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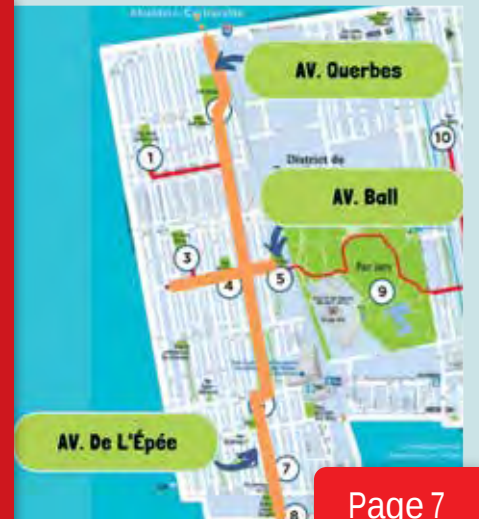
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Canada Post strike could make a dent in voter turnout, according to Deros

Fears Parc Ex voters will be disoriented without their usual info cards

With the postal service labour dispute still unresolved and door-to-door mail delivery uncertain, incumbent Parc Extension city councillor Mary Deros is worried that confusion resulting from Canada Post's failure to deliver voter information cards could impact the outcome of the November 2 elections.

"It's one great obstacle that we are working hard to fix," Deros said in an interview with Nouvelles Parc Extension News regarding the additional efforts that she and her campaign team have had to make.

Hard to reach voters

As a large number of the district's residents habitually don't communicate in English or French but rely on media sources in their own language, most of the time they're unaware of what's happening locally, according to Deros.

Because of the Canada Post strike, the municipal elections director for the City of Montreal decided to outsource delivery of the voter information cards, with dates, times and polling station locations, to a private courier service.

But unlike Canada Post, which in previous elections has always delivered the cards to apartment building lobby mailboxes, the courier dropped

batches of information cards on the lobby floor in apartment buildings, so that many recipients probably never received the card meant for their household, said Deros.

Densely-populated Parc Ex

Since Parc Extension is densely populated and most residents live in multi-unit apartment buildings, the impact of this method of distribution is likely to be felt on election day, added Deros. She noted that the courier service isn't entirely at fault as they don't have access keys to open apartment lobby mailboxes, like Canada Post.

The Élections-Québec protocol for delivering voter information cards requires only the address of the recipient (or recipients) to show through a transparent envelope window pane, although the name or names are listed on the information sheet inside the envelope.

Confusion arises when anyone looking for their own information card has no choice but to open the other envelopes. Deros said a few civic-minded residents of the area she has become aware of went to the trouble of picking up information cards off the lobby floor and delivered them by hand to the intended apartments.

Getting out the message

In the meantime, she added, volunteers on her campaign team have been getting the word out with hundreds of phone calls to residents about

the dates and times for advance and election day polls, as well as the necessity to bring some valid I.D. when going to vote.

"So, at least we're helping the situation ourselves," said Deros. "But this isn't just Parc Ex – it's all over Montreal and other cities like Laval. I don't know how those people are going to know when and how and where to go and vote."

She said senior citizens, among others, are probably not going to bother retrieving the information card meant for their apartment. Asked whether this may make an impact on the voting results, Deros responded, "In multiplexes it's going to be very difficult."

In the meantime, Deros and her crew are working the phones to try and minimize the damage. "We are making as many phone calls as we can with our volunteers," she said. "We're trying to inform people on what they have to do and how to do it. It's not easy."

Time growing short

"Because the time is flying," she continued. "There's very little time left, and hopefully people will understand and go out and vote. But again, being aware of the diversity we have, and the lack of understanding of what's happening, it's possible again that people in Parc Ex will stay home and not go vote. This is what is scary, because once again democracy will not be able to be practiced."

"It's a democratic right to exercise our capacity to go and vote. And especially municipal elections: we cater to their daily needs. And, unfortunately, once again people will not be able to understand the system. They will not know what to do or how to go about it and it's sad."

"Very sad and frustrating because we [elected officials] work hard," Deros added. "We work daily to provide services and the last years have been very difficult because the administration has not been listening to people's needs. And we're trying hard to tell them that we're the alternative, that we are those who will take the time to listen to them and serve the citizens according to their needs."

Voter info for advance and voting day polls

Election Day:

- Sunday, November 2, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Early Voting:

- Sunday, October 26, 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Walk-in and Home Voting:

- Saturday, October 25, Daytime

Voting at the Returning Officer's Office:

- Friday, October 24, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Monday, October 27, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 28, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 29, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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OPINION & Editorial



Canada's capital crisis is dragging us down

*We're not getting richer—we're getting poorer
Canada needs to rethink how we use public dollars
before the damage becomes irreversible*

One of the sad truths about the real world is that there is no such thing as a free lunch—especially when it comes to building a prosperous economy. In Canada today, even basic resources like clean air, fresh water and financial capital are scarce. That's why we must be far more deliberate about how we spend and invest—because poor choices are making us poorer.

As late as the last century, even dismal economists put forward the concept of a free good. Such a good was defined as being in sufficiently ample supply that everyone could use it for whatever purposes they wanted, in whatever quantities they wanted, and there would still be enough left over for all of us to continue to do the same.

Examples of such goods were rare. Two that were mentioned were air and water. It took people until fairly recently to sufficiently pollute the air to realize that if we continue to use the air freely to dump all our smoke and other airborne pollutants, there will not be enough clean, breathable air to support healthy life.

There is still plenty of water on Earth, but if we do not count the oceans and only consider clean, fresh, potable water, this is no longer a free good. Hikers in the wilderness now have to carry water purification tablets, as even remote streams are often not safe for drinking.

All goods are now scarce, which means we can't afford to use them carelessly or thoughtlessly. We need to use our limited resources as wisely as possible.

One of the most important scarce resources in Canada is capital. We can think of it as the physical machinery, equipment and infrastructure that support our economy, or as the financial resources used to create those things. Capital isn't valued for its own sake, but for its ability to generate the goods and services we rely on, and to raise our standard of living.

