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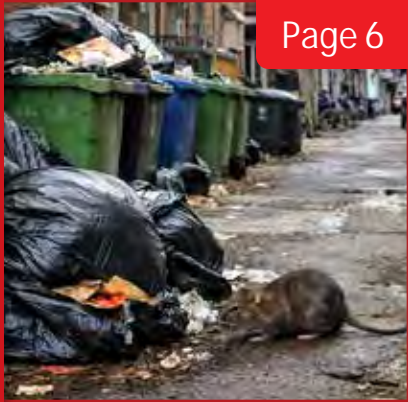
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Christine Fréchette elected leader of the CAQ

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The political landscape in Quebec reached a historic turning point on Sunday April 12, as Christine Fréchette was elected leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec. This victory effectively makes her the 33rd Premier of Quebec, succeeding François Legault. Fréchette won 57.9% of the vote at the party's convention in Drummondville, defeating Bernard Drainville and becoming only the second woman to lead the province in its history.

A vision for a new generation

In her first address as leader, Fréchette characterized her win as a "time of renewal" for the province. She focused her speech on the daily realities of citizens, promising a pragmatic government that prioritizes results over rhetoric.

"You have voted for another style of leadership so that a new generation can lead Quebec," she stated. Her immediate focus will be on economic relief to combat the rising cost of living, alongside investments in hydroelectricity and the continued protection of the French language.

Looking Toward the Election

The transition comes at a high-stakes moment, with a general election scheduled for October 2026. Outgoing Premier François Legault, who led the party since 2011, urged unity behind his successor to maintain the party's momentum.

Fréchette will now spend the coming weeks finalizing her cabinet. The National Assembly is expected to resume on May 5, 2026, where the new Premier will officially begin defining her administration's path before facing the electorate this fall.

For a safer, greener, and more welcoming Louvain East street

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA
info@newsfirst.ca

The Borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension has approved a project to redesign De Louvain East Street, between Frédéric-Back Park and Saint-Michel Boulevard. The goal of this project is to make the street safer, greener, and easier to use for everyone who lives, studies, or travels in the area.

De Louvain East Street is located in an important school and community area. Every day, it is used by more than 3,000 students from nearby schools, as well as local residents, families, and people visiting Frédéric-Back and Champdoré parks. Because so many people rely on this street, especially children and pedestrians, the borough wants to improve safety and comfort for all users.

The project will focus on making it easier and safer to walk and bike, particularly near schools. Intersections and pedestrian crossings will be improved to better protect people moving through the area. More trees and plants will be added to increase greenery, and small public spaces will be created to offer places to sit and gather. New street furniture will be installed, and lighting and traffic signals will be upgraded to improve visibility and safety.

In addition to the visible changes, important work will also take place underground.

Aging water and sewer pipes will be repaired or replaced, and green infrastructure will be added to help manage rainwater more effectively. These improvements will make the street more resilient and help it better handle future climate challenges.


The final design was shaped by the community. In the fall of 2024, nearly 200 people, including local residents and students from nearby schools, shared their ideas through workshops, an open house, and an online survey. Two design options were presented, and public feedback helped refine the final plan so that it reflects the needs and character of the neighbourhood.

Construction will take place over three years, from summer 2026 to 2028, and will be carried out in three phases. Throughout the project, the borough will provide regular updates to keep residents informed about when work begins, how it is progressing, and what impacts to expect.

The total cost of the project is \$11.2 million, taxes included. The construction contract was awarded to Groupe M. Potvin. Funding comes from the Borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension and the City of Montréal, through several programs that support green infrastructure, water and sewer renewal, local streets, and the cycling network.







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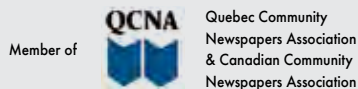
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OPINION & Editorial



Fréchette's election challenge: Carney's shadow

The comparison between Christine Fréchette and Mark Carney has rapidly become the dominant storyline in Canadian politics this week. Since Fréchette's decisive victory at the CAQ leadership convention in Drummondville on Sunday, commentators, insiders, and voters alike have begun framing her challenge through a familiar lens. Like Carney before her, she is taking the reins of a governing party that appears electorally exhausted, deeply unpopular, and staring down a daunting polling gap—nearly 20 points—just months before a general election.

It is the kind of inheritance that normally signals defeat, not renewal. Yet Carney proved only a year ago that even the bleakest political math can be overturned under the right circumstances. The question now dominating Quebec politics is whether Fréchette can engineer a similar turnaround—a “Carney-esque” miracle—before voters head to the polls this October. What follows is an examination of the strategy she would need, the advantages she possesses, and the formidable obstacles standing in her way.

The “Carney blueprint”

To assess Fréchette's chances, it is essential to first understand how Mark Carney managed to defy expectations. When he replaced Justin Trudeau, the federal Liberal Party was widely considered a spent force. Polling suggested the electorate was eager for change, the party's brand had grown stale, and Conservative momentum seemed unstoppable. Carney's victory did not happen by accident—it followed a deliberate and disciplined playbook.

First and foremost, Carney did not simply present himself as a refreshed version of the same political offering. His leadership marked a fundamental repositioning of the Liberal brand itself. Gone was the emphasis on personality-driven, legacy politics. In its place came a persona rooted in technocratic competence, economic seriousness, and institutional credibility. For fatigued voters, this shift alone signaled that something substantial—not cosmetic—had changed.

Second, Carney succeeded in consolidating the political center. Rather than leaning into polarizing ideological battles, he focused relentlessly on economic pragmatism. By doing so, he drew voters back not only from the Conservatives but also from the NDP, recapturing moderate voters who had drifted away during the Trudeau years. His message was less about grand visions and more about stability, predictability, and competence.

Finally, Carney capitalized on momentum. Strategic by-election victories—small contests

with outsized symbolic power—allowed him to demonstrate that the political tide was turning. Each win reinforced the perception of inevitability, calming nervous supporters while sowing doubt among his opponents. Together, these elements formed what is now widely referred to as the “Carney Blueprint” for political revival.

Fréchette's path: case for a repeat

Christine Fréchette enters the race with several traits that echo this model, giving the CAQ at least a fighting chance of resurgence. Chief among these is her economic credibility. Like Carney, Fréchette is grounding her leadership in numbers, balance sheets, and policy literacy. Her communication style emphasizes fiscal responsibility and economic realism, rather than ideological spectacle.

This shift in emphasis is significant. By steering the CAQ away from the identity-focused politics that came to define the later years of François Legault's mandate—particularly under figures like Bernard Drainville—Fréchette is attempting to reposition the party as a stabilizing force. Her willingness to adopt controversial but economically driven positions, including her stance on shale gas, signals seriousness to voters who prioritize cost-of-living concerns, investment climate, and long-term growth.

