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## Voyeurism protest at Jarry Park pool

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Two dozen Montrealers gathered at Jarry Park public pool last Saturday to deter potential voyeurs in Jarry Park on July 5, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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# Citizens rally at Jarry Park pool to denounce voyeurism

**MATTHEW DALDALIAN**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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Around two dozen citizens gathered at Jarry Park public pool last Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> — not to swim, but to protest what they described as repeated incidents of voyeurism and inappropriate behaviour targeting women in the area.

## Concerned citizens

Mandana Javan, a concerned citizen and community volunteer, helped organize the awareness event by handing out bilingual flyers to park-goers. The flyers offered information about how to report harassment and emphasized that the issue affects everyone.



**Mandana Javan holding flyers to raise awareness on defending public spaces at Jarry Park on July 5, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

“Our responsibility as citizens is just to raise awareness, especially talking to our kids or teens or young women, even to men,” said Javan.

She said women in the neighbourhood have approached her directly to share troubling experiences.

The protest comes after weeks of mounting concern on social media, particularly Reddit, where users began reporting incidents near the pool. Women described men loitering by the fence line, staring for long periods, following them through the park, and in some cases, allegedly photographing them without consent.

Although under Quebec law — and affirmed in *Aubry v. Éditions ViceVersa Inc.* — taking photos of people in public isn’t necessarily illegal, it’s publishing them without consent that crosses the line. In this case, under the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms, that means voyeurs snapping pictures at Jarry Park may not technically be breaking the law, even if their behaviour feels invasive and unsettling.

The digital outcry soon transformed into a real-world call to action.

Guillaume Barnabé, a Reddit user, saw the concerns posted online. He said the number of first-hand reports convinced him something needed to be done — so he decided to help organize the in-person gathering.

“There was a lot of people complaining that people were snooping around, looking at them,” Barnabé said in an interview. “And a lot of people said over the years they stopped

coming here because of that.”

While the group of participants remained small, Barnabé said the purpose was never to draw a crowd, but to encourage everyday people to take these behaviours seriously and respond. “You should act up. You should say something. You shouldn’t stand on the side and just wait for it to happen,” he said.



**Guillaume Barnabé standing in front of Jarry Park's public pool at on July 5, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

## Broader issue

Barnabé believed that issues like voyeurism in public spaces are part of a broader societal problem — and not unique to any one location or group.

“It’s not even just about parc Jarry,” he said. “As a society, we’re failing to make — more specifically men — understand that catcalling in streets, or staring, or whistling at women is just wrong. It’s not appreciated.”

Jean-Christophe Arsenault, another user of the Montreal subreddit, came to the park for the first time after reading several disturbing posts.

“I heard dozens of witnessings,” said Arsenault. “People complaining about groups of men who would stalk them during the night, who would



**Jean-Christophe Arsenault, another user of the Montreal subreddit, standing in Jarry Park on July 5, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**



**Jarry Park's public pool on July 5, 2025. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Newsfirst Multimedia)**

take pictures of the pool, who would just stand there for hours on end and look at people — especially women, even children.”

Arsenault said that while women have long faced these issues, he believes it’s time for men to take a stand.

“These men, they won’t listen to women. I don’t believe so,” he said. “And so, it has to be men who speak up. We have to move out. We have to step up.”

He said his motivation to participate comes from both personal conviction and a broader concern about the limits placed on women’s freedom of movement.

## Handling the situation

Montreal police and the borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension say they are now taking the situation seriously.

The borough confirmed it received three formal complaints about voyeurism and inappropriate gestures directed toward swim-

mers at the pool. In response, the city has deployed additional staff to monitor the area.

Police officers from the neighbourhood station have also increased their presence, patrolling on foot and by bicycle.

In a statement provided to Parc-Ex News, the borough said: “Any form of harassment is unacceptable and will be dealt with the utmost rigour.”

Javan stressed that it isn’t the role of concerned citizens to directly confront individuals engaging in inappropriate behaviour.

“This is not our responsibility as citizens. Our responsibility as citizens is just to raise awareness — to inform and to document and to stop these individuals if they are not accepting to stop their unacceptable behaviour.”

While Barnabé applauds the city’s response so far, he says real change will only come if people keep paying attention.

“If we let it go and keep going, it can get worse,” he said.

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Canada's loyalty to globalism is bleeding our economy dry

*Trump's controversial trade policies are delivering results. Canada keeps playing by global rules and losing*

U.S. President Donald Trump's brash trade agenda, though widely condemned, is delivering short-term economic results for the U.S. It's also revealing the high cost of Canada's blind loyalty to globalism.

While our leaders scold Trump and posture on the world stage, our economy is faltering, especially in sectors like food and farming, which have been sacrificed to international agendas that don't serve Canadian interests.

The uncomfortable truth is that Trump's unapologetic nationalism is working. Canada needs to take note.

Despite near-universal criticism, the U.S. economy is outperforming expectations. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta projects 3.8 per cent second-quarter GDP growth.

Inflation remains tame, job creation is ahead of forecasts, and the trade deficit is shrinking fast, cut nearly in half. These results suggest that, at least in the short term, Trump's economic nationalism is doing more than just stirring headlines.

Canada, by contrast, is slipping behind. The economy is contracting, manufacturing is under pressure from shifting U.S. trade priorities, and food inflation is running higher than general inflation. One of our most essential sectors—agriculture and food production—is being squeezed by rising costs, policy burdens and vanishing market access. The contrast with the U.S. is striking and damning.

Worse, Canada had been pushed to the periphery. The Trump administration had paused trade negotiations with Ottawa over Canada's proposed digital services tax. Talks

have since resumed after Ottawa backed away from implementing it, but the episode underscored how little strategic value Washington currently places on its relationship with Canada, especially under a Carney-led government more focused on courting Europe than securing stable access to our largest export market. But Europe, with its own protectionist agricultural policies and slower growth, is no substitute for the scale and proximity of the U.S. market. This drift has real consequences, particularly for Canadian farmers and food producers.

The problem isn't a trade war; it's a global realignment. And while Canada clings to old assumptions, Trump is redrawing the map. He's pulling back from institutions like the World Health Organization, threatening to sever ties with NATO, and defunding UN agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the global body responsible for coordinating efforts to improve food security and support agricultural development worldwide. The message is blunt: global institutions will no longer enjoy U.S. support without measurable benefit.

To some, this sounds reckless. But it's forcing accountability. A senior FAO official recently admitted that donors are now asking hard questions: why fund these agencies at all? What do they deliver at home? That scrutiny is spreading. Countries are quietly realigning their own policies in response, reconsidering the cost-benefit of multilateralism. It's a shift long in the making and long resisted in Canada.