Average personal incomes in Canada have been falling. We are getting poorer. That makes it all the more important to invest our limited financial resources in productive capital that can help reverse that trend.

We call using dollars to produce capital "investment," and investment is what remains from our incomes after consumer spending. Some of it is invested directly in businesses that create goods and services. Much of the rest goes to taxes.

Governments spend some of that tax money on pensions and benefits. Ideally, they would use most of the rest to fund public capital—the roads, pipelines, power generation and other infrastructure that make private investment more efficient. But that's not what's happening.

Since at least 1990, governments have been spending between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of our total gross national product—our overall economic output—on consumption, such as civil servant salaries, rather than on long-term investment. This ratio has been rising since 2020. At the same time, private sector investment has remained between 10 per cent and 13 per cent of economic output, trending closer to 10 per cent in recent years. This lack of investment—

both public and private—is a major reason our standard of living is falling.

There are many reasons why private sector investment is weak, but they all boil down to a hard fact: financial capital is scarce. When governments use up a quarter of the country's resources on programs and payrolls that don't add to our capital base or productivity, there's not much left to invest in real economic growth.

Governments frequently talk about shifting spending toward capital and away from consumption. But so far, it's mostly talk. To make real progress, they should subject all spending to serious cost-benefit analysis—asking whether each dollar spent delivers measurable value to taxpayers and the economy.

What do we want from each government program or activity, and are we getting it? Are the generous salaries and benefits paid to civil servants really needed, especially when many of the taxpayers covering those costs are falling behind? And how long will it take before the many infrastructure projects now being promised by the federal government—such as transit expansions and clean energy investments—are actually built and contributing to Canada's future?

There is no free lunch—or even any free goods—any more. Everything, including vital capital, is scarce. If we want to raise living standards rather than watch them decline, we must ensure that our financial resources are directed to their most productive uses.

Dr. Roslyn Kunin

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Life as a tenant in Parc-Extension



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Parc-Extension is one of the most densely populated and culturally rich neighbourhoods in the city. For tenants living here amid small plexes, apartment buildings and mixed-use blocks the rules around what a landlord can and cannot do carry particular weight, especially given the rising pressures of housing, rental turnover and community change.

If you're renting in Parc-Extension and your landlord asks you to vacate your home, it helps to know your rights and what pathways exist. The scenarios below reflect Québec law, and while they apply broadly across Montréal, they're especially relevant in a neighbourhood like this where many tenants are newcomers, navigating multiple languages and housing transitions.

When your landlord asks you to leave

There are four key situations you should know about: eviction for change of use, evacuation for major repairs, expulsion for unpaid rent, and a

landlord's "reprise" of the dwelling (taking it back for personal use or for a family member). Let's walk through each of them, tying them to what could especially matter in a dense community like Parc-Extension.

1. Eviction for change of use or subdivision

A landlord may claim they want to evict you in order to subdivide the unit, enlarge the property, or change its use (for instance converting residential to something else). Under Québec law, until **6 June 2027**, a landlord **may not** send a valid eviction notice for these specific reasons of subdivision, enlargement or new usage. If you have received such an eviction notice for those purposes, you do **not** need to respond you have the right to remain in your home.

In a community like Parc-Extension, where older apartment buildings and multiplexes abound, and where immigrant-renters may be more vulnerable to pressure, this protection is meaningful. Having the legal breathing space until 2027 means you're less exposed to displacement from a landlord driven by redevelopment motives.

2. Evacuation for major repairs

If the landlord asks you to vacate temporarily because major repairs are required (but not for subdivision or conversion), then they must send you a formal notice. That notice must state the amount of compensation the landlord offers you for that temporary relocation. If you refuse or simply do not respond, that is treated as a refusal. If the landlord wishes to pursue the process despite your refusal, they have to apply to the **Tribunal administratif du logement (TAL)** for permission.

A few extra protections apply: your lease remains valid during this time. Your current rent stays the same even while you're out for repairs and cannot be increased mid-lease because of the repairs. After the repairs, you should get your home back in good condition and at the same rent. Only when the lease is up for renewal can the landlord then look to factor in the cost of the work.

3. Expulsion for unpaid or frequently late rent

When a tenant has failed to pay rent, or pays habitually late (for example payment more than three weeks late or repeated lateness), a landlord may ask the TAL to end the lease. The landlord must show the delay or repeated lateness is causing serious harm. If the TAL ends the lease, you must leave. If you don't, the landlord can request a bailiff to evict you.

If eviction happens, you must remove your belongings by the eviction date (or at latest by that day). Some boroughs offer storage for your goods, free or paid, for 30-60 days depending on the case. This potential assistance is relevant in a community where tenants may have fewer

resources or less space to move quickly.

4. Landlord taking back the dwelling ("reprise de logement")

The landlord may serve a notice of takeover to live in the unit themselves, or to house an immediate family member or someone of which they are the main provider. That notice is only valid if the landlord meets the deadlines and conditions set by law. If you refuse to leave, you must do so in writing or simply not respond (which is treated as refusal). After refusal the landlord has one month to apply to the TAL.

If the TAL approves the takeover and you must leave, you may ask the landlord to reimburse your moving expenses. The Tribunal may also impose fair and reasonable conditions. Also important: if you are 65 or older, on modest income and you've lived in the unit for at least 10 years, the landlord **cannot** take the unit back. There are exceptions (for example if the landlord is 65 + and wishes to live in the unit, or house someone 65 + etc).

What you can do

Because Parc-Extension is so diverse (nearly 70% of residents born outside Canada; many speaking a mother tongue other than French or English), tenant rights can be harder to navigate. Here are general pointers:

- Get any written notice from your landlord in writing (date, reason given, what they're asking you to do).
- Stay informed: you can consult the TAL website or Éducaloi for detailed legal norms.
- Connect with local housing-rights committees (there are associations in Parc-Extension that speak several languages) who can help explain your rights.
- If you receive a notice for works or takeover etc, ask what your options are especially what compensation or conditions apply.
- Don't ignore notices. Even if you believe your situation is protected, it's safer to get advice and respond accordingly.