In effect, she is chasing what might be called the “ballast vote”: pragmatic, risk-averse voters who may not be enthusiastic but want a government that feels steady and predictable. In a volatile political environment, that cohort can decide elections.

The “Referendum Chill”

One of Fréchette's most potent potential advantages lies in the broader dynamics of the race. Current polls place the Liberals and the Parti Québécois roughly neck-and-neck, hovering around 32–33 percent, while the CAQ languishes far behind at approximately 13 percent. On its face, this suggests an impending collapse. But beneath the surface, anxiety about the PQ's commitment to a 2030 independence referendum is reshaping voter psychology.

The prospect of another constitutional showdown is creating a quiet but palpable unease among nationalist and moderate voters alike. If Fréchette can convincingly position the CAQ as the only “safe” nationalist option—one that defends Quebec's autonomy without plunging the province into years of political and economic uncertainty—she may be able to reclaim voters currently parked with the Liberals out of fear of a sovereigntist government.

Her leadership also benefits from timing. As only

the second leader in the CAQ's history, Fréchette is not fully entangled in François Legault's late-term baggage. While she cannot erase the past, she can plausibly argue that she represents generational renewal: a reset button for voters who feel disillusioned but not yet ready to embrace either federalism-by-default or independence-at-all-costs.

The obstacles to a miracle

Still, the parallels with Carney have clear limits, and Fréchette's road is arguably steeper. The first challenge is structural. Carney's federal race was largely a one-on-one contest, with Pierre Poilievre as the principal opponent. Fréchette, by contrast, faces a three-party battlefield. She must fight simultaneously against a resurging Liberal Party and a disciplined, focused Parti Québécois.

This “math of three” is unforgiving. Any significant split in the non-PQ vote risks delivering a PQ majority by default. Even modest CAQ gains could inadvertently weaken Liberal resistance and smooth the PQ's path to power.

The second obstacle is credibility as an agent of change. While Carney was an outsider parachuted into an incumbent party, Fréchette is undeniably a creature of the CAQ government. She served as a senior minister under Legault and now occupies the Premier's chair herself. Convincing voters that she represents genuine change—rather than continuity under a new label—will be one of her greatest tests.

A narrow window

Fréchette's victory in Drummondville has undeniably given the CAQ a crucial credibility injection. It has stabilized caucus morale and reopened conversations that many believed were already settled. But history suggests that leadership changes alone rarely produce electoral miracles. For a true repeat of the Carney phenomenon, Fréchette will need not only to redefine her party, but to benefit from a fragmentation—or outright collapse—of the opposition's competing narratives.

If the Liberals and the PQ continue to cannibalize one another over the independence question, an opening may emerge in the political center. However, time is not on her side. Where Carney had roughly a year to reposition his party and build momentum, Fréchette has barely six months before Quebecers vote on October 5.

In that compressed timeframe, competence will not be enough. She will need discipline, luck, and flawless political timing. In short, Christine Fréchette does not merely need to be a capable leader—she needs to be a political magician.

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Liberals conclude their largest-ever policy convention in Montreal

Prime Minister Mark Carney struck a note of unrestrained optimism

MARTIN C. BARRY
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The Liberal Party of Canada capped off its 2026 National Convention in Montreal last weekend after bringing together a record-breaking 4,500 members, some of whom were perhaps a little on edge about the outcome of impending by-elections that could lead to the Liberals finally having a majority government.

MPs 'energized'

The Liberals' leader struck a note of unrestrained optimism in the keynote address he delivered on the last day in accordance with a political party convention tradition.

"Over the past three days, Liberals have come together with energy and determination to shape the future of our party and our country," said Prime Minister Mark Carney.

A 'decisive moment,' said Carney

"At this decisive moment, Canadians are looking for strong leadership and serious solutions, and that's exactly what our new Liberal team is delivering," he continued. "United, we will build Canada Strong, a Canada Strong for all – a Canada Strong that no one can ever take away."

After Carney spoke to the thousands of Liberal members and delegates waving Canadian flags as well as signs bearing his name, some political observers speculated that the event resembled a pre-election rally more than a gathering for the purpose of discussing and setting new policies.

Among the thousands of members who converged in Montreal, more than half were taking part in a federal Liberal Party convention for the first time, according to Liberal Party of Canada organizers.

Record-breaking fundraising

Delegates engaged in policy discussions, as well as campaign trainings and plenary sessions, while hearing from a range of speakers and voices from across Canada. Party members also came together to help shape policy direction and elect members of the Liberal Party's next national board of directors.

According to the party, up to 300,000 people from across Canada became card-carrying Liberal Party members since last year when the leadership race saw Mark Carney become leader in March 2025. The momentum also translated into record-breaking grassroots fundraising that saw 2025 as the Liberals' best-ever fundraising year.

Carney's message to fellow Liberals came as the



latest of several House of Commons floor crossings strengthened the party's situation, while still falling short of a minimum 172-seat majority.

Five new Liberals at convention

Since he stepped into the Prime Minister's position, Carney's government has attracted a total of five MPs from rival opposition parties. They include Lori Idlout from the NDP, as well as four Conservatives: Chris d'Entremont, Michael Ma, Matt Jeneroux and only last week Marilyn Gladu.

The Liberals held 171 seats in the House of Commons before last Monday's by-elections, in which they were expected to increase their seat count.

The trade war with the United States loomed large in Carney's keynote remarks, with the prime minister pointing to his government's economic agenda. He said a strong economy would be essential to the party's mission of building a just society. Carney received standing

applause when he said a just society is anchored in a woman's right to choose while allowing for a wide range of lifestyle diversity.

Carney's speaking points

Carney's speech also highlighted his government's defence industrial strategy, military spending, infrastructure investments, major projects office and efforts to diversify international trade.

The convention delegates spent last Saturday morning debating and voting on several non-binding policy resolutions. Two resolutions which were adopted related to setting age restrictions on social media and artificial chat bots.

Grassroots members of the party also debated a resolution on restricting use of the notwithstanding clause, by invoking disallowance on any provincial legislation that proactively invokes the clause before court challenges are exhausted.

