic growth and climate action

When considering what approach government should take, 55% of Canadians believe the government should strive for a balance between economic growth and climate action. This sentiment is particularly strong among Liberal (65%) and NDP (63%) supporters, while only 44% of Conservative supporters share this view.

From September 19 to 25, 2024, Abacus Data

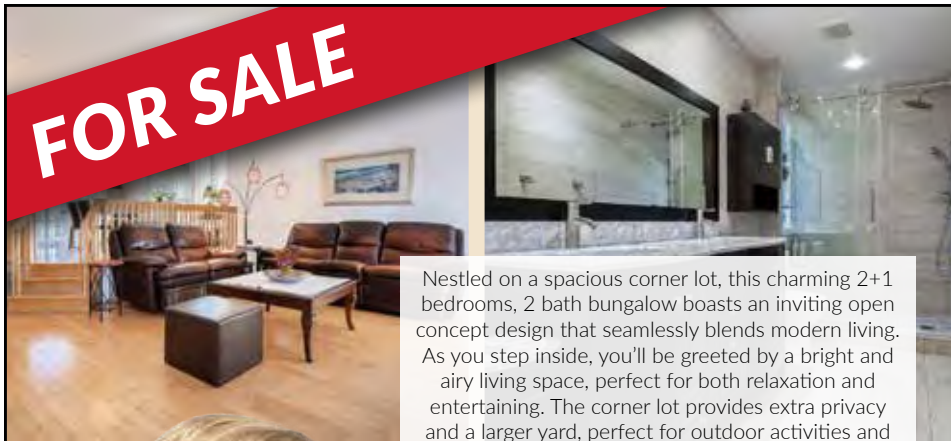
conducted a national survey of 1,701 Canadian adults (18+) to examine their perspectives on climate change and their priorities in the context of pressing immediate challenges, such as the cost of living and housing affordability. Results reveal a significant focus on short-term relief, with many Canadians prioritizing immediate socioeconomic issues over long-term climate action, while also shedding light on the political implications of these perceptions, emphasizing the critical role leaders play in navigating the intersection of immediate concerns and environmental sustainability.

## Shifting priorities amid immediate challenges

62% of Canadians are concerned about climate change and its potential impact on our future, while only 13% indicated that they are entirely unconcerned. Liberal (76%) and NDP (74%) supporters are the most concerned with climate

**► Continued on page 11**

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change, while just 49% of Conservative Party supporters share similar concerns. Further, nearly 1 in 4 Conservative supporters indicate that they are not at all concerned with climate change and its potential impact on our future (22%).

Notably, concern about climate change has decreased 14 points since October 2023, which revealed that 76% of Canadians were worried about this issue.

In exploring the reasons behind this decrease in concern, the data reveal that 72% of Canadians prioritize immediate issues over climate change, with only 5% placing a greater emphasis on environmental matters. Among those focused on immediate concerns, 82% who intend to vote Conservative Party hold this view, compared to 57% for Liberal and 65% for NDP supporters. Interestingly, Liberal supporters are more likely to recognize the importance of both climate change and issues related to the cost of living and housing equality, with 32% prioritizing both compared to just 15% of Conservative voters.

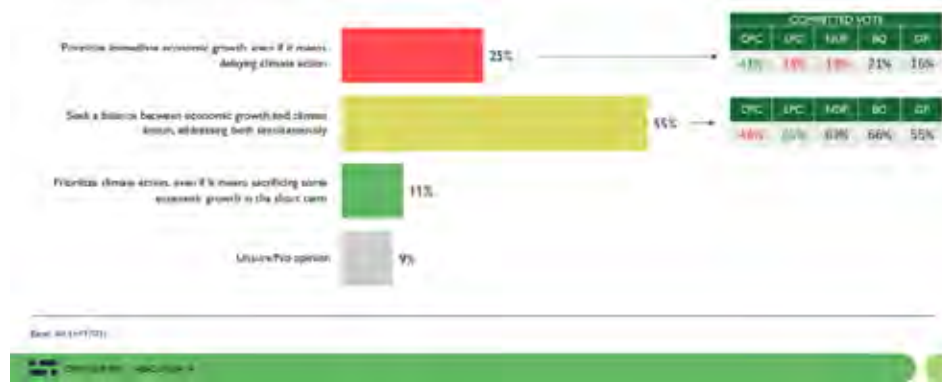
This decline in concern regarding climate change, coupled with the majority of Canadians focusing on immediate challenges, suggests that while climate change remains important for many, Canadians are increasingly preoccupied with pressing issues such as the cost of living and housing affordability and a scarcity mindset is framing their priorities at the moment. As these urgent matters demand immediate attention, individuals are shifting their focus toward short-term relief rather than long-term solutions like climate action.