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Parc-Extension caught between pedals and parking politics

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What began as two short stretches of painted asphalt in Parc-Extension has turned into one of Montreal's most politically charged street fights — pitting cyclists, drivers, and candidates against one another over how the city's arteries should breathe.

At the center of the storm are the bike lanes on Ball and Querbes avenues, installed in 2023 as part of a wider effort to make cycling safer in dense neighbourhoods. The lanes carved out roughly 200 on-street parking spots, and while supporters saw them as a long-overdue step toward greener mobility, others saw an unforgivable loss of already scarce parking.

Now, as Montreal's municipal campaign heats up, the future of those lanes is once again up for grabs.

A campaign message lights the fuse

The spark came from Mary Deros, veteran councillor for Parc-Extension and a candidate for re-election under Ensemble Montréal, who recently sent residents a message promising to “bring back parking on both sides” of Ball and Querbes.

The statement was quickly amplified online, where critics accused Deros's party of trying to woo frustrated motorists by quietly undermining the city's active-transportation plan.

When asked for clarification, Ensemble Montréal's mayoral candidate Soraya Martinez Ferrada did not back down entirely, but offered a careful distinction: adding parking, she said, “doesn't automatically mean removing a bike lane.” Her team insisted that a safety review of the entire cycling network is planned if the party wins office.

The incumbents

Projet Montréal, which currently governs the city, said it's physically impossible to have both full-time parking and protected bike lanes on the same narrow streets.

City engineers have previously confirmed that the removal of parking was required to leave space for emergency vehicles, in line with Montréal's fire-safety standards. A one-way

conversion was considered but dropped after consultations.

A neighbourhood of tight streets and tighter opinions

Parc-Extension is one of Canada's most densely populated areas, a tight grid of duplexes, small businesses, and apartment blocks where every meter of curb space is contested. Residents say finding parking at night can feel like “winning the lottery.”

Some argue that cycling infrastructure should adapt to the neighbourhood's unique constraints rather than copy solutions from wider downtown boulevards. Others counter that residents deserve the same safety standards as any other part of the city — and that climate-friendly transport shouldn't stop at the tracks of Parc Avenue.

For now, the lanes on Ball and Querbes remain painted, bollarded, and used daily by commuters and delivery cyclists alike.

A divided city over a few hundred metres of asphalt

The dispute may seem local, but it reflects a broader identity crisis for Montreal's mobility future.

Recent polling shows Montrealers nearly split down the middle: 49 percent approve of the city's cycling expansion, 43 percent disapprove. Among business owners in nearby Ahuntsic and Chabanel, nine out of ten say new bike lanes have hurt access for suppliers and customers.

Mayor Valérie Plante, seeking to hold ground, warned that reversing progress on active transport “would send the wrong signal for Montreal's future.” Her opponents accuse her of ignoring the everyday struggles of drivers and merchants.

The road ahead

No official proposal has been tabled to remove the Parc-Extension bike lanes, but the language of “re-evaluating” and “restoring parking” has cyclists worried that small administrative tweaks could quietly chip away at infrastructure gains.

Urban-mobility experts caution that consistency is key.

As the November 2 vote nears, Montrealers will have to decide not only who runs City Hall, but what kind of city they want to drive — or ride — through.



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Homelessness and 'inclusivity' at the heart of Ensemble Montréal's platform

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In a preamble to Ensemble Montréal's 2025 electoral platform, the party's mayoralty candidate, Soraya Martinez Ferrada, says she dreams of an accessible and inclusive city.



"A city where everyone has a roof over their head and can thrive," states the former federal Liberal cabinet minister. "Where young people find quality jobs. Where families and seniors feel safe everywhere, day and night. A city that embraces community, welcomes with hope, and opens up opportunities for all."

But to achieve this, she continues, "we need to breathe new life into it." Therefore, she suggests, the city must refocus on its core missions,

beginning with citizen services, after which it must put its finances in order and improve its operations.

'Recovery' necessary, says mayoralty hopeful

"Without a major recovery, meeting the challenges ahead and improving our neighborhoods will be impossible," says Martinez Ferrada, who served from 2005 to 2007 as the Montreal city councillor for Saint-Michel.

"The facts are clear," she continues. "Spending is exploding, municipal staffing levels are swelling, particularly at the management level, but service improvements have not kept pace. Montrealers are demanding greater rigor. And they are right. It's time to better provide basic services: cleanliness, security, street and sidewalk maintenance, snow removal, and infrastructure modernization. It's time to act."

But to succeed, she also suggests, the next administration at Montreal City Hall "must listen. Listen to the public, merchants, associations, the business and cultural sectors. The

challenges are complex and numerous: access to housing, homelessness, mobility, and the ecological transition.

Restoring trust and bridge building

"We need concerted solutions, supported jointly by the mayor and city council, community organizations, the private sector, and the governments of Quebec and Canada."

Soraya Martinez and her team are pledging to "build these bridges and defend Montreal's interests with conviction," while also promising to "restore the bond of trust between the population and its municipal administration."

"We will work with respect, in partnership with all those who care about the Quebec metropolis. A new lease of life also means reviewing our ways of doing things and reducing the red tape that simply no longer has a reason to exist and that slows Montreal's development."

They promise to simplify exchanges and transactions between the city, the population and entrepreneurs, while also pledging to build a prosperous city "that offers an exemplary quality of life and a business environment. Our direction is pragmatism. Our approach is listening and collaboration. Our plan is to act, now with ambition."

Party's six basic themes

A condensed version of the Ensemble Montréal platform breaks down their pledges into six themes: Address the housing crisis; Reduce homelessness; Strengthen security; Restore a clean city; Promote smooth, safe and inclusive mobility; And manage with rigor and agility.