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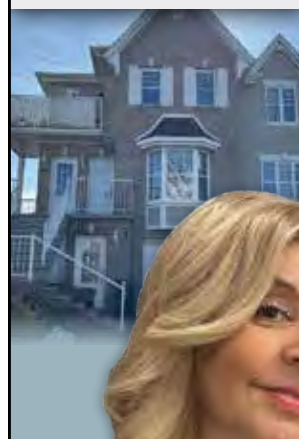
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VSMP borough council pays homage to former Parc Ex councillor Mary Deros

She 'left a lasting mark in Parc Extension,' said Borough Mayor Jean-François Lalonde

MARTIN C. BARRY
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Partisanship and political rivalries were set aside for a while at least on April 7 when members of the Villeray– Saint-Michel–Parc Extension borough council welcomed back veteran Parc Extension city councillor Mary Deros for an homage to her 27 years service, and so she could sign the “Livre d’or,” the borough’s Golden Book.

A city council record

When she stepped away from municipal politics after failing to be re-elected in the November 2025 City of Montreal elections, Deros’s lengthy tenure as a Montreal city councillor was exceeded only by former city councillor for Snowdon Marvin Rotrand who had 39 years service.

Among those who turned up to pay their respects to an ex-colleague they worked with for years was Montreal mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada (who once sat on the VSMP borough council), former borough mayor Anie Samson (who served from early 2006 until her defeat in the 2017 municipal elections), and former borough director-general Stéphane Chénier.

Many contributions, said borough mayor

“Her actions contributed directly to the

improvement of parks and public spaces, to the development of sports and community facilities, as well as strengthening of community spirit and the inclusion of cultural communities,” Borough Mayor Jean-François Lalonde said about Deros prior to inviting centre-city mayor Martinez Ferrada to get up and speak.

“Her leadership, her deep understanding of the area and her presence amidst the organizations as well as all the residents left a lasting mark in Parc Extension,” Lalonde added.

“It was my hope to come here this evening,” said Martinez Ferrada, because “there are people who through their commitment make others respect them.”

To make a point about Deros’s thoroughness when dealing with issues impacting her constituents, Martinez Ferrada recalled the time she and Deros were working on a file involving plans for Frédéric Back Park in Saint-Michel on Jarry St. East.

Never forgot her residents

According to Montreal’s mayor, the planners had neglected to make provision for toilets and washrooms – which immediately caught the attention of Deros. She was concerned about the needs of parents with children. “And Mary, this is all to your credit that you did this for your citizens,” said Martinez Ferrada.

For her part, Deros said she owed a lot to the

members of her family “who shared me with the City of Montreal. Because without their support, I would not have been able during all those years of service to serve my citizens.”

Before the beginning of the borough council meeting, a group of community activists held a demonstration outside the borough headquarters on Ogilvy Ave. to draw attention to the death of Manjeet Singh, an unhoused migrant and father of two who died in a Parc Extension park last January.

Plight of the homeless in Parc Ex

Singh was one of three homeless people who died from neglect over the past winter in Parc Extension, according to activists, highlighting a lack of services for the homeless in the area, such as homeless shelters or warming centres. Singh had been in Montreal since 2018, but eventually found himself outcast and homeless.

During the public question period, Amy Darwish got up to the microphone to ask members of the borough council what they were going to do to make sure there are no more such incidents. Villeray councillor Martine Musau Muele, who is the Projet Montréal official opposition spokesperson on homelessness, said the homeless situation is for the most part beyond the power of the borough to act as it lacks the resources.

“When it comes to it as a systemic issue, I will not deny that on our side we try at every oppor-



Borough Mayor Jean-François Lalonde and former city councillor Mary Deros on April 7 when she returned to sign the borough’s Golden Book. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Nouvelles Parc Extension News)

tunity as official opposition to put pressure on the current provincial government,” the Villeray councillor continued, noting that a provincial election later this year may bring about a change of government.

No comment on Palestine

Also during the question period, an activist for the Palestinian cause, who did not identify herself beyond saying she was from Villeray, urged the borough council to take a position on the State of Israel’s recent decision to pass a death penalty law applying in practice only to Palestinian terrorists.

Lalonde maintained his personal views on the issue were not the same as his views as borough mayor. “As mayor of the borough, I will not take a position officially as mayor,” he said, while adding that he was willing to meet privately on the matter.

‘I’ll be around again,’ Deros pledges as she bows out of Montreal city politics

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Last week following the Borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc Extension’s monthly meeting, *Nouvelles Parc Extension News* had a chance to touch base with former Parc Extension city councillor Mary Deros who was honoured that evening for her 27 years of contributions to the community.

Deros was born and raised in Athens to parents of Greek and Armenian heritage. According to an online biography, her father fled to Turkey during the Armenian genocide to live on the Greek island of Samos.

Entered politics in 1998

Deros, who is fluent in Greek, Armenian, French and English, came to Montreal in 1958, settled in Parc Extension in 1970, and first entered municipal politics in 1998 at the invitation of former Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque.

Before then, she had been a highly-active board member with a local soccer association as well as the Parc Extension Youth Organization (PEYO). Deros always expressed immense gratitude to Bourque for providing her with the springboard that propelled her forward into many decades of involvement in Montreal city politics.

“This is a very emotional evening – very emotional – and it’s appreciated,” she said last week in an interview with *Nouvelles Parc Extension News*.

‘I worked hard’

“The comments of each individual city councillor also meant a lot to me. I worked hard 27 years.

I gave everything I could, because it was important for me to make sure that our citizens in Parc Ex received the same attention as other citizens in other areas of the city.

“We had been neglected for so long,” she continued, noting Bourque’s influence in helping to bring about improvements to Parc Extension. “And I will continue to follow through. It’s hard to stay home and not do anything. But right now I have other things to concentrate on. And then I’ll be around again.”

During her time on Montreal city council, Mary Deros served as an executive-committee member under Bourque as well as former mayor Gérald Tremblay.

Served under several parties

Originally elected under the Vision Montreal banner, she later joined Tremblay’s Union Montreal party, then began sitting as an independent in 2012. During the summer of 2013, she became affiliated with Équipe Denis Coderre and remained with the organization when it changed its name to Ensemble Montréal.

Among Deros’s notable accomplishments, in 2007 she led a successful campaign to prevent Montreal’s historic Park Avenue from being renamed after former Quebec premier Robert Bourassa. She also campaigned for an indoor soccer venue in the same period.

Also worth noting is that Mary Deros was one of several candidates in 2007 for the nomination to become the Liberal Party of Canada’s candidate in Papineau when Justin Trudeau first entered federal politics. She finished second after Trudeau won the nomination.



PROGRAMME ANNUEL DE GESTION DE LA VÉGÉTATION

Chaque année, le CN est tenu de contrôler la végétation sur ses emprises. La gestion de la végétation contribue à diminuer les risques d’incendies et à améliorer l’efficacité des inspections le long de la voie. Le programme de désherbage n’est pas mis en œuvre pour des raisons esthétiques.