Nowhere is this resistance more damaging than in agriculture. Canada's food producers

have become casualties of global climate symbolism. The carbon tax, pushed in the name of international leadership, penalizes food producers for feeding people. Policies that should support the food and farming sector instead frame it as a problem. This is globalism at work: a one-size-fits-all policy that punishes the local for the sake of the international.

Trump's rhetoric may be provocative, but his core point stands: national interest matters. Countries have different economic structures, priorities and vulnerabilities.

Pretending that a uniform global policy can serve them all equally is not just naïve, it's harmful. America First may grate on Canadian ears, but it reflects a reality: effective policy begins at home.

Canada doesn't need to mimic Trump. But we do need to wake up. The globalist consensus we've followed for decades is eroding. Multilateralism is no longer a guarantee of prosperity, especially for sectors like food and farming. We must stop anchoring ourselves to frameworks we can't influence and start defining what works for Canadians: secure trade access, competitive food production, and policy that recognizes agriculture not as a liability but as a national asset.

If this moment of disruption spurs us to rethink how we balance international co-operation with domestic priorities, we'll emerge stronger. But if we continue down our current path, governed by symbolism, not strategy, we'll have no one to blame for our decline but ourselves.

*Dr. Sylvain Charlebois*

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# Mark Carney's seven priorities

## Setting up a report card on alignment, impact, and perceived progress

DAVID COLETTA

When Mark Carney became Prime Minister earlier this year, he introduced a new way of governing – one that sought to bring strategic discipline to a sprawling federal government. Instead of issuing dozens of separate mandate letters, Carney delivered a single, unified set of seven national priorities to guide every department and minister in his government.

The signal was clear: Canadians should judge this government not on its talking points or press releases, but on its ability to make meaningful progress on these seven interrelated goals.

In this environment, measuring perception matters more than ever. Clear priorities create clarity for citizens but also accountability. If the public understands what the government says it's doing, they're better equipped to notice when it falls short or reward it when it succeeds.

This report based on a national survey of 1,500 adults conducted by Abacus Data from June 17 to 19, 2025 offers a baseline assessment of how Canadians feel about the Carney government's priorities. It examines three things:

- Are Carney's seven priorities aligned with what Canadians care about?
- Do Canadians think achieving them would make a difference in their lives?
- Do they believe the government has started making real progress?

### Clarity and simplicity in at a noisy moment

Before diving into the results, it's worth reflecting on just how unusual it is for a federal government to distill its goals into a simple, shared list. In a political environment defined by fragmentation and institutional overload, Carney's

seven-priority model stands out for its clarity.

But as any communicator knows, clarity can be a double-edged sword. It builds trust when people see things moving but it can also make inaction more conspicuous.

That's why we're taking this research so seriously. This isn't just another approval tracker. It goes deeper to understand how people are reacting to the things the Carney government is doing. And it shows where expectations are rising, where gaps are emerging, and where the government's coalition may be growing restless.

One of the central questions this research set out to answer is deceptively simple: Are the Prime Minister's priorities also the public's priorities?

Our data shows that, on balance, the Carney government's seven priorities are largely in sync with what Canadians say they want from their federal government. That alignment is strongest on economic and affordability issues but holds across the board.

The chart below outlines the public's ranking of these priorities in terms of importance. Canadians were asked whether each item should be a top priority, lower priority, or not a priority right now.

Here's what stands out:

#### 1. Affordability – continues to lead

- 74% of Canadians say lowering costs and helping people get ahead should be a top priority, and another 16% consider it a lower priority.
- That puts it at 89% total support—a clear signal that cost-of-living remains the dominant issue for most people.
- Among Liberal voters, that number climbs to 91%.

Affordability also leads when you ask Canadians to pick their top three priorities and which would be the most meaningful personally.

Prioritizing affordability is clearly in line with public expectations. The challenge, as discussed earlier, is delivering visible progress on it.

#### 2. Housing and economic unity come next

- 65% say making housing affordable through public-private partnerships and skilled trades should be a top priority, with another 21% calling it a lower priority (86% total).
- 66% say unifying Canada's economy—removing trade barriers and fast-tracking key national projects—should be a top priority, again supported by nearly nine in ten Canadians (84% total).

#### 3. Strong support for sovereignty, fiscal discipline, and partnerships

- 60% say protecting sovereignty through military, border, and law enforcement improvements should be a top priority, with 25% saying it should be a lower one. That's 84% in total, including 87% of Liberal voters.
- 52% say reducing government spending to allow private-sector investment and growth should be a top priority (81% total when adding in “lower priority” responses).
- 56% support forging a new economic and security partnership with the U.S. and allies as a top priority, with 24% saying it should be a lower one (80% total).

These numbers suggest that while the “kitchen table” issues dominate, there remains strong public support for Canada playing a larger strategic and economic role globally, as long as domestic needs are not neglected.

In particular, the spending restraint agenda,

sometimes assumed to be a Conservative talking point, garnered support from 80% of Liberal voters. This suggests that much of the Liberal coalition and a large majority of Canadians today are increasingly concerned with fiscal prudence.

Interestingly, because of how much they have dominated news and opposition coverage, immigration and a trade relationship with the US are least likely to be listed as a priority.

In sum, three-quarters plus believe all seven of this governments' priorities deserve a place on the list making this list well-aligned with the Canadian mindset, right now.

### The coalition that elected the liberals is aligned – but watching closely

Among those who voted Liberal, the rankings were quite similar to the national population. This is important.

It tells us that Carney's priorities reflect the values and expectations of his electoral coalition. But alignment alone is not enough. The people who chose the Liberals over other options are invested in these priorities—perhaps even more so than the general public. They expect delivery. And they're paying attention.

### Do these priorities matter personally?

We also asked Canadians whether achieving each of the seven priorities would be a good or bad thing for them personally.

Unsurprisingly, lowering costs and helping Canadians get ahead again tops the list, with 74% saying it would be good for them, including

► Continued on page 7





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◀ Continued from page 6

49% who say very good. Housing affordability, economic unification, and protecting sovereignty also scored highly—each seen as good for at least 60% of respondents.

But some priorities feel more distant from people’s everyday experience. Only 55% say forging new economic and security partnerships with the U.S. and global allies would be good for them personally. And just 49% say the same for immigration reform.

This gap between macro-importance and micro-relevance is one of the biggest communications challenges facing the Carney government. Canadians are not opposed to big-picture ideas—but they will need clear examples to show how addressing these priorities has a tangible impact on their lives.

Alignment isn’t the problem. Expectation management might be.