Their agenda also includes the following points: Ensure the ecological transition and resilience of the metropolis; Rebuild reliable, sustainable infrastructure worthy of a major city; Accelerate the development of East Montreal; Revitalize Montreal's shopping streets and support the local economy; Propel the economic sectors of excellence; Promote Montreal's reputation through culture, arts, and design; Revive the downtown; And increase Montreal's influence and attractiveness on the international stage.

Ensemble Montréal's proposed course of action for its first 100 days in office if elected contains 10 specific measures:

Housing and homelessness

Create a Mayors' Table to establish the foundations for quality services throughout the territory and work in close collaboration; Evaluate all municipal land and buildings and establish a public registry of vacant or abandoned buildings to accelerate housing construction; Replace the 'Regulations for a Mixed Metropolis' with financial incentives and establish a true partnership with real estate stakeholders, NGOs, and the private sector to quickly build affordable and social housing; Establish a Tactical Intervention Group on Homelessness (GITI) and draft a protocol for encampments.

Increase the homelessness budget and create a \$10 million matching fund with the private sector to combat the homelessness crisis; Deploy monitoring committees and increase multidisciplinary teams to quickly secure Montreal's neighborhoods; Relaunch the Montréal Metropolitan Cultural Office; Produce an inventory of projects and launch an assessment of the cycling network to assess user safety issues (cyclists, pedestrians, motorists); Begin the process of optimizing the municipal system and launch a call for projects for artificial intelligence; And mobilize partners to develop a plan for concerted action and common objectives to enhance Montreal's international reputation and attractiveness.

'Responsibility to act,' says Martinez Ferrada

The Ensemble Montréal platform leans heavily on what it sees as a pressing need to deal with homelessness effectively.

"Homelessness is not inevitable," states the platform document. "It's a reflection of a system that needs to better prevent, better support, and better house. In Montreal, more and more citizens find themselves on the streets: young people, the elderly, newcomers, and sometimes even families. They are Montrealers in their own right, and we have a collective responsibility to act."

"For too long, we have managed the crisis instead of preventing it," it continues. "Our approach is based on dignity, prevention, and coordination. This means: Investing in transitional housing and social and economic housing to provide sustainable solutions; Supporting Montrealers on the streets toward stability through ongoing psychosocial support; Ensuring harmonious coexistence with local residents in a safe and respectful environment for all."

They promise better security

Another area of the party's platform pledges to take measures to boost security in the city's neighbourhoods. "The causes are multiple: the increase in antisocial behavior; issues related to drug addiction; the increased presence of firearms and a nearly 28 per cent increase in crimes against persons between 2019 and 2024. Added to this is the uncleanness of certain streets, which reinforces the feeling of insecurity and undermines trust in public spaces."

The proposed actions include providing more support to police, reinforcing security on public transit and near schools, acting proactively to prevent incidents from happening, providing more support to firefighters while upgrading their equipment, and making sure that everything in the city is done "inclusively" with an emphasis on cultural diversity.

"Every Montrealer has the right not only to be safe, but also to feel safe, regardless of the neighborhood, the time of day, or the means of transportation," the party states. "Because security is everyone's business and is the essential condition for Montreal to once again become a confident, welcoming, and vibrant city."



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Projet Montréal seeks a third term, after eight years at Montreal City Hall



MARTIN C. BARRY
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In its 2025 election campaign platform, Projet Montréal says it is setting aside slogans in order to offer the centre city's voters concrete solutions for priority problems.

The most pressing of these, according to the party's 2025 campaign platform, is housing, says the incumbent party which is seeking a third term after winning majorities in Montreal City Council in 2017 and 2021.

"While the commodification of housing has led us into a brick wall, we want to develop the most ambitious housing plan in North America to allow all Montrealers to continue to choose where they want to live, when they want, without breaking the bank," Projet Montréal leader and mayoralty candidate Luc Rabouin states.

Seeking a third term

After eight years of Projet Montréal administration at Montreal City Hall, with outgoing mayor

Valérie Plante at the helm over that span of time, it remains to be seen whether the party's hold on Montreal's voters will continue.

This would be in spite of some of the issues that dogged Projet Montréal in the past four years, including the party's rigid determination to continue expanding a growing network of paths in areas where they weren't always well-received, as well as Projet Montréal's unpopular decision to proceed with a plan to close Mount Royal to motor vehicle traffic.

"Projet Montréal's vision has always centered around a city that thrives for its residents," Rabouin says in a preface to his party's platform. "A city that places the quality of life of families, young people, and seniors at the heart of its decisions."

'A city for everyone'

"We are building a city for everyone, founded on the principles of social justice, solidarity, diversity and inclusion, a city committed to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and free from racism, disability discrimination and all forms

of prejudice."

Like some of the other municipal parties active in the 2025 election, Projet Montréal has set the housing crisis at the top of its list of things it would be dealing with if re-elected on November 2.

"Like all major North American cities, Montreal is experiencing its most serious housing crisis since the Second World War," states the platform, while citing skyrocketing rents, weakened families and neighborhoods under pressure as the main problems.

"This crisis isn't just a lack of housing; it's also a loss of freedom for thousands of Montrealers: young people who can no longer choose the city for their studies, couples unable to separate, women trapped in a violent situation, families unable to move when an extra bedroom becomes necessary, workers forced to move further and further away and paying more and more.

Empowering Montrealers

"This is why Projet Montréal places housing at the heart of its commitments," they continue. "Our plan works across the entire chain: getting

everyone off the streets, facilitating the construction of affordable housing, protecting tenants, and facilitating access to homeownership. The goal is clear: to empower Montrealers who choose our city and want to continue living here."

The party is proposing an eight-point plan that includes: The creation of 10 strategic zones where the city would have infrastructure ready for developers to build housing projects; Converting underused parking lots into housing projects; The creation of a \$100 million municipal fund to be drawn on by non-profit groups for low-cost housing development; The creation of an even greater number of accessible and adaptable housing units than is now the case; And providing support for the conversion of downtown office buildings into housing.