Afin d’assurer la sécurité de l’exploitation ferroviaire, le CN effectuera son programme annuel de désherbage le long de ses voies au Québec. Un professionnel accrédité (Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada, Ltd., 1 800 465-6367) appliquera des herbicides sur les voies et autour de celles-ci (principalement le long de la zone de ballast/gravillonnée de 24 pieds). Toutes les distances de retrait concernant l’épandage des produits – notamment à proximité des habitations, des milieux aquatiques et des sites municipaux d’approvisionnement en eau – seront respectées.

Le CN utilise uniquement des herbicides qui sont approuvés pour l’utilisation au Canada et dans la province où ils seront appliqués.

Le programme devrait se dérouler d’avril à octobre 2026.

Le corridor ferroviaire du CN est une propriété privée dont l’accès au public (en dehors des endroits prévus à cet effet) ainsi que toute activité, incluant la cueillette de végétaux, y sont strictement interdits en tout temps, et ce, en conformité avec la Loi sur la sécurité ferroviaire de Transports Canada.

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"Big bang" tax reform

Unleashing growth in the Canadian economy

continued from previous edition

NICHOLAS DAHIR, ALEXANDRE LAURIN, JACK M. MINTZ
CD HOWE INSTITUTE

Past studies have shown mixed impacts. The company income tax has been found to be passed on by corporations as higher prices charged to consumers (Baker et al. 2020), or largely by reducing employment and wages paid to workers (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). An Australian government analysis on the incidence of the company tax finds that two-thirds falls on workers through lower real wages and the rest on capital owners (Rimmer et al. 2014). A German and an American study each found that about half of corporate taxes are shifted onto workers, with the balance onto capital owners (Fuest et al. 2017; Kennedy et al. 2022). Crisan, McKenzie and Mintz assume that the tax on large corporations falls primarily on workers, while owners of small corporations largely bear the corporate tax (roughly one-fifth of taxable business income is earned by corporations claiming the small business tax deduction).

Growth and taxation

Canada's tax system is ailing. It is inefficient and complex. This is certainly pertinent to the fact that Canada has had a decade of lost opportunity. Its per capita GNI growth lags all other G7 economies since 2015. Non-residential investment per worker has declined sharply, and Canada's capital stock per worker is below other G7 countries, especially the United States (Bafale and Robson 2024). Taxes also affect labour supply, human capital accumulation, and the mobility of skilled workers.

Economic growth depends on multiple factors beyond taxation, including interest rates, regulatory frameworks, political stability, and the rule of law. Rigorous studies control for non-tax impacts when analyzing GDP effects. The online Appendix presents recent empirical work. Below is a preview of the main findings from these studies.

Growth and employment, migration effects

Extensive empirical evidence demonstrates that higher personal and corporate tax rates constrain economic performance, while lower rates promote growth and employment. The magnitudes are economically significant. Peterson and Blair (2022) estimate that each percentage point increase in US corporate income tax rates reduces per-capita GDP by over \$1,000. Provincial evidence from Canada shows that corporate tax reductions have lifted GDP per capita by more than 1 percent (Ferde and Dahlby 2019). Analysis of the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act yields GDP-level gains ranging from 0.5 percent to 1.8 percentage points (York et al. 2023; Mertens 2018).

Employment responds similarly. Duan and Moon (2025) find that Quebec's four-percentage-point reduction in small business corporate tax rates increased employment by 1.7 percent and payrolls by 2.3 percent. Conversely, Curtis and Decker (2018) show that start-ups lose 3 to 4 percent of their workforce for each percentage point increase in corporate taxes. Personal income tax changes also influence labour markets: Ferde (2021) finds that a one-point cut in Canada's top federal personal income tax rate increased private employment by 0.25 percent.

Migration patterns confirm that individuals and businesses respond to cross-jurisdictional tax differences. While domestic inventors show limited responsiveness to tax changes (Akcigit et al. 2016), foreign inventors and high earners are more sensitive to tax policies. Akcigit et al. (2016) and Agrawal and Foreman (2018) report that a one percent increase in tax rate results in one to two percent more emigration for these mobile skilled populations. Kalin et al. (2024) document similar migration responses among retirees relocating to Portugal, with emigration effects equal to 1.5

to 2 percent for a percentage increase in the tax rate.

Investment, taxable income, incidence effects

Tax policy significantly influences investment decisions through its effect on the cost of capital. Hartley et al. (2025) estimate that each percentage point decline in the user cost of capital increases investment by 1.3 to 2.4 percentage points. The US tax reform experience provides additional evidence: Chodorow-Reich et al. (2023) and York et al. (2023) document investment gains of 7 to 20 percent, alongside long-run increases in corporate capital stock of 7 to 14 percent.

Taxable income exhibits considerable sensitivity with respect to tax rates, creating revenue feedback effects. Estimates for each percentage increase in the tax rate range from a 0.9 percent loss in reported income for firms (Coles et al. 2022) to over 2 percent for high-income individuals (Gorry et al. 2018). These studies imply that tax rate increases erode the tax base, reducing the revenue gains from higher rates.

Tax incidence studies reveal that workers bear substantial portions of ostensibly capital-based taxes. Corporate tax burdens fall on workers to the extent of 36 to 56 percent (Duan and Moon 2025; Kennedy et al. 2022; Fuest et al. 2017). Provincial corporate tax increases in Canada have reduced wages by more than the additional revenues collected (McKenzie and Ferde 2018). Payroll taxes show similar patterns: Canadian workers bear nearly the full burden (Deslauriers et al. 2018), while US workers bear about 58 percent (Carloni 2021).

Implications

The empirical evidence spanning the past quarter-century documented in the online Appendix consistently supports theoretical predictions about taxation's economic effects. Higher tax rates demonstrably reduce per-capita GDP levels, constrain employment growth, discourage investment, trigger migration of mobile factors, and often fail to deliver proportional revenue increases due to base erosion. These findings highlight the importance of considering economic efficiency alongside revenue needs when designing tax policy. While taxes remain necessary to fund public services, the substantial economic costs documented in this literature review suggest that over-reliance on income taxes should be approached with caution, particularly for personal income taxes on high earners and corporate taxes.

The need for big bang tax reform

Personal income taxes are too high. Canada no longer has a corporate tax advantage to offset other disadvantages for investment. The tax system is inefficient and complex. Further, as global trade realigns in response to US tariffs, economic growth will be a challenge in a world competing for capital.

A modest reform, such as a tax point reduction here or there, will not have much impact on the economy. Instead, we argue that Canada needs a "big bang" reform that substantially restructures the tax system to raise living standards. This is particularly important now given reduced access to the US market and the goal of trade diversification.

