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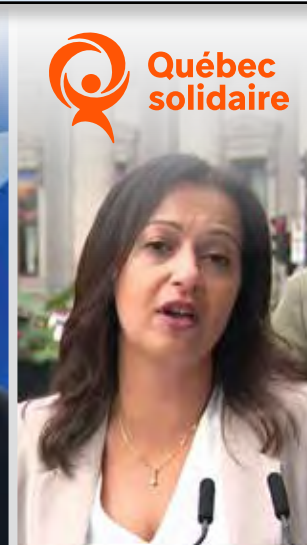
ELECTIONS 2026



CAQ
COALITION AVENIR QUÉBEC



Parti Libéral du Québec



Québec solidaire



Parti québécois



CONSERVATEUR

Whose vision will win Quebec?
The plans of the five parties seeking to lead the province

On August 27, 2026, the Lieutenant-Governor dissolved the Assemblée nationale. A general election will be held on Monday, October 5, 2026. The call for an election ended the 43rd Legislature.
At the time of dissolution, the seats were divided as follows:
Coalition avenir Québec: 79 seats | Québec Liberal Party: 18 seats | Québec solidaire: 11 seats | Parti québécois: 7 seats | Independent Members: Parti conservateur du Québec: 1

See pages 8 - 9

Maison de la culture's new exhibition examines what borders mean beyond country lines



Page 11



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World cyclists, closed streets and a strike threat: **Montreal braces for a difficult week**

Parc-Extension residents travelling along Park Avenue or through Outremont could find themselves caught in the disruption

DIMITRIS ILIAS
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Montreal is preparing a postcard for the world: elite cyclists racing through city streets, crowds surrounding Mount Royal and a finish line on Park Avenue.

Behind that postcard, however, a labour confrontation is gathering momentum.

The union representing approximately 6,000 Montreal blue-collar workers has filed a strike notice covering Sept. 22 at 6 a.m. to Sept. 28 at 6 a.m. The timing places the potential walkout almost entirely inside the UCI Road World Championships, scheduled from Sept. 19 to 27.

Parc-Extension will not host any of the 13 races, but residents travelling toward Outremont, the Plateau or downtown could still encounter closures, parking restrictions and altered bus routes.

A carefully timed pressure tactic

The Syndicat des cols bleus regroupés de Montréal, SCFP Local 301, filed its notice after an intensive round of negotiations with the City.

Union president Nicolas De Ciccio said Montreal was offering wage increases below inflation. In an interview with 98.5 Montréal, he acknowledged that the timing was intended to create bargaining leverage.

The strike is not inevitable. De Ciccio said



negotiations had not broken down and that the union remained prepared to continue talks. Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada has pointed to City Hall's financial pressures and the need to consider taxpayers' ability to pay.

The Tribunal administratif du travail is examining the strike file. The union says essential services will be maintained, but the complete

effect on municipal operations has not yet been established publicly.

Closures are coming regardless

Residents do not need to wait for the labour dispute to be settled before planning their travel. Cycling-related restrictions are confirmed, and some have already begun.

The championship's main site will occupy Park Avenue between des Pins and Mount Royal avenues. That section is closed from Sept. 4 until Oct. 4 to permit construction and dismantling of the start-and-finish area and fan village.

Barriers will begin going up around 7 a.m. on competition days. Most streets will reopen in the early evening, but the main Park Avenue site will remain closed.

Outremont will host races from Sept. 23 to 27. Parking along its section of the course will be prohibited beginning Sept. 22, and vehicles must be moved by 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 21. Cars remaining in restricted zones may be towed.

The strike notice does not involve STM bus drivers or métro operators. Nevertheless, buses travelling near the courses may be rerouted. That matters for users of the 80-Avenue-du-Parc bus, which connects Parc-Extension with the Mount Royal sector along the corridor leading toward the event's main site.

The City's interactive map identifies daily closures, local-access streets and controlled crossings. Residents should also check STM notices before travelling because restrictions will change according to each day's race.

Montreal may still avoid the strike. It will not avoid the closures—and for Parc-Extension commuters, advance planning could make the difference between reaching their destination and becoming trapped on the wrong side of a world championship course.