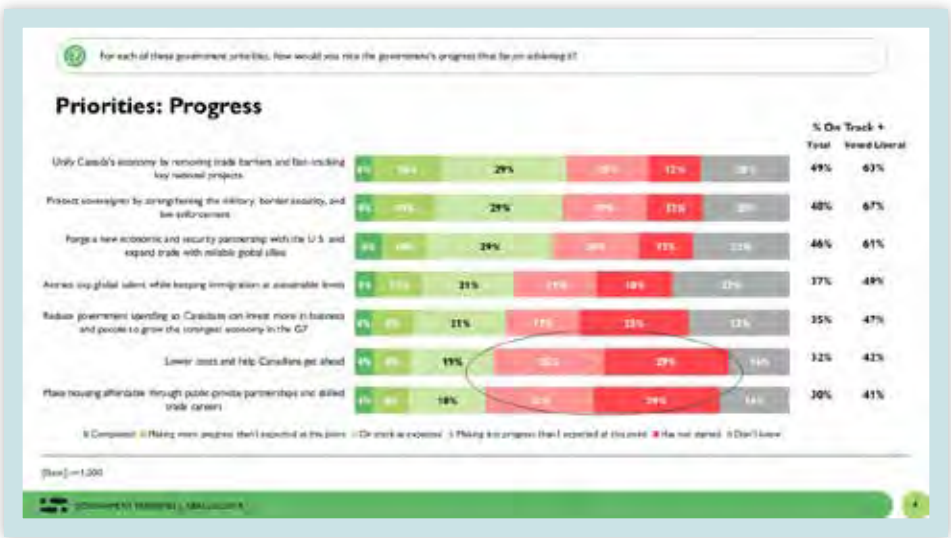
Taken together, these findings show that the Carney government has crafted a list of priorities that broadly reflects the public’s own ranking of what matters. The total support (top + lower priority) for each priority ranges from 77% to 89%—a remarkably tight and high band.

The Prime Minister and his team deserve credit for this. This isn’t a scattershot list designed to appeal to every niche audience. It’s a tight agenda that reflects national concerns, is relatively non-partisan in tone, and importantly makes it easier for Canadians to follow and judge performance. It also helps differentiate Carney from Trudeau, which was essential in his election victory. The more people think Carney’s government is like Trudeau’s, the less they like it.

But alignment is only part of the puzzle. The government’s next test is to ensure that Canadians don’t just support the priorities but start to feel progress on the ones they care about most. As the progress data reveals, that’s where the greatest vulnerability lies today.

Measuring progress: what Canadians feel matters most

Perhaps the most vital part of this report is our



assessment of perceived progress.

We are not asking people to assess whether a bill has passed the House or whether a regulation has been published in the Canada Gazette. We are measuring how people feel about progress.

And this matters, because in politics, perception often becomes reality. If people don’t feel like change is happening, it can damage trust—even if, behind the scenes, the policy machinery is hard at work.

So how does the Carney government fare so far?

**Mixed grades on momentum**

The results are telling. Canadians were asked whether the government has:

- Completed the priority or made more progress than expected
- Is on track
- Made less progress than expected
- Hasn’t started
- Or if they don’t know

We have combined the first two options into a single metric – % On Track or Better – to summarize perceived momentum.

The highest-ranked priority on this metric is unifying Canada’s economy, with 49% saying the government is on track or ahead of schedule. Similarly, 48% say progress is happening on protecting sovereignty and 46% say so for the U.S./global partnership goal.

These are respectable numbers early in a mandate – and may reflect early speeches, symbolic visits, and signals of intent. Also, worth noting that this research was done just after the G7 but before the House of Commons passed Bill C-5, An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act

But the danger signs come into focus with the two most important priorities to voters:

- Only 32% think the government is on track on affordability.
- Just 30% say the same about housing.

Worse still: over half of Canadians believe the government is making less progress than expected or hasn’t even started on either of these. For example, 29% say the government has not started making housing more affordable, and another 25% say it’s making less progress than expected.

Among Liberal voters, the picture improves modestly – but still shows real risk. Just 42% believe progress is being made on affordability. That’s lower than the levels for economic unification, sovereignty, or international partnerships. The same goes for housing, with only 41% of Liberals saying the government is on track.

**Why the progress gap matters**

The gap between priority and progress has

real political implications.

When people care deeply about an issue and don’t see movement, it can create frustration, disengagement, or even backlash. The danger is not just that people will say the government is “not delivering,” it’s that they stop believing it can.

It is worth noting that the two issues with the least amount of movement are the priorities Canadians care most about- and say have the biggest repercussions on their lives.

In this environment, early signs of motion can punch above their weight. A highly visible investment. A strong first set of results. A well-communicated partnership. These can all shift the needle not just because of the substance, but because they begin to change the storyline.

A framework for understanding government effectiveness

The scorecard approach we’re using – Priority, Personal Relevance, Perceived Progress – is more than a polling framework. It’s a way of assessing the government’s ability to align policy with lived experience. And it’s the approach we take with the custom work we do with our clients.

The graphic below shows a summary view. The story this tells is simple:

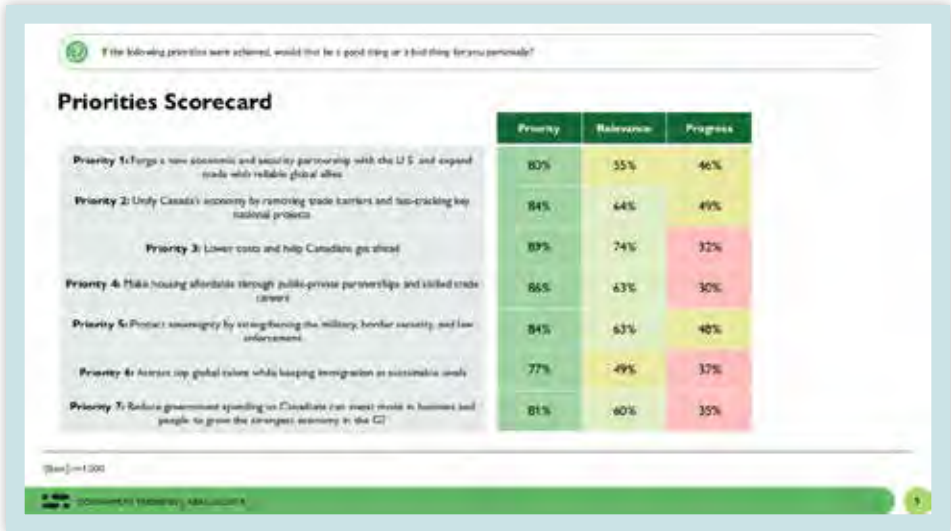
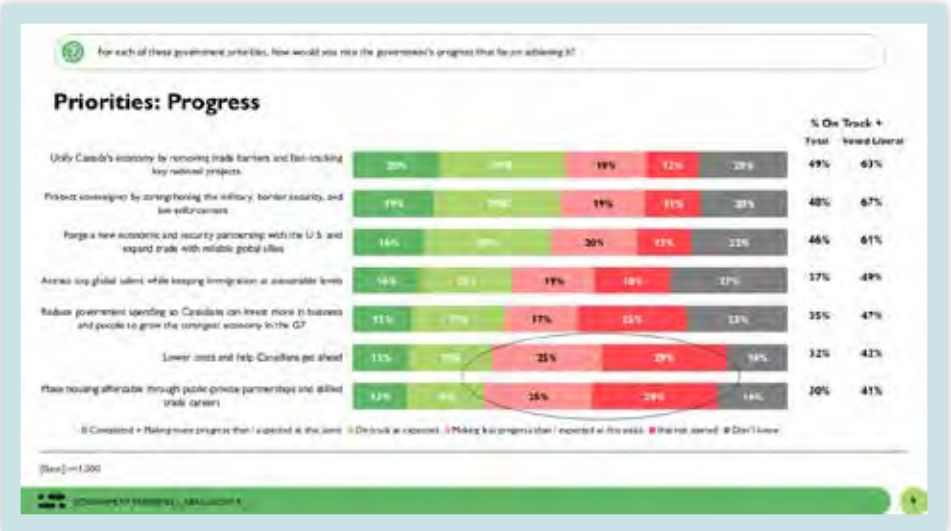
- The top two issues for Canadians are affordability and housing.
- They feel those are where the least progress is being made.
- Unless that changes over the next year, it may impact how the Carney government is judged.