We realize that a "big bang" tax reform is not easy to accomplish. Some reforms involve scaling back tax preferences that will raise opposition to reform. If governments lose too much tax revenue, they will have difficulty meeting their budgets. However, a marginal reform such as the recent reduction in the lowest marginal personal tax rate to 14 percent, while welcomed by taxpayers for some relief, will not significantly improve the economy nor make it easier to balance the federal budget. Better reforms of equal revenue cost would have a larger impact on the economy by reducing reliance on the most harmful tax policies. Past major reforms, such as Ireland's

Box A: The Irish Big Bang Tax Reform

The "Irish miracle" goes back to the 1980s when the government adopted a highly successful pro-growth strategy. No longer the poor cousin of Europe that it had been for two centuries, the Irish economy has become one of the richest in the world (Hosokai and Walsh 2002). By 2024 per capita GNI of 37,779.20 (current US dollars, Atlas Method, World Bank) is now 46 percent higher than Canada at 35,340. This is in sharp contrast to 1970, when Ireland was poorer (31,520) than Canada (34,410).

The Celtic Tiger's success has been attributed to several factors, including fiscal discipline, upgrading talent through education, substantial infrastructure investment, access to EU markets, and deregulation. No doubt, its corporate tax rate policy was a major factor in its growth (Hosokai and Walsh 2002). Initially, it began with 10 percent on manufacturing and Dublin financial services in the 1980s (16 percent on other sectors) and later applied a 12.5 percent on trading profits (25 percent on passive income) to all sectors since 2003 (with elimination of some targeted measures). The unique, low tax rate drew many multinational companies to hire better-educated Irish workers at higher pay. As profits shifted to Ireland, corporate taxes grew, which led to the EU curbing some incentives. Instead of losing population, Ireland now has net migration inflows. Its poverty rate (below 10,500 per day) has dropped by over four-fifths since 1990.

While its GDP growth has been impressive, the Irish domestic economy has had its bumps, including weak financial regulations that led to a sharp contraction for several years following the 2008 financial crisis. Driven by foreign investment and exports, Ireland recovered strongly with household disposable income growth outstripping most OECD countries. From 2015 to 2019, inflation-adjusted disposable income grew by 4.3 percent a year, compared to 2 percent in the EU and 1.9 percent in Canada.

Ireland is over-the-top when it comes to investment. Public and private fixed capital formation rates have doubled from 2015 to 2019, far exceeding every other advanced country, including second-place Hungary (with a corporate tax rate of just 9 percent) and third-place Estonia, with its unique corporate tax on distributed profits. In contrast, Canadian investment fell by 0.5 per cent.

Growth slowed during the pandemic but rebounded strongly in 2024, reaching 7.4 percent (World Bank). Currently, Ireland's fiscal position is far better than Canada's (IMF Fiscal Monitor 2025). Government revenues equal 27.8 percent of GDP (compared to 42.6 percent for Canada). It has a general government budgetary surplus in 2024 equal to 4.4 percent of GDP (in contrast to a 2.1 percent of GDP deficit in Canada) in part due to its corporate tax revenues received from a tax settlement with Apple (this surplus is expected to drop to 1.7 percent of GDP in 2025). Gross government debt stands at 41.1 percent of GDP, compared to 110.8 percent in Canada.

No doubt, "big bang" corporate tax reforms paid off handsomely for Ireland in the past final decades.

unique corporate tax strategy (see Box A), demonstrate how a "big bang" tax reform can strengthen growth while sustaining public revenues. That is our goal in the proposals below.

Big bang personal tax reform

Canada's overreliance on personal income tax is the result of higher tax rates across the income spectrum, particularly at higher income levels. The first stage of our growth-oriented tax reform lowers personal income tax rates where they most affect growth, while also introducing a generous basic allowance. This allowance, consolidating numerous tax preferences into a simplified tax credit, will disproportionately benefit lower-income earners.

Taxpayers who would benefit more from itemizing tax provisions rather than claiming the simplified tax credit would still have the option to do so. However, a simpler system – with lower documentation and filing costs, and greater certainty of outcomes – will reduce pressure on politicians to maintain or expand special tax preferences. Many countries operate far simpler personal tax systems. In jurisdictions with fewer opportunities for tax optimization, filing is often far easier, and in some cases tax returns are automatic or unnecessary (Laurin and Dahir 2022). The simplified tax credit would move Canada toward a system where filing could eventually become much easier.

Reducing personal income tax rates

We propose reforming the federal personal income tax schedule to compress marginal tax rates at higher income thresholds while maintaining the government's recent reduction in the lowest tax bracket. As discussed earlier, rate reductions are more economically effective at higher income levels, while the new simplified tax credit will disproportionately benefit lower-income workers.

The reform lowers the marginal tax rates applying to income above roughly \$117,000 while preserving current rates at lower income levels. The proposal aims to enhance economic efficiency by reducing disincentives to earn additional income, particularly among higher-income earners, where behavioural responsiveness to tax rates is well documented (see online Appendix).

Provinces may reduce, increase, or maintain their current personal tax rates. If they leave rates unchanged, the top tax rate will be, for example, 46.53 percent in Ontario and 41 percent in Alberta. These rates are somewhat above the top rates in 2011, with Ontario at 46.41 percent and Alberta at 39 percent. An important principle, argued by the Carter Report, is that top rates should be below 50 percent to balance social fairness with economic pragmatism,

▶ Continued on page

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New daycare rules could reshape childcare options in Parc-Extension

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Families in Parc-Extension, where home-based childcare has long been a lifeline for working parents, may soon feel the effects of a major provincial policy change that will transform how family daycares operate across Quebec.

Beginning September 1, 2026, most individuals who provide childcare services from their homes will be required to obtain official recognition from a regional coordinating office in order to continue operating legally. The reform, announced by the Government of Quebec, applies province-wide but is expected to have particular consequences in neighbourhoods like Parc-Extension, where many parents depend on small, home-based daycare services that offer flexibility not always available in larger childcare centres.

In a neighbourhood known for its strong immigrant presence and high population density, home daycares are often more than just childcare providers. They function as community anchors, helping parents balance work schedules, language barriers, and the ongoing shortage of subsidized daycare spaces. Many families rely on caregivers who operate from apartments or private homes, sometimes caring for several children from different households throughout the day.

Under the new regulation, anyone caring for more than two children who do not live in the same household must be officially recognized by a bureau coordonnateur de la garde éducative en milieu familial, the regional body responsible for overseeing family-based childcare services. Only caregivers looking after two children or fewer, or children from the same household such as siblings, will remain exempt from the new requirement.

Although the deadline is still more than a year away, the transition is expected to create pressure on some caregivers who may find the process challenging or time-consuming. Government officials have confirmed that once the new rule takes effect, home daycares operating without recognition and exceeding permitted limits could be forced to close. That possibility raises concerns among families who already struggle to find reliable childcare spaces.