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OPINION & Editorial



Remembering September 11: A day that changed the world and revealed Canada's compassion

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the world stopped. For millions of people across North America and around the globe, it began as an ordinary Tuesday. Workers commuted to their offices, students headed to school, and families followed their daily routines. Within hours, however, the unthinkable had happened. Terrorists hijacked four commercial airliners, crashing two into the World Trade Center in New York City and another into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. A fourth aircraft, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers fought back against the hijackers.

Over 3,000 people lost their lives that day. Thousands more were injured. Families were shattered. Communities were forever changed. The attacks were the deadliest terrorist acts in modern history and marked a turning point that continues to shape international politics, security policies, and public consciousness a quarter century later.

As the world marks the anniversary of September 11, it is important not only to remember the victims and their families but also to reflect on the extraordinary acts of courage, unity, and compassion that emerged from tragedy. Among those stories is Canada's response, a chapter of history that continues to inspire people on both sides of the border.

A Day of Shock and Sorrow

The collapse of the Twin Towers remains one of the defining images of the 21st century. Television viewers watched in disbelief as the towers burned and ultimately fell, sending clouds of dust and debris through the streets of Lower Manhattan.

For those who lived through that day, the memories are deeply personal. Many remember exactly where they were when they heard the news. Others recall the silence that followed as people struggled to comprehend the scale of what had happened.

The attacks were aimed at symbols of American economic, military, and political strength, but their impact extended far beyond the United States. Citizens from more than 90 countries lost their lives in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. The grief was international. Canadians watched the events unfold with the same shock and sadness felt by their American neighbours. The close relationship between the two countries ensured that the tragedy touched communities from coast to coast.

Canada's Immediate Response

As the attacks unfolded, U.S. authorities made an unprecedented decision: all civilian aircraft were ordered to land immediately. For the first time in history, American airspace was effectively shut down. Hundreds of airplanes already in the sky needed safe places to land. Canada responded without hesitation.

Under a massive operation that became known as **Operation Yellow Ribbon**, airports across the country welcomed aircraft diverted from American airspace. More than 200 planes carrying tens of thousands of passengers were rerouted to Canadian cities and towns.

What followed became one of the most remarkable stories of kindness and generosity in modern Canadian history.

Communities opened schools, churches, recreation centres, and community halls to shelter stranded travellers. Local businesses donated food and supplies. Volunteers worked around the clock to assist passengers who suddenly found themselves far from home with little information and no clear timeline for returning to their destinations. The world witnessed the best of Canada in one of humanity's darkest moments.

The Story of Gander

No Canadian community became more closely associated with the response to September 11 than Gander, Newfoundland.

At the time, Gander had a population of roughly 10,000 people. Yet within hours, 38 diverted aircraft landed at the town's airport, bringing nearly 7,000 stranded passengers. The numbers alone were staggering. The town's population effectively increased by nearly 70 percent overnight. Yet residents rose to the occasion.

They prepared meals, delivered blankets, organized transportation, donated clothing, and opened their homes. They comforted frightened travellers and reassured those unable to contact loved ones.

Many passengers arrived as strangers but left as friends.

The generosity displayed in Gander became an international symbol of compassion. Years later, the story inspired books, documentaries, and the award-winning Broadway musical *Come From Away*, introducing millions of people around the world to the kindness shown by

Newfoundlanders during those difficult days.

Canada and the War Against Terrorism

As Canadians reflect on the anniversary, it is fitting to recognize not only the heroes of 2001 but also the police officers, firefighters, military personnel, healthcare workers, and emergency volunteers who continue to serve communities today.

The consequences of September 11 extended far beyond the events of that single day.

In the weeks following the attacks, the United States launched a global campaign against terrorism. Canada joined its allies in confronting new security challenges.

Canadian Armed Forces members served in Afghanistan as part of international efforts aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and stabilizing the region.

The mission came at a significant cost.

Over the course of Canada's involvement, 158 Canadian military personnel lost their lives. Hundreds more returned home carrying physical and emotional scars.