Projet Montréal appears determined to deal with the housing crisis effectively. To that end, the party sets a deadline of 2030 to get everyone who is homeless "off the street."

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“No one should be forced to live on the streets in Montreal,” they say. “To achieve this, despite the city’s limited resources, concrete and coordinated actions are needed: supporting frontline associations, creating immediate and sustainable housing solutions, and protecting vulnerable housing from the speculative market.”

Dealing with housing crisis

This part of their agenda if elected would include doubling the financing of community organizations while guaranteeing it over three years; Deploying 500 modular housing units with social service support as quickly as possible; Supporting the creation of 500 transitional social housing

units; And taking measures to protect rooming houses from developer speculation so that they are not suddenly removed from the housing market.

One of the more uncommon proposals being made by Projet Montréal would be the implementation of a new network of public washrooms spread out through all the city’s neighbourhoods, to serve the needs of families, senior citizens, workers, tourists and the homeless.

On the issue of traffic safety, the party wants to improve security in several districts of the city. In Parc Extension, they want to thoroughly review the development of Parc Avenue to transform it from “a dangerous urban highway” to a sustainable mobility corridor from Parc-Extension southward to the city center.

“Mobility in Montreal is not just about moving quickly,” states the platform. “It must be safe, accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Whether walking, cycling, taking the bus, the metro, or simply crossing the street, everyone must be able to move around without fear and enjoy public spaces.”

More bike paths coming

On the issue of bike paths, Projet Montréal confirms its intention to continue at least maintaining existing ones in the next four years if elected, while also extending paths in certain areas. While dealing at the same time with road safety, the party says it would explore the use of AI to better coordinate traffic lights in Montreal and expand the number of available handicapped parking spaces everywhere in the city.

If elected, Projet Montréal says it would go ahead with long postponed plans and outfit Montreal Police Dept. officers with body cameras in order to “strengthen transparency, accountability and trust between the public and the police.”

Among other things, the party is also pledging to make life easier for retail business operators through the creation of a new division of Accès Montréal, devoted exclusively to the city administration’s relations with businesses.

“The city can help them by facilitating their procedures, helping them be more accessible, and giving them a helping hand during construction projects,” says Projet Montréal, alluding perhaps to inconveniences inflicted on retail store owners when major repairs are undertaken and excavate commercial streets.



A cyclist rides along Querbes Avenue, where a new bike path has drawn mixed reactions from residents. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Nouvelles Parc-Extension News)

MATTHEW DALDALIAN
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For residents of Parc-Extension, the cracked pavement and crumbling entrance to the William-Hingston Centre have become a symbol of a greater problem in their neighbourhood. The aging complex on Saint-Roch Street houses both the local library and the ‘Maison de la culture’ — two borough cornerstones that residents say deserve better upkeep. Local residents said the state of the area is not only unsightly but believed it’s emblematic of a lack of civic pride.

“We’re asking the borough to put its foot down and negotiate more firmly with the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal,” said Jean-François Leclerc, a historian and longtime resident, referring to the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal (CSSDM) which owns the building. “If it takes temporary repairs or smaller interventions, so be it. What matters is that the space looks cared for.” Leclerc, who has lived in Parc-Extension for over two decades, is part of *Vivre à Parc-Extension*, a citizen group formed out of the older Comité citoyen de Parc-Extension. The group’s goal, he said, is simple: to call atten-



Residents Pierre Deschênes (left) and Jean-François Leclerc (right) say they hope to see renewed pride in Parc-Extension through better upkeep of public spaces. (Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Nouvelles Parc-Extension News)

tion to the everyday neglect that they believe residents have come to accept.

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Parc-Extension councillor Mary Deros said she has repeatedly raised concerns about safety and accessibility at the William-Hingston Centre.
(Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Nouvelles Parc-Extension News)



The William-Hingston Centre houses both Parc-Extension's public library and the Maison de la culture Claude-Léveillée.
(Photo: Matthew Daldalian, Nouvelles Parc-Extension News)

◀ **Continued from page 10**

"People stop seeing the broken fences and filthy entrances because it becomes normal," Leclerc said. "But it's not normal. The pride of a neighbourhood starts with its public spaces."

Leclerc added that many residents, particularly newcomers, hesitate to speak up about deteriorating infrastructure due to language barriers or a lack of familiarity with local politics. "Former mayors have told me the same thing—people here don't complain as much as they do in other districts," he said. "That's part of why things stay the same. So we're trying to change that."

Another member of the group, painter and resident Pierre Deschênes, said the focus has been on small but meaningful improvements. "The library and Maison de la culture are emblematic places," Deschênes said. "But the access roads to them are in a pitiful state. We go to borough council meetings, we write to elected officials, we even talk to the media. It's not just for us—it's for everyone in the neighbourhood."

Deschênes said that while larger organizations handle social or economic issues, their group focuses on visible, concrete improvements that can inspire locals. "Even small things add up," he said. "If you maintain what's in front of you, people start to feel they live somewhere that matters."

Parc-Extension councillor Mary Deros said

she shares those frustrations. "The cement outside is cracked from the street level. The sidewalk that leads to the staircase is broken," she said. Deros said that despite years of discussion, neither the school board nor the city has taken responsibility for repairing the damaged entrance. She added that the issue has been raised repeatedly at council and believes the borough should take initiative by completing the work itself and later billing the Centre de services scolaire de Montréal.

"It's been too many years," she said. "Safety for seniors and families has to come first. When water freezes in the broken asphalt, it's a hazard. It's unacceptable."

Deros also said that long-standing infrastructure and mobility decisions have left residents feeling overlooked. She pointed to streets such as Querbes Avenue, where a new bike path has drawn concern from residents.

The councillor claimed the path's installation created challenges for parking, deliveries, and emergency access. "There was never any study made," she said. "The police, the fire department, the ambulances, the merchants for deliveries—no one had been approached to talk about how they're going to manage all this."