The application process itself is structured but demanding. Caregivers must submit documen-

tation to the coordinating office responsible for their geographic area. Once a complete file is received, the office has up to 120 days to evaluate the application and determine whether the provider meets provincial requirements related to safety, supervision, and child development. Authorities are urging providers to begin the process as early as possible in order to avoid last-minute disruptions that could affect families relying on their services.

For parents, the reform is being presented as a safety measure intended to improve quality standards across the childcare network. Recognition confirms that providers meet specific criteria related to the health and well-being of children and allows government oversight through inspections conducted by either the Ministry of Families or coordinating offices.

Still, the reality on the ground may be more complex, particularly in neighbourhoods where childcare demand already exceeds supply. Parc-Extension families have historically faced challenges securing daycare placements, especially subsidized ones. The possibility that some existing home daycares may not transition successfully into the recognized system could temporarily reduce available spaces.

At the same time, recognized providers may gain access to opportunities that were previously unavailable. In certain cases, official recognition allows them to offer reduced-contribution spaces, depending on government funding and regional needs. That possibility could benefit families financially, especially those managing tight household budgets.

Until the September 2026 deadline arrives, current rules remain in effect. Under existing regulations, some non-recognized providers may continue to operate legally if they meet specific requirements, including maintaining liability insurance and holding valid first-aid certification. However, those temporary provisions will be phased out once the new system becomes mandatory.

For families in Parc-Extension, the coming months will likely involve conversations between parents and caregivers about future plans. Many parents will want reassurance that their child's daycare intends to seek recognition and remain open beyond the deadline. Others may begin exploring alternative arrangements in anticipation of possible changes.

Community organizations and local networks



may also play an important role in helping caregivers understand the process, particularly for those navigating administrative requirements in a second or third language. In neighbourhoods where childcare availability directly affects employment stability, the success of this transition may depend not only on regulation but on practical support.

While the provincial government describes the reform as a step toward safer and more consistent childcare services, its true impact will only become clear as the September 2026 deadline approaches. In a place like Parc-Extension, where childcare is closely tied to daily survival and family stability, even small regulatory shifts can have lasting consequences.

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Before accounting for behavioural responses, the proposed rate changes would reduce federal personal income tax revenues by roughly \$15.5 billion in 2026 (Table 6). However, taxpayers are known to respond to lower marginal tax rates. Empirical research suggests that higher-income individuals exhibit greater responsiveness to marginal tax rates through a variety of channels, including labour supply, tax planning, and income shifting. Estimates suggest that a one percent reduction in after-tax income resulting from a higher marginal tax rate would lower the taxable income of high-income individuals by approximately 0.4 to 0.7 percent – known as the elasticity of taxable income (ETI).

In this analysis, a 0.4 percent response for the top tax bracket is applied to reflect this behavioural adjustment, consistent with estimates from the Department of Finance and other sources (Canada 2010; Laurin 2015; Milligan and Smart 2014; Parliamentary Budget Officer [PBO] 2022). Following the PBO (2022) guideline assumptions, individuals in the fourth bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.2 percent, while those in the third bracket are assigned an ETI of 0.1 percent. These conservative response estimates were chosen to keep the focus on the fiscal cost estimates, rather than on the precise value of the ETI. After incorporating behavioural responses, the net fiscal cost of the reform is reduced by approximately one-third to roughly \$10.9 billion (Table 6).

While immediate effects on labour supply will be modest for some taxpayers, particularly primary earners, the cumulative impact of reduced marginal tax rates can be substantial over time, particularly when considering the broader, long-run impacts on work experience, skills development, and productivity (Keane 2010). The rate reductions will also help attract high-earning talent to Canada and encourage entrepreneurs to invest in riskier ventures. By targeting rate relief where behavioural responsiveness is highest, the reform provides a more efficient path to boost productivity and strengthen long-term economic growth than broad-based cuts.

Critics argue that reducing top personal income tax rates favours higher-income Canadians. This is not surprising since higher-income taxpayers account for most of the personal income taxes paid. Those with incomes above \$117,000 pay 55 percent of total personal income taxes, while those with less than \$60,000 pay only 11 percent, even though the latter represent more than 60 percent of all tax filers.

Nevertheless, individuals in the first and second tax brackets would also see a reduction in the amount of personal income tax they owe, through a simplified tax credit described below.

A simplified personal income tax credit

To reduce complexity and improve transparency, we propose a new optional non-refundable simplified tax credit that would replace numerous existing deductions and credits. The simplified credit amount would be set at \$10,000 and added to the existing Basic Personal Amount. As a result, individuals could earn more than \$26,000 tax-free.

The reform would also lower the federal age credit base amount to \$4,000 from roughly \$9,000. Seniors today are the least likely age group to live in poverty (Statistics Canada 2022), given the importance of Old Age Security, the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and provincial credits targeted at low-income seniors. Most seniors eligible for the age credit will benefit from the new simplified credit, more than offsetting the age-credit reduction, and resulting in a net reduction in tax payable.

The simplified credit would be optional. Tax filers could claim the \$10,000 simplified credit or retain access to all existing provisions by forgoing it. A limited set of targeted provisions would remain within the simplified system, namely: allowances for social security and tax-recognized savings, recognitions for work-limiting circumstances such as caregiving or disability, charitable donations, personal/corporate tax integration provisions, and expenses incurred to earn income. For those opting in, the tax form would retain only a small number of credits and deductions.

	\$Billions
Lower PIT Rates	-15.4
Taxable Income Response	4.1
Sub-total Lower PIT Rates	-11.3
Simplified Tax Credit*	-3.6
Total Revenue Shortfall	-14.9

Note: *The Simplified Tax Credit amount is inclusive of the reduced federal age credit base amount.
Source: Author's calculations using SP2026LCA 30.3.

These would include:

Non-Refundable Credits:

- Basic Personal Amount (and Unused Amount Transferred for Spouse/Child).
- Simplified Tax Credit.
- CPP and EI contribution credits.
- Disability and caregiver credits.
- Charitable donations credit.
- Federal dividend and foreign tax credits.

Deductions:

- RRSPs, registered pension plans (RPPs), and other tax-deferred contributions.
- Alimony paid.
- CPP/QPP on self-employment income.
- A 50 percent capital gains inclusion.
- Select employment and business-related deductions.