Final thoughts: momentum is the message

Mark Carney’s priorities are clear. The public mostly agrees with them. But clarity raises expectations.

If this government is to succeed it must show that the machine of government is delivering on the things people care most about.

And if it wants to hold the coalition that brought it into office, that progress must be felt, not just announced.



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# Parc Exers enjoy a double-celebration of Canada Day

People from a multitude of nations gathered to mark country's 158<sup>th</sup> birthday

(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)

**MARTIN C. BARRY**  
marty@newsfirst.ca

With their proud multicultural roots in so many countries around the globe it would be difficult to list them all here, Parc Exers had not just one, but two celebrations of their adoptive country's birthday to choose from on July 1, Canada Day.

The larger of the two, sponsored by the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council (NBCC), took place in Place de la Gare outside Maxi's on Jean-Talon St. It was the 22<sup>nd</sup> year the organization staged the celebration for the country's birthday.

## A celebration of nationality

"We are all immigrants," Parc Extension city

councillor Mary Deros said in an interview with Nouvelles Parc Extension News, while noting that even she arrived in Canada from another country.

She said Canada Day offers everyone a chance to get out and celebrate the country's anniversary while getting to know each other.

Monir Hossain, president of the NBCC who coordinates the organization of the group's Canada Day party each year, had only praise for Canada as a country where he has been able to raise a family while succeeding in business.

## Canadian by choice

"I came from a different country, but I always

► Continued on page 9



Parc Extension city councillor Mary Deros (third from right) is seen here with members of the community during Canada Day celebrations in Place de la Gare on July 1. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)

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wanted to pay back,” he said. “This is my new nation, my adoptive country. This is where my children grew up, where they were raised. And this now is also their country.”

Niko Karabineris, who was born and raised in Parc Extension but makes his home in Chomedey now, said he continues to spend time here taking care of properties, but never misses an opportunity to return to his home turf each year on Canada Day.

“I’ve been coming here on Canada Day for the celebrations for the past 20 years,” he said. “I’ve lost a few friends along the way, but Mary Deros is still here as always and it’s good to see that. Not too many places in Quebec where you can go to celebrate Canada Day. But Parc Ex is still one of them.”

### Another Canada Day party

In the meantime, the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec, in conjunction with the Parc Extension Youth Organization (PEYO) and some other local groups, had organized a Canada Day celebration of their own a few blocks away outside



Children from the Sardam Music Academy were among the performers who took to the stage in Parc Extension’s Place de la Gare on July 1.  
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)



Some chose a front seat in front of the stage in Place de la Gare to better enjoy the Canada Day show sponsored by the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council (NBCC).  
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)



Villeray city councillor Martine Musau Muele (left) and François-Perrault councillor Sylvain Ouellet shook hands with Parc Exers attending the Himalaya Seniors of Quebec’s Canada Day celebration outside the William Hingston community centre.  
(Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)

the William Hingston community centre.

While it didn’t draw quite as much attention as the event at Place de la Gare, several local elected officials, including Councillor Deros,

Villeray city councillor Martine Musau Muele and François-Perrault councillor Sylvain Ouellet, made a point of meeting and greeting the guests and organizers.

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Lors de la dernière séance du conseil d'arrondissement de Villeraie-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, -le mardi 8 juillet- les élus ont souligné l'engagement exceptionnel de deux personnes issues du milieu communautaire en les invitant à signer le livre d'or de l'arrondissement. Ils ont également octroyé un contrat pour apaiser les rues des quartiers et les abords de l'école Léonard-De Vinci et ils ont adopté une mise à jour importante de la réglementation pour mieux protéger le patrimoine bâti, simplifier les démarches des citoyennes et citoyens et encadrer les rénovations tout en respectant le caractère des bâtiments situés en secteur d'intérêt patrimonial. Les élus ont aussi autorisé l'octroi d'un montant de 525 000 \$, puisés dans les surplus de l'arrondissement, pour pérenniser le programme de déminéralisation et de verdissement participatif *Bye Bye Béton!*.

« La vitalité culturelle et le tissu social de notre arrondissement doivent beaucoup au travail des organismes de notre territoire et des gens qui les animent et les dirigent. Ces dernières semaines, Mme Marjorie Villefranche et M. Daniel Côté, qui sont deux piliers du milieu communautaire de VSP, ont pris leur retraite. Nous avons voulu souligner, par la signature du livre d'or, leur engagement exceptionnel pour les quartiers de Saint-Michel et de Villeraie et dont les impacts ont rayonné bien au-delà », a déclaré Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, mairesse de l'arrondissement de Villeraie-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension.

### Hommage à deux figures de l'engagement communautaire

Madame Marjorie Villefranche et monsieur Daniel Côté ont eu l'honneur de signer le livre d'or de l'arrondissement de Villeraie-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, en reconnaissance de leur contribution exceptionnelle à la communauté.

Récemment retraitée de son poste de directrice de la Maison d'Haïti, madame Villefranche consacre depuis plus de 40 ans sa vie à la défense des droits des personnes immigrantes, des femmes et des personnes marginalisées. Son engagement

indéfectible contre le racisme et l'exclusion fait d'elle une figure incontournable de l'inclusion sociale à Montréal.