Regardless of differing views regarding military operations, the sacrifice of those who served deserves recognition and respect. They answered their nation's call during a difficult chapter in world history and paid a heavy price for that service.

Their names and stories form an important part of Canada's post-9/11 legacy.

The Lasting Impact

Twenty-five years later, the legacy of September 11 remains visible. Airport security procedures changed dramatically. Governments introduced new legislation addressing national security and intelligence gathering. International cooperation in combating terrorism expanded. Public awareness of extremist threats increased.

Perhaps most significantly, a generation grew up in a world shaped by the aftermath of September 11.

Young adults entering the workforce today have no memory of a time before enhanced airport screening, heightened security measures, and the political realities that followed the attacks.

For them, September 11 belongs to history.

For those who lived through it, however, it remains deeply personal. This is why remembrance matters.

When societies remember tragedy, they honour those who were lost and preserve lessons that future generations must not forget.

A Lesson in Humanity

While September 11 is remembered primarily as a day of horror and loss, it is also remembered as a day that revealed humanity at its best. In New York, ordinary citizens helped trapped strangers escape danger.

In Pennsylvania, passengers aboard Flight 93 sacrificed their lives to prevent further destruction.

Across North America, communities gathered to support one another. And in Canada, people opened their hearts to thousands of stranded travellers whom they had never met.

These acts remind us that compassion is stronger than hatred. Terrorism seeks to divide societies through fear. The response to September 11 demonstrated the opposite. People chose unity over division, courage over panic, and kindness over suspicion.

Those choices remain relevant today.

Never forget

Twenty-five years after the attacks, grief still remains. So does gratitude. So does respect.

September 11, 2001, was one of the darkest days in modern history. Yet even amid unimaginable tragedy, people discovered reservoirs of courage, generosity, and hope.

Canada's response stands as a powerful reminder that in moments of crisis, ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. The actions of communities across this country demonstrated that national borders matter far less than our shared humanity.

As we remember the victims of September 11 and honour the heroes who emerged from that day, let us also remember the enduring lesson that followed: when confronted with fear and hatred, compassion remains one of the most powerful forces in the world.

That is a lesson worth preserving, a history worth teaching, and a legacy that deserves to be remembered for generations to come.



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Canadians worried about public health care, majority oppose Alberta's Bill 11

DAVID COLETT
ABACUS DATA

A new national survey conducted by Abacus Data and commissioned by the Canadian Health Coalition finds Canadians are deeply concerned about the state of public health care but have not given up on the system or the principle that access to medically necessary care should be based on need rather than ability to pay.

Ninety-one percent are concerned about the future of public health care. Fifty-five percent believe the system has become worse over the past five years, while 63% describe health care in their province as being in a state of crisis.

Those concerns cross political lines. A majority of Conservative and NDP supporters believe the system has become worse, as do nearly half of Liberal supporters.

But frustration with the system does not translate into broad support for private payment.

Eighty-five percent say universal health care based on need rather than income is a core Canadian value, while 80% believe the public system can meet Canadians' needs if govern-

ments invest more in it (graph shown below).

This is the context in which Canadians are responding to Alberta's Bill 11, a new law passed at the end of 2025.