Filers claiming the simplified credit would forgo other provisions, including:

- Pension income splitting.
- Employment credit.
- Union and professional dues.
- Childcare expenses.
- Moving expenses.
- Capital gains exemption (LCGE).
- Tuition tax credit.
- Age and pension credits.
- Volunteer firefighter credit.
- Home accessibility and home buyers' credits.
- Medical expenses and refundable medical supplement.
- Canada Training Credit.
- Political contributions credit.
- Investment and labour-sponsored fund credits.
- Many other narrow provisions.

By reducing line items and eligibility calculations, the simplified option would ease the tax filing burden for many Canadians, lower their compliance costs, and facilitate tax-filing automation by greatly increasing the number of people with basic tax returns. As the federal government moves to expand automated tax-filing options for low-income Canadians, the new simplified tax credit will make this process much easier, since overcomplexity is the main barrier (Laurin and Dahir 2022). Over time, it could also curb the tendency of elected officials to introduce narrowly targeted tax preferences as tools for political gain or broad policy objectives, fostering a more neutral tax system.

The new optional simplified tax credit, including the baseline reduction of the federal age credit base amount, would cost approximately \$13.6 billion. We expect more than 90 percent of filers to choose the simplified credit rather than itemizing individual deductions and credits. Over time, as provinces align and taxpayers adapt, the option to itemize could be phased out, allowing the tax system to play a more limited role in social policy.

Big bang corporate tax reform

With the goal of building up productive capacity, a big-bang approach is needed to put Canada into a better position to attract investment and reduce distortions in the business tax system. There are some major revenue-neutral reforms that could improve neutrality and simplify what has become an overly complex corporate tax.

One option, following the United States, would be to expand and make permanent accelerated expensing of machinery and

equipment to all business activities, beyond its current application for manufacturing, clean technology, exploration, and research and development. Expensing could also be widely implemented for all capital expenditures, including structures, inventories, and land and development expenditures in the resource sector.

However, when coupled with interest deductibility on debt used to fund capital expenditures, expensing can lead to negative effective tax rates, as the value of tax deductions exceeds the cost of purchasing capital. Expensing policies also favour short-lived capital (e.g., machinery) over long-lived capital like structures, thereby increasing distortions. Many expenditures, such as inventories and land purchases, do not qualify for incentives. Because of the richness in deductions, many companies accumulate tax losses to be carried forward against future profits. Firms may then use after-tax financing and other schemes to transfer these losses to other companies, reducing revenue predictability.

A second option is to adopt a rent-based corporate tax that allows companies to write off the cost of new equity financing, including changes in the tax value of retained earnings. A rent tax, in principle, is neutral for marginal investments since the full cost of capital is deducted. Only the return in excess of the cost of investment is subject to tax. Two approaches have been used to tax rents:

1. Allowance for Corporate Equity (ACE): Firms deduct the cost of equity financing in addition to interest, while capital is depreciated.
2. Cash flow tax: Firms expense capital fully which is equivalent to deducting net interest and equity financing costs.

The ACE approach has been used in a few countries, and the cash flow approach has been used as a means of levying profit-based royalties on non-renewable resource companies (as seen in Alberta's oil sands and British Columbia's mining profit taxes).

A rent-based approach has merit, especially if the personal tax is also converted into a tax on earnings and economic rents (above-normal returns). A personal tax would remove limits on deductions for RRSP savings (dissaving would be fully taxed), and other net capital income, including housing, would be taxed in excess of the "normal return to capital." This is an appealing approach towards a full expenditure-based personal tax that exempts savings from taxation, but it requires greater study since it could lead to higher income tax rates being levied to maintain tax revenues. A related model is the Scandinavian "dual income tax," which taxes capital income at rates less than labour income. For example, Norway's top personal income tax rate is 47.4 percent, while its corporate and capital income tax rate is 22 percent.

While the rent-based approach to corporate tax alone offers an interesting way to tax all corporate investments, it is not consistent with the personal income tax system. Corporate rents would still face taxation at both corporate and personal levels, encouraging firms to recharacterize rents as wages or deductible payments. Further, deducting equity costs at the corporate level without corresponding adjustments to personal capital gains taxation would create mismatches (see Canada 1997). Investors could deduct interest personally while corporations deduct equity costs on the same financing, creating unintended advantages.

Below, we suggest two types of reform: adopting an "Irish-style" low corporate tax rate or implementing a corporate tax that exempts retained profits invested in business activities from taxation (a corporate tax on distributed profits).

An "Irish" approach to corporate tax reform

Consistent with past approaches to corporate tax reform in Canada, a major reform would be to substantially reduce the corporate income tax rate while broadening the corporate tax base to eliminate as many non-neutralities as possible. Lowering the rate would reduce non-neutralities across sectors and make Canada more attractive for companies to shift investment and profits into the country. A uniform corporate rate for all businesses, large and small, would also simplify the system by eliminating the small business deduction and consolidating the two dividend tax credits into one.

continued next edition



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DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

WRONG EXAMPLE

Q I think I'm in a tight spot. My older brother is married with two young children. He was caught having a little Internet fling a few years ago.

Nothing happened, but I suppose the correct way of putting it is he emotionally cheated.

He felt like crud, and we all thought he had put this behind him. He and his wife have been to counseling, and he did his best to be the best husband ever. Currently they're tense whenever they are together. You can cut the air with a knife, and it seems they are always ready to snap at each other. It's not easy to be around them.

My brother and I went to lunch today. Lately he's been constantly texting on his device, and today it lit up with a text. I glanced at what he was typing, thinking it was business. I saw him type, "So u say u like to role play. Tell me..." I stopped and looked at the ground. I got a sick feeling in my stomach.

So now, what do I do? I really don't think he was texting his wife. They're not sexual or

warm toward one another, and even if they were, he would know her likes by now, right? It's a new girl. Got to be. Do I tell my fiancée, who is friends with my sister-in-law?

Dennis

A Dennis, will you share your thoughts and events of the day with your life partner? Or will you compartmentalize what you say to her?

Your brother's marriage has reached a point where he is leading a second life away from his wife. That's not because it doesn't concern her, but because he has become a double agent. Such a divide is always present with two people who don't belong together.

You know what is right in a relationship. You saw a wrong happen, and you are affected by it. Your fiancée is also likely to be affected by it. By all means share what you saw. With her you want the closeness, love, and trust which is missing from your brother's marriage.

Wayne & Tamara

STICKS AND STONES

Q I am newly remarried and recently my husband compared a part of my body to his ex-wife, who I will call X. We were fooling around, and he grabbed my breast and said, "Nice, but X's are bigger." I freaked.

I flipped him out of his chair, kicked him, and pushed him down the hallway, hitting and screaming at him. Last time I had that much anger and acted like that, I was in my 20s, angry at my first husband, and alcohol was involved.