The councillor also used the issue to criticize the outgoing Projet Montréal borough administration, which she said invested heavily in Villeray while neglecting Parc-Extension.

In a written statement to The Parc-Ex News, Alain Perron, spokesperson for the CSSDM, confirmed that the William-Hingston site

belongs to them but is subject to a shared-main-tenance lease signed with the City of Montreal in 2001. The school service centre said both parties have defined responsibilities for tasks such as snow removal, waste collection, and corrective work, all of which must ensure safe access to the premises.

Perron added that annual inspections are ongoing and that targeted maintenance work is carried out as needed to guarantee user safety. The CSSDM has also repeatedly requested funding for a major renovation project at the complex, but those requests have been denied.

As a result, Perron said work is being carried out gradually, according to available resources

and operational feasibility, until new space becomes available elsewhere in its network.

For residents like Leclerc and Deschênes, the solution starts with visibility. *Vivre à Parc-Extension* now focuses on documenting problems and sharing them publicly rather than staging protests. "We're not a registered nonprofit; we're just volunteers," Leclerc said. "The least we can do is show what's wrong and ask candidates to take a position."

As municipal elections approach, the group hopes their message will resonate beyond one cracked sidewalk. "It's not just about fixing a path," Deschênes said. "It's about saying that Parc-Extension deserves the same care and dignity as any other part of Montreal."

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Federal Energy Minister Tim Hodgson explains 'Build Canada'

Parc-Extension News EXCLUSIVE

MARTIN C. BARRY

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
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Federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Tim Hodgson made stops in several Quebec regions recently while on a whirlwind tour of the province to announce Ottawa's support for key industries expected to play a part in the massive "Build Canada" program the government has launched to boost economic growth following U.S. president Donald Trump's imposition of crippling tariffs.

Opportunity knocks

"We're here learning about the different opportunities," Hodgson said in an exclusive interview with *Newsfirst Multimedia* while in Chicoutimi to announce a \$735,000 subsidy to a phosphate mining company that is expected to help build reliable critical minerals supply chains in Canada.

"I just met with many of the mayors and business leaders in the Saguenay area and heard about what their aspirations and desires are and some of the opportunities here in critical minerals and in clean and conventional energy," he said. "And it's a very promising place."

While in Montreal recently, Hodgson announced an investment by the Liberal government of over \$22 million in support of eight projects to accelerate battery innovation and production capacity across Canada.

If commercialized, Arianne Phosphate's project could establish a source of Canadian phosphorus, a key ingredient in lithium-iron-phosphate batteries.

Battery production growth

Hodgson's ministry anticipates that the global cumulative battery demand from 2022 to 2050 is set to increase nearly 150-fold, providing an important opportunity for Canadian battery manufacturers. Phosphoric acid is also essential for fertilizers and other specialty products.

The subsidies, according to Hodgson, underscore the beginning of the Carney government's massive Build Canada program.

It's all about "getting educated," the former CEO of Goldman Sachs Canada said. "Each region and each set of folks are wanting me to understand the opportunities in their regions. And as they think about what they'd like to see happen, I educate myself."

Perhaps not since the Great Depression has the Canadian federal government undertaken such a massive, nationwide economic rebuilding program as Build Canada. Hodgson acknowledged that indeed "the Prime Minister has been talking for quite some time about how this is really a hinge moment."

Rules changed by Trump

He recalled that after World War II, the major world powers signed the Bretton Woods Agreement, establishing a new global system of monetary and free trade management. That lasted up until recently when the U.S. under Trump decided it no longer wanted to do business that way.

"They no longer believe in free trade," Hodgson said. "It's no longer a free trading multilateral world. It's becoming much more of an America-first or what, you know, you would call in economic terms a mercantilist world, where



you design everything for the benefit of one country, if that is the world we find ourselves in. And again, we did not ask for this trade war. We were happy with the way it was working."

The upshot, according to Hodgson, is that "we need to retool, we need to reorganize. And the Build Canada Act and the Major Projects Office are a critical part of the retooling of our economy."

Attracting private investment

Through Build Canada, the federal government hopes to attract \$500 billion in new private sector investment into Canada over a five-year span. The government's own investment would be minimal, according to Hodgson, with one of the goals being to "not spend government dollars," he said.

"There may be situations where we provide some incentives to attract those private sector dollars, okay. But our job as government is to spend as little as possible taxpayer dollars in the most responsible way we can to attract many, many multiples of private sector money."

Hodgson anticipates that the government will be able to attract an initial \$60 billion during the

first phase of Build Canada.

With that said, and given the volatile nature of the current situation in the U.S. where new tariffs decreed by Trump are often rising and falling from week to week, *Newsfirst Multimedia* asked Hodgson how the Canadian government can react effectively with a program like Build Canada when the rules are changing constantly.

U.S. beyond Canada's control

"What the Prime Minister has said is we cannot control what others are going to do – we simply cannot," he said. "The Americans are going to do what the Americans are going to do."

"What we need to do is to focus on what we can control so that the things that we can control are how we trade with each other within this country," he continued. "So, reduce the trade barriers between provinces. That, and then reducing the regulation and creating the incentives to attract private sector money."

"If we do that and we attract the \$500 billion of new investment to Canada, we will create the jobs and the revenue streams that insulate us from, shall I say, the inconsistent policies of our neighbours."

Parc-Extension's struggle with heat and housing

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The summer of 2025 was one of the hottest Montréal has ever recorded, and nowhere was that heat felt more acutely than in Parc-Extension. With dense construction, limited vegetation, and a high concentration of paved surfaces, the neighbourhood once again ranked among the city's most intense urban heat islands.

Data collected by the City of Montréal through its Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension borough confirmed that surface and air temperatures in the district regularly exceeded citywide averages. Environment and Climate Change Canada noted that June 24 reached 35.6 °C, setting a new record for the month, and municipal heat-map surveys showed that areas such as Parc-Extension retained elevated temperatures well into the night.