### Divided opinions: balancing economic growth and climate action

When considering what approach government should take, 55% of Canadians believe the government should strive for a balance between economic growth and climate action. This sentiment is particularly strong among Liberal (65%) and NDP (63%) supporters, while only 44% of Conservative supporters share this view. In contrast, a significant 41% of Conservative supporters advocate for prioritizing immediate economic growth, even if it necessitates postponing climate action. This highlights a clear divide in priorities among different political affiliations regarding the relationship between economic development and environmental responsibility.

62% of Canadians believe it is possible to address immediate issues while also tackling climate change, reflecting a growing recognition that these priorities can be pursued simultaneously. This perspective is particularly strong among Liberal (77%) and NDP (70%) supporters, indicating a strong commitment to balancing urgent needs with long-term environmental goals. In

### 1 in 2 Canadians believe the Canadian government should seek a balance between economic growth and climate action



contrast, only 54% of Conservative supporters share this belief, highlighting differing attitudes across political affiliations regarding the integration of immediate concerns with climate action. This divergence suggests that many Canadians are optimistic about finding solutions that can effectively address both current challenges and the imperative of climate change.

### Public confidence and expectations in climate leadership

38% of Canadians consider it important for the party they support to have a robust plan for addressing climate change. This sentiment is especially strong among Liberal (55%) and NDP (51%) supporters, while only 24% of Conservative Party voters feel the same way. Notably, 20% of Canadians intending to vote for the Conservative Party indicate that climate change is not a significant factor in their voting decision. This highlights a clear divide in priorities regarding climate action among political affiliations.

When Canadians were asked who they believe is best equipped to tackle climate change and promote the growth of Canada's clean economy, Pierre Poilievre emerged as the preferred choice for 30% of respondents. This indicates that many Canadians now view him as a capable leader on these critical issues. In contrast, only 17% of Canadians believe that Justin Trudeau is the right person for the job. This is particularly striking given that Trudeau has historically been known for his strong stance on climate action and environmental policies. His current standing reflects a noticeable decline in public confidence regarding his climate initiatives. Additionally, just 13% of respondents think Jagmeet Singh is best suited to handle these challenges.

Interestingly, on October 12, 2023, we released a report that asked Canadians who they thought was better able to deal with several issues. In this, 37% of Canadians noted that Justin Trudeau was better able to take action to deal with climate

change compared to 30% who noted they believed it was Pierre Poilievre (32% didn't know who was best at the time).

With 30% of Canadians believing that Pierre Poilievre is the leader best equipped to address climate change while also promoting the growth of Canada's clean economy, it is essential to examine what Canadians expect him to do in this area. Notably, 79% of Canadians feel that if elected, Poilievre should take climate change seriously. This sentiment is particularly strong among Liberal (89%) and NDP (89%) supporters, showcasing a cross-party consensus on the importance of climate action. Even among Conservative supporters, 71% believe that Poilievre should prioritize addressing climate change.

However, a significant gap emerges when it comes to expectations versus beliefs: only 34% of Canadians are confident that Poilievre will take climate change seriously if elected. Among Conservative supporters, this belief is more prevalent, with 55% expressing confidence in his commitment to climate action. In stark contrast, just 25% of Liberal supporters and 20% of NDP supporters share this view. This discrepancy underscores varying levels of trust in Poilievre's climate priorities across political affiliations, high-

lighting the challenge he faces in aligning public expectations with perceptions of his willingness to take meaningful climate action.