Monsieur Côté, pour sa part, a œuvré pendant six décennies dans le milieu communautaire, notamment au Patro Villeraie. Son parcours est marqué par une profonde bienveillance et un engagement constant envers les plus vulnérables. Même à la retraite, il continue de servir sa communauté avec générosité.

### Apaisement dans les rues et sécurité autour de l'école Léonard-De Vinci

Dans le cadre de son engagement envers la transition écologique et la mobilité durable, l'arrondissement de Villeraie-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension a octroyé un contrat de 2,1 M\$ à l'entreprise Les Pavages Céka inc. pour la réalisation de travaux de réaménagement de plusieurs intersections stratégiques sur le territoire et de sécurisation aux abords de l'école Léonard-De Vinci.

Ces interventions auront lieu d'août à octobre prochains et incluent la construction de 32 saillies de trottoir, cinq dos d'âne, une intersection surélevée et un passage piéton surélevé, avec l'objectif de favoriser la cohabitation sécuritaire entre piétonnes, piétons, cyclistes et automobilistes. Quinze des saillies de trottoir seront drai-

nantes, contribuant à la gestion durable des eaux pluviales et à la réduction des îlots de chaleur. Le projet prévoit également la plantation d'arbres et de végétaux dans les fosses des avancées de trottoir, ainsi que des travaux de marquage et de signalisation.

### Modifications au Règlement sur le patrimoine

L'Arrondissement modernise sa réglementation pour mieux protéger son patrimoine bâti. Les nouvelles règles visent à simplifier les démarches des citoyennes et citoyens tout en assurant une meilleure conservation des bâtiments d'intérêt patrimonial ou situés en secteur d'intérêt patrimonial. Désormais, les mêmes normes à respecter seront ajustées en fonction du type et de l'époque de construction des bâtiments. Une nouvelle liste de bâtiments d'intérêt local a aussi été créée pour inclure des immeubles à valeur patrimoniale situés hors des secteurs protégés. De nouveaux secteurs d'intérêt patrimonial sont également identifiés afin de protéger une plus grande partie du territoire.

Ces changements permettront d'encadrer plus clairement les travaux sur les façades et les cours avant, tout en offrant une certaine flexibilité, notamment dans les choix des matériaux qui pourront être utilisés. Des fiches d'accompagnement adaptées aux différents types de bâtiments présents dans l'arrondissement ont également

été développées pour guider les propriétaires dans leurs projets de rénovation. L'objectif est de préserver l'identité des quartiers tout en facilitant les interventions respectueuses du patrimoine.

### Bye Bye Béton! Un financement accordé pour les trois futures éditions

Les 525 000 \$ alloués au programme permettront à l'Arrondissement de poursuivre l'initiative pour les trois prochaines années, soit jusqu'en 2028. La somme de 175 000 \$ sera consacrée annuellement à la réalisation de projets de déminéralisation et de verdissement citoyen.

En plus d'embellir les quartiers et d'en améliorer la biodiversité, ces nouveaux aménagements permettront d'améliorer la qualité de l'air, la captation des eaux de pluie et d'augmenter la biodiversité. La réalisation de ces projets participatifs contribuera parallèlement à favoriser la rencontre et les échanges au sein des groupes de citoyennes et citoyens impliqués dans les activités d'idéation, de dépavage et de plantation collective.

Depuis le lancement du programme en 2023, près de 460 m<sup>2</sup> d'asphalte ont été retirés à la main et remplacés par plus d'un millier de végétaux, dont 17 arbres, sous l'action de centaines de bénévoles épaulées par le Centre d'écologie urbaine et Ville en vert.

## Quebec's 2035 gas vehicle ban, under fire

MATTHEW DALDALIAN  
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A day after Quebec's environment minister slightly relaxed the province's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) standard, a prominent think tank says the government isn't going far enough—and should scrap the 2035 ban on gas-powered vehicles entirely.

The Montreal Economic Institute (MEI) responded forcefully this week to Minister Benoît Charette's decision to add some hybrid

models to the list of vehicles that count toward emissions reduction targets. Under Quebec's ZEV mandate, adopted in 2016, automakers must meet escalating quotas for low and zero-emission vehicle sales or face fines. The goal is to reach 100 per cent by 2035, effectively ending the sale of new gas-only cars.

### Not meeting target

But MEI policy analyst Gabriel Giguère says the province's incremental changes are merely a stopgap—and an implicit admission the targets are unachievable.

"There's a lack of appetite of the consumer for EVs," said Giguère. While sales were up in 2024, numbers dropped significantly in 2025 when provincial subsidies were paused. "People don't want that much EVs right now."

Giguère believes Quebec's 2026 sales target—32.5% of all new cars—already looks out of reach. According to internal government figures cited by Giguère, even the 2030 target of 85% is unlikely to be met. "The government knows it won't be able to meet its targets," he said.

### Luxury

Giguère argues that Quebec's ZEV policy has run up against not only economic headwinds but also logistical ones. The cost gap between electric and gas-powered vehicles remains significant, particularly in the popular SUV category. While some of that price difference may be recovered through fuel savings over several years, he noted that not every Quebecer can afford that kind of long-term investment. "Not everybody has that luxury," he said.

In addition, Giguère warned that Quebec's energy supply is already under strain. "Hydro-Québec is not swimming in large surpluses right now. Quite the contrary," he said. The growing demand from EVs, combined with efforts to electrify commercial and residential infrastructure, could outpace supply and limit future economic development.

### Consumer demand

The MEI has previously argued that policies like the ZEV mandate represent an attempt

to "impose" technological change from the top down—rather than letting innovation and consumer demand guide the transition.

"If the adoption of electric vehicles is to be sustainable, it has to be based on innovation, not obligation," Giguère said. "Let the Quebec people decide for themselves what is best for their families."

Polls suggest the MEI's position may have public support. A survey conducted by MEI last September found that 68% of Quebecers believe banning the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2035 is "unrealistic."

Despite the growing skepticism, the mandate remains intact. Asked if he supports any policy alternatives, Giguère emphasized individual choice. "If [a consumer] needs to buy an electric car, there's no problem. If it's a conventional car, there's also no problem," he said. "Right now, it's not the trend. And so the government wants to establish policy that obliges people to buy it. I don't think it's the right policy."