Urban-climate specialists have long identified Parc-Extension as a zone of heightened vulnerability. A 2025 study published in the scientific journal *Buildings* found that Montréal's older, densely built districts experience significantly lower thermal comfort during heat waves, primarily due to a lack of tree canopy and reflective materials. The study linked this pattern directly to social and economic conditions, noting that low-income renters are the most exposed to indoor overheating.

To mitigate these risks, Montréal has continued to expand its greening programs. The borough has begun planting additional trees, converting paved alleys into "green" corridors, and promoting reflective roofing materials to reduce surface heat. City data show that each increase of ten percent in tree canopy can lower local air temperatures by as much as one degree Celsius. These projects form part of the city's broader Climate Plan, which seeks to adapt the urban environment to more frequent and intense heat waves.

Yet the environmental challenge intersects with a complex social reality. Parc-Extension remains one of Montréal's most affordable neighbourhoods, but housing costs are rising steadily. According to recent rental market analyses, the average two-bedroom apartment in the area now rents for close to 1,900 dollars per month, up nearly seventy percent since 2019. Community researchers warn that environmental improvements, while vital, may unintentionally accelerate

gentrification by attracting new investment and raising property values.

Municipal officials acknowledge the need to balance climate resilience with housing security. The borough's latest strategic plan calls for equitable urban greening that includes social-housing protection and community consultation before major redevelopment. Several pilot projects, including shared gardens and shaded play areas near Saint-Roch Park, are designed to enhance livability without triggering displacement.

Public-health authorities continue to emphasize the importance of accessible cooling infrastructure. During the summer heat waves, Montréal opened air-conditioned libraries, recreation centres, and public halls as "cooling spaces," and expanded outreach to vulnerable populations. The initiative, coordinated with the regional health agency CIUSSS du Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal, aims to ensure that residents in high-density neighbourhoods like Parc-Extension have safe refuges during extreme heat.

As autumn settles in, the city is already reviewing the lessons of this record-breaking summer. Parc-Extension stands at the intersection of two pressing urban challenges: adapting to a changing climate and protecting affordability in a neighbourhood where most residents rent their homes. The decisions made in the coming months about greening, zoning, and social housing will determine whether the next wave of summer heat finds the community more resilient or more divided.

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A MATTER OF SEMANTICS

Q I recently broke up with my girlfriend of three and a half years. We met at university and had a close, trusting relationship. When we finished school, I moved back to London and she moved to Northern Ireland. Since I've had bad experiences with long distance relationships, I said we should split up but remain friends.

I was told it was all or nothing. If we split up, she said, we would not remain friends. Being soft, I didn't stick to my decision, and we continued to see each other over the long distance. I requested, if we grew apart, we should discuss matters and formally break up before we met anyone else. She agreed.

A month or two before Christmas, the regular phone calls became few and far between and the conversation drier. I asked if everything was okay. I said I didn't mind if it wasn't, we could split up. She denied there were any issues. This led me to believe we could make a real go of things on her Christmas visit.

Two days before her flight I received a phone call where she basically announced we were over and said she had been seeing another guy for several weeks. On one crucial point, we agreed to disagree. I believe she had serious time with this new guy before informing me. I see that as cheating, and I am angry she betrayed my trust.

She thinks since we were over ages ago, it was not cheating. In one conversation, she said, "I thought if I stopped calling you, you might get the idea."

Is this cheating or not? Everyone I've asked so far says she is looking at the situation from a convenient perspective. Despite all this, we have been talking nicely on the phone, and while part of me would like to be friends with her, she apparently has some very strange morals.

A Barry, you've fallen on the sword you forged, wounded by the girl you tried to dump. There's poetic justice in that, but at the moment, the irony escapes you.

Like lots of people, you were in a relationship which owed as much to circumstance as anything else. You were in school together. With school ending, you realized your connection was not greater than the distance. You were not deeply in love. A cracker is good enough when you have nothing to eat, but it isn't good enough for Christmas dinner.

You did two things wrong. You failed to stick to your resolve, and you failed to see her threat as blackmail. You shouldn't be surprised that a woman you tried to break up with thinks, "I need to find a new boyfriend." She didn't consider your feelings when she gave you an ultimatum. Why would you think she would consider your feelings at Christmas?

Now she's rearranging history, and the breakup turns out to be by mutual agreement. But her version of events doesn't matter. Perhaps she is untrustworthy, but you've reinforced her behavior in thinking she can make threats to get her way. Your actions may also cause you to look upon other women with suspicion.

There is a lesson to be learned here as valuable as any you learned at university, and that lesson won't be learned by quibbling over semantics.

You have to be the force behind your own life. That doesn't mean you can run over people, or use and abuse them. It means when you do what's right you reap the benefits, and when you do what's wrong you reap the harm.

Our town has red light cameras. Stop at each red traffic signal, and you don't have to worry about getting a traffic ticket in the mail next week. In the same way, try viewing this episode as resulting from a single cause. "I did not stand on what I knew was right."

Barry

Wayne & Tamara

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

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2 EASY STEPS:

1

Book your basket online or by phone
from Monday to Thursday

2

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HOROSCOPE

Week of **October 26 to November 1**

The luckiest signs this week:
PISCES, ARIES AND TAURUS



ARIES

You could make your next adventure a reality by dreaming big and applying the principles of attraction. You'll make certain discoveries that could have positive impacts on your career.



TAURUS

Your emotions are running high this week. Fortunately, these feelings will help ignite your creativity. You'll also play caregiver to a loved one. This will strengthen your bond and nurture a sense of reciprocity that creates optimism for the future.



GEMINI

It's easier to negotiate when your emotions aren't involved. Be careful, as your children may try to take advantage of your kindness to gain certain privileges. Maintain your vigilance and don't give in to their requests too easily.