### The upshot

In 2024, Canadians have witnessed several extreme weather events, notably the Jasper wildfire, severe flooding in southern Ontario and Quebec, and a major hailstorm in Calgary, to mention a few. Despite these events, we have witnessed a significant decline in concerns surrounding climate change and its impacts across Canada. The decline in concern over climate change raises important questions about whether Canadians are becoming desensitized to the threats posed by extreme weather events, or if the current focus on cost of living is simply overshadowing environmental concerns.

Recent shifts in public opinion indicate that more Canadians now view Pierre Poilievre as the leader best equipped to address climate change and grow Canada's a clean economy, though skepticism about his commitment to climate action remains among many Canadians (including his supporters). As many Canadians still express concern about climate change, Conservatives cannot afford to ignore this issue. To build trust among their voter base, and Canadians in general, Poilievre must bridge the gap between public expectations and political commitments, especially as public sentiment increasingly reflects the interconnectedness of economic and environmental issues.

Climate change remains one of the most politically divisive issues in Canada, particularly in terms of its salience and urgency. Advocates for climate action need to find ways to effectively link climate issues to pressing concerns like the cost of living and safety, particularly for Conservative voters, as these are issues that are far more pressing for many Canadians. It's important for Conservatives to recognize climate change as a real issue impacting Canada today, as neglecting it could become a vulnerability, particularly if short-term worries about costs begin to lessen.

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

**Q** Like many couples out there, my relationship with my spouse has been quite challenging. We've been together for the last five years and have one child. About two months ago I started emailing my neighbor's husband about work. It turned into fantasy role-playing and email tag. It lasted about two and a half weeks before we physically connected.

No, we didn't sleep together, but we did quite a bit. We met three times. Once I was pretty drunk, and the other two times I was quite sober--excited, but starting to feel guilty as hell. Things were coming to an end because I wanted to work on my relationship.

Two weeks ago I get a call from his wife saying she's in front of their computer reading an email. She wants to know what the hell is going on. I told her something was going on--I couldn't lie because I didn't know which email was in front of her--but that we hadn't slept together. Blah, blah, blah.

I'm planning to tell my spouse this weekend, away from the house, without interruptions. But man, I don't know how? He is going to freak out! Especially since one of my lines to him a while ago was, "Babe, I swear I will never cheat on you. If ever something is to happen, I'll tell you."

Not! Yes, I am feeling extremely guilty, and yes, I want to work on my relationship with my husband. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Janis

**A** Janis, it must have been a tough two weeks trying to keep your neighbor's wife away from your husband. It's like you committed a crime, you can hear sirens wailing in the distance, and you know the police are enroute to your house. You called us, as your lawyers, for advice.

As your mouthpiece, we'll review the options. Blame your husband. Accuse him of emotional neglect and lack of communication. It must be his fault. Or point the finger at the neighbor. If this Lothario hadn't pursued you, nothing would have happened. Then again, the culprit could be the neighbor's wife. She wasn't taking care of her man.

Perhaps society had a role in this. After all, everyone's doing it. Or finally, you might deny everything. It wasn't sex because you didn't sleep together.

The problem with all these defenses is you knew you were married, you knew it was wrong, and you got caught red-handed. As your lawyers we can't assist you in preparing a defense we know is false.

There is something else we know is true. There is so little connection between you and your husband this occurred. The two of you need to sit down and honestly decide if staying together simply postpones the inevitable.

Wayne & Tamara

## CLOSE TO THE VEST

**Q** I'm 40 and dating again, which is confusing stuff. My friends tell me the man I have been dating for three weeks is moving too slow. I disagree.

We've had two dates in three weeks with the promise of him fixing me dinner next time. He calls every three or four days, and we chat for an hour or so. There have been nice hugs and kisses at the end of dates.