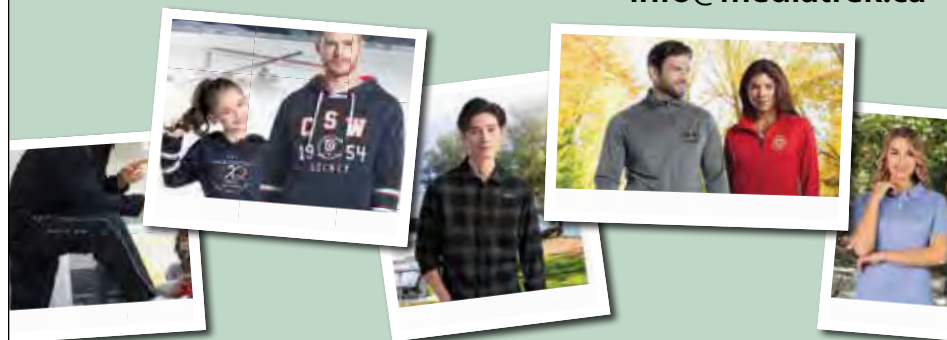
The MEI, which describes itself as an independent, pro-market think tank, continues to call on Quebec and Ottawa to abandon fixed EV quotas.



Gabriel Giguère

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# Sports and sanitation concerns take center stage at Parc-Ex borough meeting

**DYLAN ADAMS LEMAÇON**  
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On July 8, the borough council of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension gathered at the local city hall for their monthly meeting, with residents of Parc-Extension showing up in numbers to raise concerns about sports infrastructure and street sanitation.

Before diving into council business, the evening began with a special recognition ceremony as two individuals were invited to sign the borough's Livre d'or (Golden Book). Marjorie Villefranche, executive director of Maison d'Haïti and a former honorary citizen of Montreal, was praised by Mayor Laurence Lavigne Lalonde as "an inspiration to all of us." Also recognized was Daniel Côté, retiring after decades of community work through local organizations. Both received enthusiastic applause from the chamber.

Among announcements, the borough revealed

that the upcoming Villeray library will be named after writer and professor Caroline Dawson. Although the library is still in early planning stages, Mayor Lalonde described the project as a long-term cultural investment.

In Parc-Extension, City Councillor Mary Deros emphasized the lively start to summer. "Summer has started with many festivities," she said, referencing Saint-Jean and Canada Day celebrations. She also called on residents to do their part in keeping the borough clean, noting, "It's a collective work."

The public question period quickly revealed a strong turnout from local youth sports advocates. Baseball coach Zachary Patterson and his daughter—part of a growing girls' baseball team—raised concerns over the closure of baseball diamonds, notably at Parc Prévost. They highlighted the contradiction between growing youth participation and a decline in field availability.



Mayor Lalonde takes a picture with Marjorie Villefranche as she signs the borough's golden book for her outstanding work in the community. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, Parc-Extension News)

Mayor Lalonde assured them the Prévost diamond is not slated to close before 2028 and mentioned an ongoing evaluation of sports infrastructure. "There's increasing demand for many things in a borough," she said, "and we have to find ways to make everything work." She also pointed to a contract on the night's agenda for the refurbishment of a sports field that includes baseball facilities.

Other residents echoed these concerns, while another citizen, Pierre Lamarre, questioned the relocation of a local public pool. The mayor responded that the pool in question would require renovations and that consolidating aquatic facilities helps streamline maintenance.

Street cleanliness also dominated the discussion. Resident Maria Govostis described ongoing difficulties after her lawn was allegedly damaged by street cleaners in May, with no clear follow-up despite repeated calls to 311. Deros promised to personally follow up, calling it the first she'd heard of the situation.

Therese Nadeau raised a broader concern

about trash-strewn streets and the challenge of instilling shared responsibility for cleanliness. Deros noted that some newcomers to the borough may come from places where waste management education is lacking, suggesting the borough must "continue educating everyone."

The skateboarding community also made its presence felt. Several citizens, including Philippe Daoust of Project 45, protested the planned removal of a citizen-built skatepark. Mayor Lalonde explained that any new installation must meet city safety standards but admitted the council hadn't yet discussed the matter in depth. "We can't position ourselves until we've had that conversation internally," she said.

After a lively round of questions, the council resumed its agenda, approving a range of contracts and regulations related to urban planning, cultural funding, and public works. Construction at Parc Jarry was reported to have wrapped up—for now—with more expected later this summer.



Councillor Mary Deros was active in this month's meeting, showing her support for many of the citizens' concerns and making a point to personally look into some of the problems presented. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, Parc-Extension News)



Multiple members of a local baseball organization, including Zachary Paterson and his daughter, made their voices heard during the question period regarding the closing of baseball diamonds in the borough. (Photo: Dylan Adams Lemaçon, Parc-Extension News)

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# Spike in pediatric ER visits raises alarm

## Parc-Extension families urged to take extra precautions this summer

**DIMITRIS ILIAS**

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As temperatures rise and school doors close for the summer, doctors at the Montreal Children's Hospital are issuing a stark warning: the season of sun can quickly become the season of injury. Each year, the hospital's Emergency Department sees over 4,000 children and teens between June and August—many of them for preventable injuries. And for high-density neighbourhoods like Parc-Extension, the risks may be even higher.

According to a recent bulletin from the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), the most common summer-related ER visits involve drownings, falls from windows and balconies, scooter and bike accidents, and heat-related illness. In some cases, these incidents can lead to permanent disability or death.

### A summer surge in a vulnerable borough

Parc-Extension, one of the most densely populated neighbourhoods in Canada, is

home to thousands of families living in small apartments, often without air conditioning or access to private yards. For many children, summertime means playing on balconies, side-walks, and alleyways, which—without proper supervision and safety measures—can quickly turn dangerous.

In fact, MUHC data shows that around 15 children fall from windows or balconies each summer in Montreal, and at least one child per week is treated for a water-related injury. These figures don't account for the dozens of minor injuries that may go unreported or treated at local clinics.

### A call for prevention in Parc-Ex

Community health workers and educators in Parc-Extension are responding to the call with renewed urgency. Several are planning multi-lingual safety awareness campaigns tailored to the needs of the area's culturally diverse families. Local organizations are also preparing free programming this July and August, including:

- Home safety workshops at the CLSC Parc-Extension on how to secure windows and balconies.



- Outdoor hydration stations in collaboration with community centers.
- CPR and basic first-aid classes for parents, offered in multiple languages.
- Helmet and safety gear donation drives for children using scooters and bikes.

### The heat factor

Beyond injuries, heat exhaustion and dehydration are emerging as growing threats—especially in neighborhoods with limited green space and poor ventilation. Health officials recommend that children take frequent breaks in shaded areas, drink water regularly, and avoid physical activity during peak heat hours (11 a.m.–3 p.m.).

For families who cannot afford air conditioning, the borough has opened several cooling zones at libraries, cultural centers, and schools. Parc-Extension residents can also access splash pads and indoor community pools with extended summer hours.

### Working together to protect our children

While hospitals brace for the summer surge, many say the most effective intervention happens far before the ER doors. For a borough like Parc-Extension—where many families face language, economic, and housing challenges—prevention isn't just important. It's essential.