CANCER

You may, for no apparent reason, have a sense of uneasiness this week. However, this discomfort could prompt you to consult a specialist sooner rather than later, so you get the care you need to improve your well-being.



LEO

You'll accomplish something remarkable this week that fills you with pride and boosts your self-confidence. This achievement will help you flourish. In addition, you'll be just the right person to help someone navigate a tricky situation.



VIRGO

Changing your diet will help you reach your health goals. Additionally, the idea of starting a small home business may spark your interest and give you the energy you need to succeed.



LIBRA

Your loved ones will seek you out for exciting moments and meaningful conversations. If you're in a new relationship, you'll have serious discussions with your partner about the future. The possibility of moving in together or starting a family may come up.



SCORPIO

At work, a promotion with a pay raise is on the horizon. Be cautious, though, as some colleagues might envy your success. In your love life, a new beginning will bring happy moments.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll spend quality time with your loved ones this week. By managing your schedule wisely, you'll turn even your professional responsibilities into enjoyable experiences.



CAPRICORN

This week, you'll reflect deeply on your life journey, and your thoughts will lead to valuable insights. Your creativity will enhance your well-being. Don't forget to step outside to clear your mind and recharge your batteries.



AQUARIUS

If you're single, you'll receive an invitation to go on an outing with your friends. This invitation will help you reconnect with the more social side of life. Social media could also help you make new friends or expand your client base.



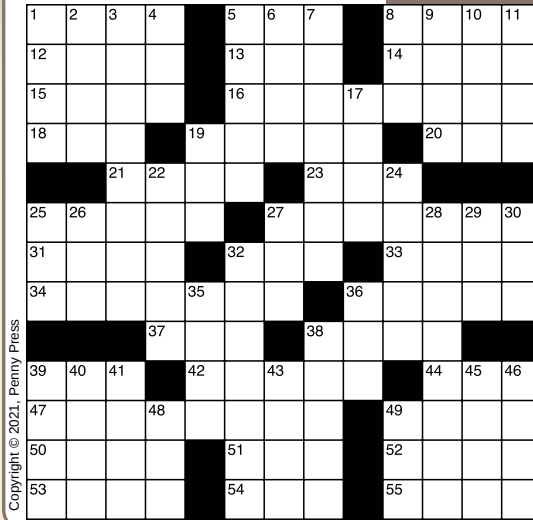
PISCES

Challenges will pile up this week. Fortunately, your ability to manage your priorities will keep you moving forward. Be careful, however, not to let anxiety about time constraints overwhelm your daily life or dampen your mood.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 290



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ACROSS

- Rock back and forth
- Shoemaker's tool
- Toothed tools
- Candy
- Briny deep
- Hurt
- Parts of a circle
- Large kettle
- See ya!
- Ravine
- Break a fast
- Disagreement
- "_____, two, three, four"
- Attach a label, again
- Leading lady
- Golf-bag item
- Male parent
- Be informed about
- Herb for garnishing
- Sill
- Although

DOWN

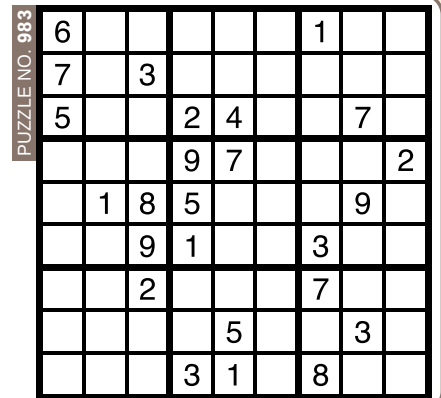
- Wound cover
- Uneasy
- Forefather, e.g.
- Proposal reply
- Broad tie
- Have on
- Chuckled
- Dejected
- Property measure
- Rider's command
- Exhaust
- Totally
- Got along
- Mushroom top
- Properties
- Auction
- Unexciting
- Allow
- Division word
- Went hastily
- Star's locale
- Traffic sign
- Wired
- Look slyly
- Wisecrack
- Flower
- Card game
- Shred
- Historic epoch
- Forage grass
- Improper
- Seasonal beverage
- Woolly mom
- Fine points
- Remaining
- Hat
- Peevish
- Garfunkel et al.
- Ballerina's jump
- Fancy fabric
- Stink
- Certain choir member
- Drop heavily
- Took by the hand
- Female sib

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY:

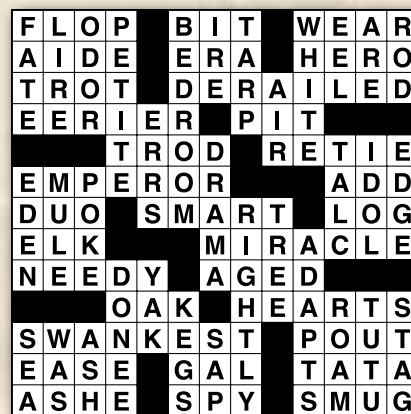
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

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.**

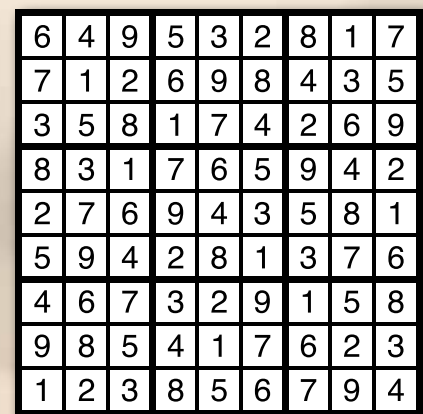


Last Issue's Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



YOUR COMPANY NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, PROVINCE P.C.

DATE
Y Y Y Y M M D D

PAY
to the order of

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Address of your bank
City (Province) P.C.

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Place-des-Arts Metro
514 669-1880

Place du Quartier
(Chinatown)
1111, St-Urbain St
Place-des-Arts Metro
514 667-0077

Place Alexis Nihon
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Atwater Metro
514 939-5552

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Mont-Royal Metro
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