We are both self-employed and work 60 hours plus each week. I feel he is interested and we have a great time together, but my other single friends tell me he isn't interested because he hasn't yet tried to have sex with me. So what do you think? Taking his time

or not interested? Oh yes, he's done all the calling and asking out.

Sara

**A** Sara, you neglected to mention option three. Your girlfriends are jealous. A nice man, a gentleman, who is not rushing you...and there's something wrong? We think not! Share fewer details with your girlfriends, keep more within your own heart, and see what develops. Initial indicators? This one has potential.

Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

or email: [GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com](mailto:GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com)

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- Avocados (2)
- Clementines (5-6)
- Mango (2)
- Cucumber
- Limes (2)
- Apples (3) (QC)
- Pineapple
- Kale (QC)
- Leek
- Lettuce (Iceberg) (QC)

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Week of OCTOBER 27  
TO NOVEMBER 2, 2024

The luckiest signs this week:  
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER

**ARIES**  
Negotiations always require effort and compromise. You'll make some significant changes that will promote your health and improve your quality of life for years to come.

**TAURUS**  
Significant success and recognition await you, whether in the form of a promotion or a professional change. You'll also have a health win after a difficult period.

**GEMINI**  
You may have the opportunity to find a more spacious property for your family this week. You must make changes to your daily routine to become more efficient, which will prevent conflicts among your family members.

**CANCER**  
Don't forget to charge your electronic devices every night to avoid communication mishaps from a dead battery. Expect to play taxi driver for your family this week.

**LEO**  
Your honesty will shine this week as you openly express what others are thinking. You won't hesitate to point out your partner's excessive spending or impulse buys.

**VIRGO**  
You'll feel great this week! You must swiftly handle an urgent situation at work to avoid complications. You'll be promoted, and despite the changes and stress associated with this change, you'll be happy.

**LIBRA**  
You'll soon finish a task you've been putting off. To avoid health issues, take some time to rest before taking on new challenges.

**SCORPIO**  
Waiting for medical test results for yourself or a loved one will be stressful. However, you'll receive a positive response, which will help alleviate your worries. The prospect of a bright future will dispel anxiety and allow you to sleep peacefully.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Tread carefully when dealing with family or professional matters. You may need to adjust your schedule to accommodate a promotion. The pay and nature of the work will make your decision easy.

**CAPRICORN**  
It's time to start thinking about your end-of-year vacation! Booking things in advance, regardless of whether you're going alone or with family, friends or a significant other, will make things easier and avoid complications.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may be responsible for international assignments or training at work. You might find it challenging to communicate with people who aren't comfortable speaking English.

**PISCES**  
You must communicate openly with your partner to reignite the spark in your relationship. You'll need to make some adjustments to avoid emotional conflicts.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 183

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

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### ACROSS

- Uninteresting
- Observe Lent
- Solemn promise
- Corporate symbol
- Clarinet's relative
- Pasture mother
- Frosting user
- Colonize again
- Pea holders
- Amount
- Coop item
- Lucid
- Rushed
- Altitude
- Expert
- Flat
- Vroom
- Lookout's platform: hyph.
- Tricky
- Game of chance
- Nursery item
- Pledge

### DOWN

- Tale opener
- Steed
- Give (out)
- Each
- Bullets and bombs
- Wickedness
- Gab
- Pit
- Folds over
- "\_\_\_ Pilot"
- Hardens
- Narrow valley
- Ventilates
- Yuletide word
- Green with \_\_\_
- Framework
- Tract unit
- Broadway blinker
- Eden inhabitant
- Sleeveless jacket
- \_\_\_ saxophone
- Yarn variety
- Mountain call
- Mournful word
- 12:00, e.g.
- Abode
- Bossa \_\_\_
- Crop
- Slippery swimmers
- Watch secretly
- Afternoon meal
- Floating zoo
- Motion agreement

# Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 908

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

### HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS

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

### Sudoku

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



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