# New McGill course on racism in healthcare has direct impact on Parc-Extension

**DIMITRIS ILIAS**

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A newly launched course at McGill University's Faculty of Medicine is aiming to tackle one of the most persistent issues in Canadian healthcare: systemic racism. But for residents of Parc-Extension — one of the country's most ethnically diverse neighbourhoods — this initiative is far more than an academic experiment. It may signal the beginning of long-overdue change in how public health services are delivered in communities like theirs.

The course, titled PPHS 593 – Anti-Indigenous Racism and Intersectional Health Inequities, was rolled out this summer in response to growing demand for culturally safe care and the urgent

need to address inequities in treatment outcomes across Canada. While the primary focus is on anti-Indigenous racism in medicine, the course also addresses racial bias affecting newcomers, racialized communities, and non-French speakers — challenges that mirror daily realities in Parc-Extension.

### A neighbourhood on the front line of health disparities

With over 70% of residents identifying as immigrants or visible minorities, Parc-Extension often serves as a case study in how well (or poorly) public systems adapt to multicultural realities. From language barriers at walk-in clinics to uneven access to preventative care, many residents have long reported that the healthcare system doesn't fully see or serve them.

“People avoid the CLSC or don't go until it's an emergency,” says Fatima A., a longtime community health worker in Parc-Ex. “It's not just about availability. It's about being understood — culturally, linguistically, humanly.”

Indeed, Quebec's healthcare system — centralized, bureaucratic, and under strain — has been criticized for failing to provide consistent interpretation services or culturally adapted care. Stories of misdiagnoses, dismissive attitudes, and racially charged assumptions have become familiar across Montreal's immigrant-heavy boroughs.

### Training tomorrow's doctors to do better

What makes McGill's course unique is its immersive, interdisciplinary approach. Through case studies, testimonies, and workshops co-led by community advocates and health professionals, medical students and public health trainees are being challenged to confront their own assumptions and understand how policy, history, and prejudice continue to shape medical outcomes.

“This isn't about blaming future doctors,” said Dr. Marie-Chantal Fortin, one of the course contributors. “It's about giving them tools to recognize systemic patterns and to be aware of

how their unconscious biases — or even institutional routines — can unintentionally harm the very people they are trying to help.”

The university is also partnering with community groups in Montreal North, Verdun, and Parc-Extension to provide real-world perspectives from residents and frontline workers.

### Hope for structural change

Local organizations in Parc-Extension — including the Comité d'action de Parc-Extension (CAPE) and several newcomer support centers — have expressed cautious optimism. Some are already in talks with McGill's faculty to create internship opportunities or site visits that allow students to learn from the community, not just about it.

“This course gives us hope,” says Joseph Singh, director of a local multicultural wellness initiative. “We've had decades of top-down health programs that never asked what we actually need. Maybe now, students will come into the system with a different mindset — one rooted in listening, respect, and equality.”

### Not just a university issue

Healthcare advocates warn, however, that no curriculum — no matter how well-designed — can replace political will and investment. Parc-Extension still lacks a 24-hour urgent care clinic, mental health services are overstretched, and interpreter services remain inconsistent.

But for a neighbourhood where many feel unseen, the symbolism of one of Canada's top medical institutions acknowledging racism in health care is meaningful. It's a start.

“If one future doctor leaves that class remembering what it feels like to be dismissed or misunderstood in an exam room,” Fatima says, “then maybe one day, someone in Parc-Extension will feel safe, respected — and finally heard.”





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**Q** My story is long, but to make it short, I am in the process of grey divorce. My marriage lasted 30 years, with three adult children I adore. To start with, there are many differences between my husband and me, culturewise and educationwise. But I helped him finish his college education while working on my master's and Ph.D. degrees.

I helped him establish his own business. Slowly and with my support the business grew. He became famous here. Four years ago he went to a conference outside the country and came back changed. One day I caught him emailing a girl there and asked him about her. He said, "Don't worry. She is younger than our daughter."

Well, somehow I believed him. I discovered nearly four years ago he married her. I was devastated, so I asked him to leave the house and I asked for a divorce. I can't stand seeing his face. Ever since, my life has changed. I am no longer the woman I used to be. I am still teaching in the university, but I lost that zest for life.

His wife is expecting a baby this summer, and we are not happy about it. My children and I are worried this woman will give us trouble in regard to our business. After all, she didn't marry a man her father's age out of love. I managed to change the ownership of the business to five equal shares. If my ex chooses to give her and her child anything, it has to be his share.

How can I deal with the stigma of divorce? So far I am avoiding socializing as much as possible because I am not looking for sympathy from anyone. I attended some counseling meetings which helped me, but what shall I do when I am alone? I am now 63, and this is terrifying me.

Nadia

**A** Nadia, everything bad thrives in secrecy. Abuse, addiction, torture, betrayal, embezzlement . . . bigamy. You have nothing to hide. Hiding from the world might make people think you did something wrong, when he did. Most people, though, will feel I hope nothing like that happens to me. And for those in a relationship with someone who doesn't love them, it will make them very nervous.

You aren't alone. You will always have your children, and your husband has damaged his relationship with them. The best thing you can do for the sake of your children is finish this off.

There is only one way to live life, and that is to look reality square in the face every day. You have two choices. You can bury these events in your mind, tell social lies to others, and hide out in your home, or you can commit to living each day with passion. If you do the former, you will get nervous tics and twitches, and a tummy that acts up. If you do the latter, you will regain the zest for life you had as a small child newly arrived on the planet.

Divorce is a stigma only to the extent you allow it to be. Another woman might take these events and turn them into a hilarious story she tells at parties. There is no stigma attached to things which are beyond our control, and there is no stigma attached to us from the decisions of another.

So it is time to begin again. All the possibilities of life are before you. You have more financial freedom than most. The only things which can hold you back are between your ears. By all means, if you feel counseling is useful, then find a good counselor.