I feel bad I hit him and have made an appointment for counseling. My husband has apologized, but now I am thinking he must still be thinking of his ex, since he mentioned her body parts like that. I was not previously jealous, but now I am.

He has to maintain a relationship with her as they have a young child together. I am attractive, and she is fat and not very pretty. Should I

just drop this? Maybe I am making a big deal out of nothing.

Staci

A Staci, the old line about sticks and stones is false. Words do hurt, especially from a loved one.

The real story is your feelings toward his ex-wife. In marrying him, you became her hostage. She is a cash and time drain on your marriage. Their child is a reminder of their sexual relationship. Even though you both have a past, you have to wonder, what did he do with her? How do I compare?

The issue to explore in counseling is the basis of your gut reaction. Love, not looks, is the real basis for comparison with the ex-wife. If you and your husband share the deep emotional connection which holds two people together, there is nothing to worry about.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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

or email: GetInTouch@WayneAndTamara.com

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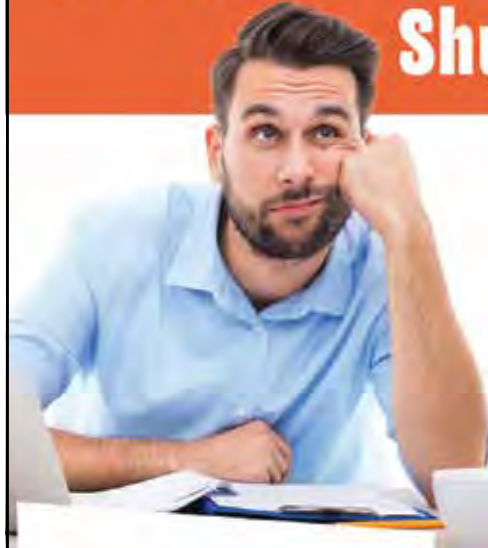
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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| 3. Cauliflower | 11. Avocados (2) |
| 4. Strawberries | 12. Baking Potatoes (4-5) |
| 5. Spinach | 13. Bananas |
| 6. Cantaloupe | 14. Clementines (4-6) |
| 7. Zucchini (2) | 15. Oranges (3) |
| 8. Cremini Mushrooms | 16. Ginger |
| | 17. Mango (2) |

SMALL BASKET (\$22)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Vine Tomatoes (pack) | 6. Avocado |
| 2. Baby Broccolini (organic) | 7. Cucumber |
| 3. Strawberries | 8. Lettuce (Romaine) (organic) |
| 4. Zucchini | 9. Oranges (2) |
| 5. Baking Potatoes (3) | 10. Bananas (3) |
| | 11. Mango |

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HOROSCOPE

Week of April 19 to 25, 2026

The luckiest signs this week:
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA

- ♈ ARIES**
Your confidence will help you express your ideas clearly and convincingly. This attitude will reinforce your credibility and earn you greater respect, strengthening your leadership skills and helping you perform better on your projects.
- ♉ TAURUS**
To strengthen your relationship, break with the old routine and try more open communication. The idea of moving in together or taking a meaningful step forward could deepen your emotions and solidify your bond.
- ♊ GEMINI**
A dynamic period has begun! It's all about action this week. New challenges, stimulating experiences and professional opportunities will drive your intellectual and spiritual growth, paving the way for major career progress.
- ♋ CANCER**
Taking a step back can give your path more clarity. Make informed financial or relationship decisions to help restore balance. Your creativity will flow freely this week. The artist within you will find inspiration to create remarkable works.
- ♌ LEO**
Your career is thriving, bringing a welcome boost in income. Your love life is also on the upswing. Your partner or an admirer will show unexpected affection, boosting your confidence and deepening your happiness together.
- ♍ VIRGO**
A powerful revelation will guide your upcoming choices, illuminating the path toward your goals. Now's the perfect time to start a new project that's close to your heart, symbolizing renewal and unwavering motivation for your future.
- ♎ LIBRA**
A transformative training course will open new perspectives and broaden your horizons. This experience will rekindle your enthusiasm and self-confidence, filling your life with inspiring discoveries and promising ventures.
- ♏ SCORPIO**
Prepare for a lot of intense emotions this week as a wave of passion will sweep through your life. If you're in a new relationship, you'll receive a clear sign of commitment. These positive changes will bring you happiness and mark the start of a bright new chapter.
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS**
Before making a major decision, consider the repercussions. Your generosity will strengthen your emotional bonds and inspire your loved ones. Sharing your joy comes naturally, highlighting the relationships that matter most and reinforcing your personal values.
- ♑ CAPRICORN**
Small dietary adjustments could boost your well-being. In love, an open conversation will prevent misunderstandings and strengthen your relationship. Simple gestures and tenderness will nurture your emotional connection.
- ♒ AQUARIUS**
A selfless gesture, such as listening, lending a hand or offering support, will strengthen your position with others. At work, your good mood will lighten the atmosphere and spread optimism, earning respect from those around you.
- ♓ PISCES**
Moving is becoming increasingly important to you. You'll start looking for a place that truly fits your needs and those of your loved ones to create a more harmonious space conducive to comfort and sharing.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 302

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19			20	21			
22	23	24	25								
26	27	28	29				30	31	32	33	
34				35			36				
37				38			39				
40	41										
42	43	44					45	46	47	48	49
50				51	52	53	54	55			
56				57				58			
59				60				61			

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ACROSS

1. Grimm heavy
5. Catcher's glove
9. Garden veggie
12. Bubble
13. Aloft
14. Lick
15. Possesses
16. Mimicking bird
17. Employ
18. Wound up
22. Put out
26. Military rank
30. Agave
34. Agenda
35. Fate
36. Chapel seats
37. Bullets
38. Pacts
40. Stingy people
42. Brew hue
45. Attuned
50. Heartache

51. Word of regret
55. Secret language
56. Malt brew
57. Cab
58. Gigantic
59. Slangy affirmative
60. Woolly females
61. Mine metals

23. Flavors popcorn
24. Night noise
25. Express
26. Fitness place
27. Large tree
28. Female sheep's mate
29. Elflike being
31. Honolulu garland
32. Have debts
33. Superman's emblem
39. Solicit
41. Extremely annoyed
42. Not here
43. Birthmark
44. Horn sound
46. Canyon sound
47. Thine
48. Hem
49. Poor grades
52. Canon
53. Lumberman's tool
54. Bro's sib

DOWN

1. Wind instrument
2. Formal dress
3. Lemon peel
4. Besides
5. Dad's partner
6. Poison
7. Commandment number
8. Hint
9. Promote
10. Lessen
11. Imitated
19. Game cube
21. Conform

Sudoku

PUZZLE NO. 995

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

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

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

Sudoku

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



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