And never forget one lesson about your husband. You cannot trust him. Deal with him from a position of legal strength. Some people are entitled to the benefit of the doubt. He is not.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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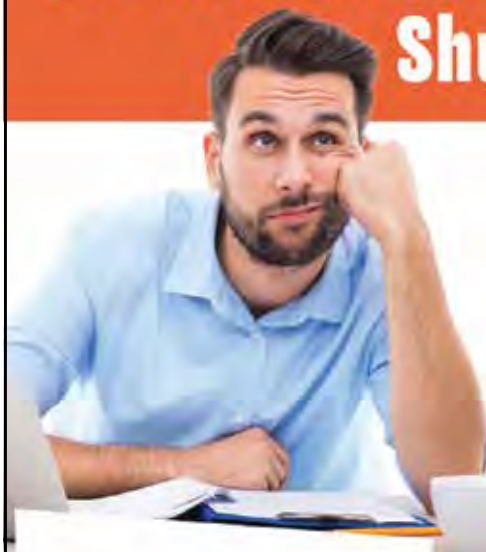
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### THIS WEEK'S BASKET:

#### FRUITS

- Big Pack Raspberries
- Extra Sweet Cherries
- Cantaloupe
- Apricots (5-6)
- Avocados (2)
- Juicy Peaches (3)
- Bananas (4)
- Apples (3)
- Tomatoes (3)

#### VEGETABLES

- Cauliflower
- Green Beans
- Nappa Cabbage
- Yellow Zucchini (3)
- Sweet Potatoes (3)
- Fresh leaf Carrots
- Lettuce
- Cucumber
- Yellow Onions (sac)
- Fresh Cilantro

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1

Book your basket online or by phone  
from Monday to Thursday

2

Pickup Thursday, Friday or Saturday.  
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# HOROSCOPE

Week of July 13 to 19, 2025

The luckiest signs this week:  
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



## ARIES

You'll have a serious outlook this week, even though you're on vacation. You'll be thinking about work and big projects rather than fully enjoying your time off. Someone close to you may need your support.



## TAURUS

Summer is flying by! Make the most of your planned activities. You'll have a packed social calendar, and your good friends will invite you out. You'll have memorable and enjoyable experiences.



## GEMINI

Time is precious and you'll have a whirlwind of ideas this week. You'll go on a spontaneous trip and start planning another adventure for later this year. You'll also focus on reaching ambitious personal and professional goals.



## CANCER

Whether you're on vacation or not, you'll find the time to treat yourself. Disconnect and recharge in nature. Set aside your worries about work while you're on vacation to reawaken your zest for life.



## LEO

You could be hit with intense emotions for various reasons this week. If you're dating, you'll know quickly if the other person is being insincere. Your emotional state influences your vitality. Prioritize finding balance and peace of mind.



## VIRGO

You're always busy with work, even during summer. Your keen insights will help you spot opportunities to clinch valuable contracts or partnerships with clients. Try to make time for your partner and family.



## LIBRA

Even while on vacation, you'll frequently check in with work via your smartphone. An unexpected work emergency could cut your vacation short. However, your dedication will impress your boss.



## SCORPIO

You have an inner passion pushing you to express your individuality. If you're single, you'll be bold and stand out. If you're in a relationship, try breaking up your everyday routine. Your home is a peaceful retreat where you can recharge.



## SAGITTARIUS

Despite being on vacation and promising yourself you would relax, you won't be able to disconnect from work. You'll check your messages and complete certain tasks. This will make it hard for you to fully unwind.



## CAPRICORN

Vacation is supposed to be relaxing, but you may choose a destination that keeps you active. Instead, you'll enjoy lively evenings filled with deep conversations and philosophical musings, giving free rein to your innermost reflections.



## AQUARIUS

You'll go on an adventure to break free from your typical routine or the hustle and bustle of everyday life. You'll explore boutiques and treat yourself, which will lift your spirits. You may also receive a financial surprise, like an unexpected windfall or forgotten cash you find in your pocket.



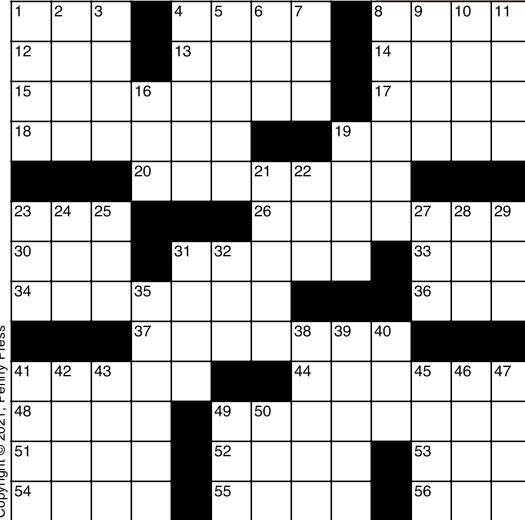
## PISCES

Take the downtime you need before diving back into new activities. If you feel the urge to let go, trust life to guide you. Something will spark your creativity, leading to remarkable artistic inspiration.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 284



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### ACROSS

- Shipboard diary
- Louts
- Upper limbs
- Have property
- Not false
- camp
- Coast
- Fountain drink
- Self-
- Prettier
- Farm vehicle
- Humor
- Purse
- King beater
- Gives the cold shoulder
- Individual
- Lawmaker
- Fitness center
- Violent windstorm
- Plant again
- Passengers
- Baking appliance

### DOWN

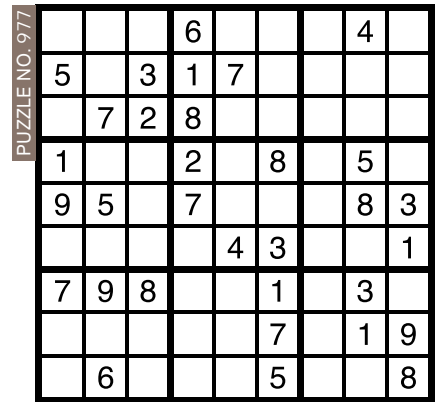
- Mislay
- Has bills
- Small fly
- Different
- Scent
- Cat's coat
- Admit as a visitor
- Ridiculous
- Applaud
- Pie a la
- Big name
- Put in place
- Negative points
- Butter maker
- Standards
- Stack
- Unseat
- Traveler's stop
- Annexes
- Follow instructions
- It came first?
- Dinner check
- "I \_\_\_\_ a Teenage Werewolf"
- Skating on thin
- Number of bowling frames
- Marsh
- Whichever
- Sapphire
- Pack away
- Neither's mate
- Does penance
- Develop
- Song
- Work by Keats
- Line
- Harmful
- Persuade
- Canal from Albany to Buffalo
- Engagement gift
- Harmonized
- Talk fondly
- Buff

# Sudoku

## HOW TO PLAY:

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

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

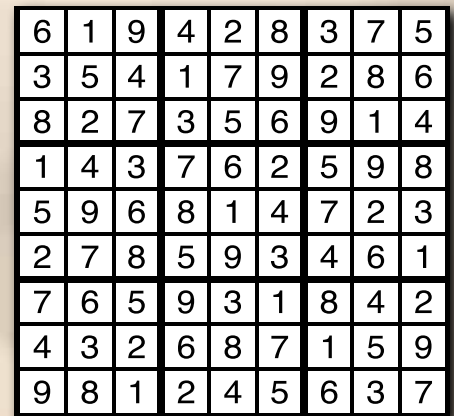


## Last Issue's Answers

### CROSSWORDS



### Sudoku



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