Health care is becoming part of the affordability crisis

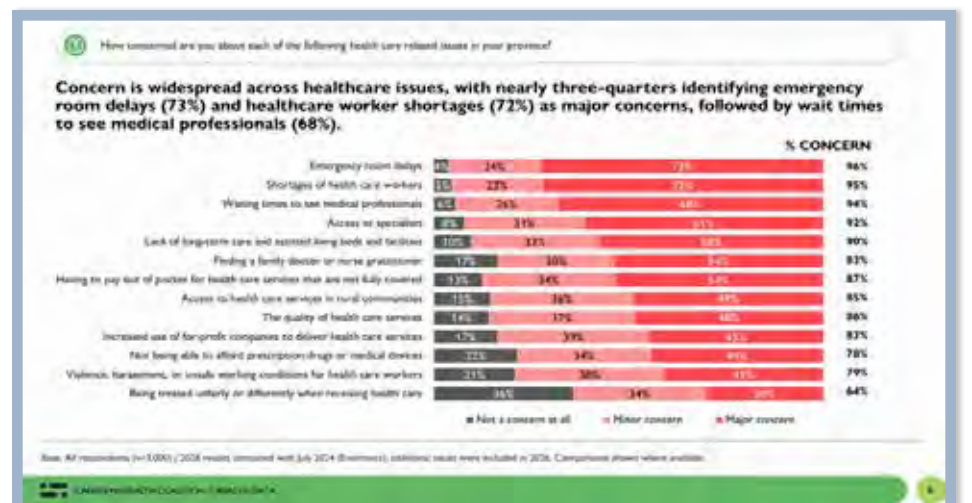
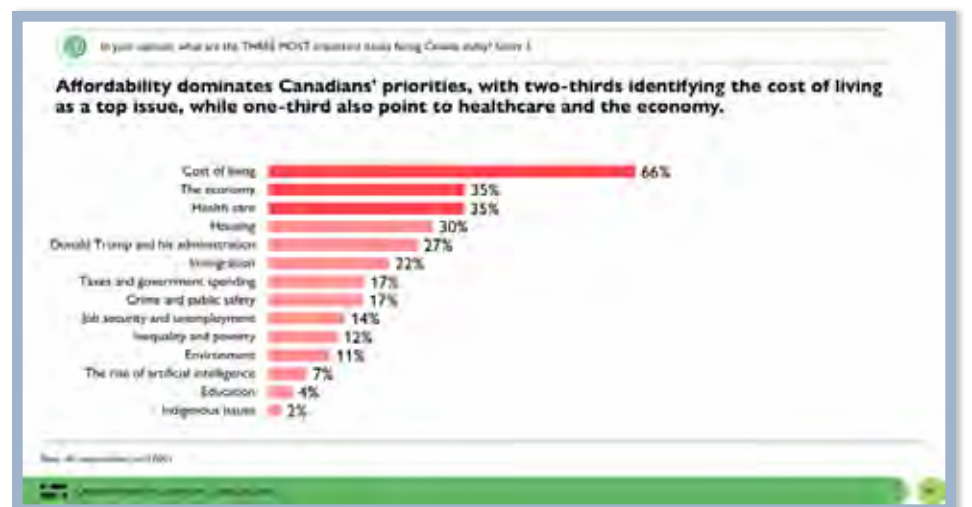
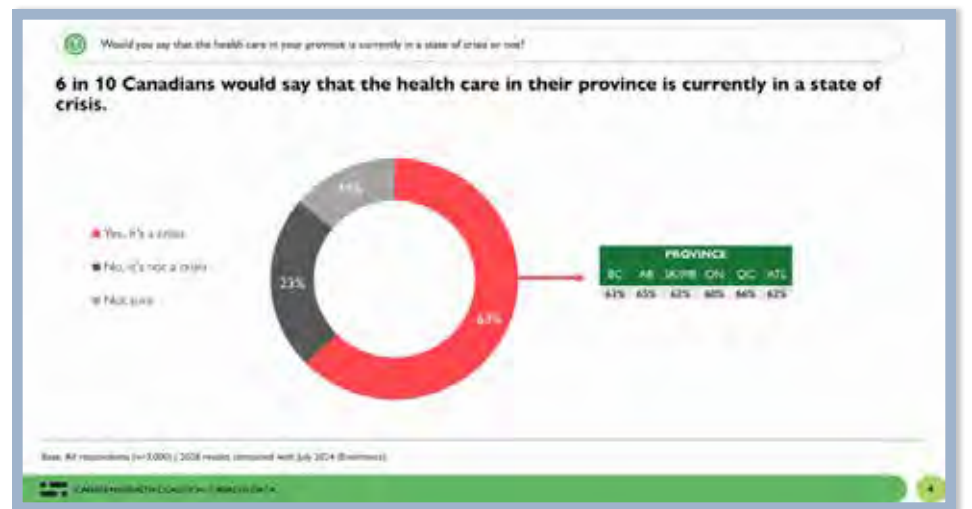
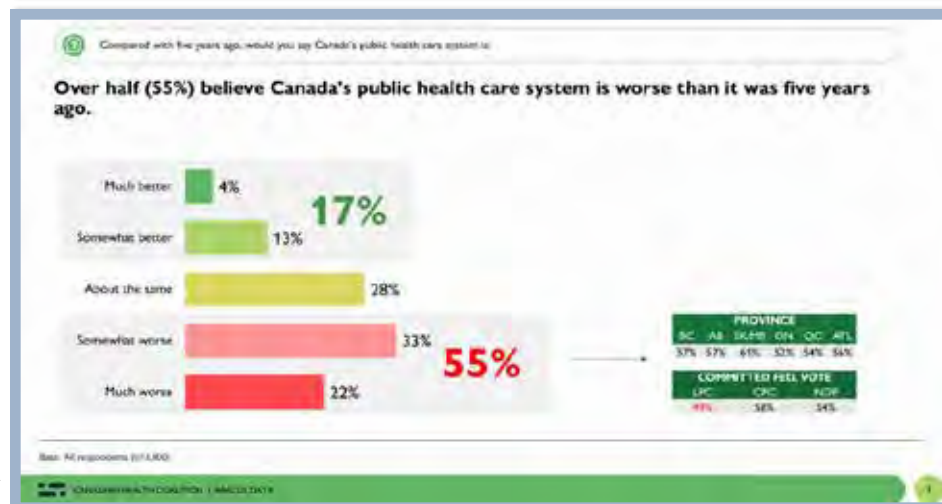
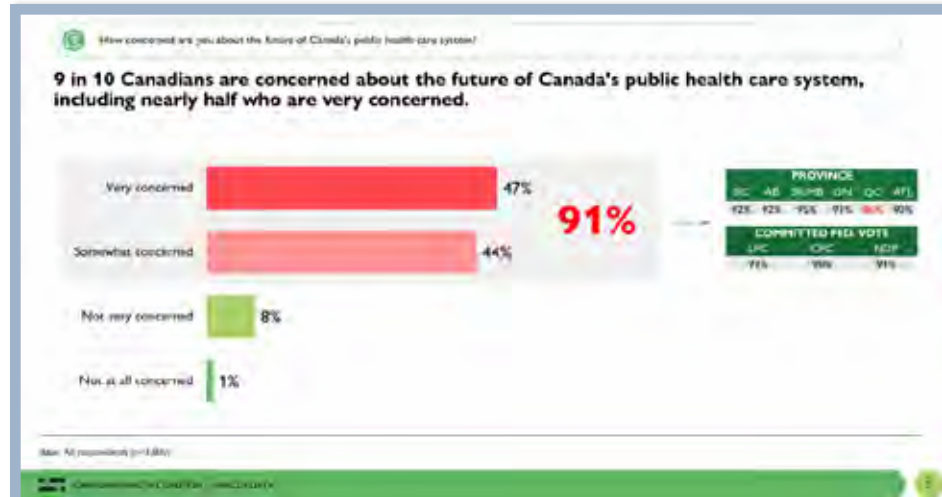
One of the clearest findings is how closely health care is becoming connected to broader affordability pressures.

Two-thirds of Canadians identify the cost of living as one of the three most important issues facing the country. Health care is tied with the economy as the second-most important issue, at 35%.

And 87% are concerned about having to pay out of pocket for health care services.

For many Canadians, the concern goes beyond another bill. Private payment raises a broader question about whether financial security could increasingly determine the speed or quality of someone's access to care.

The public remains clear about the principle it wants the system to uphold. Eighty-five percent say universal health care based on need rather



than income is a core Canadian value, and 80% believe the public system can meet Canadians' needs if governments invest more in it.

When asked to choose among different approaches, 49% say medically necessary health care should remain publicly funded and available based on need at no cost to the patient.

Only 11% favour allowing Canadians to

purchase private insurance to access medically necessary services outside the public system.

The findings suggest Canadians have lost confidence in how well the system is performing but have not lost faith in the basic model itself.

► Continued on page 7

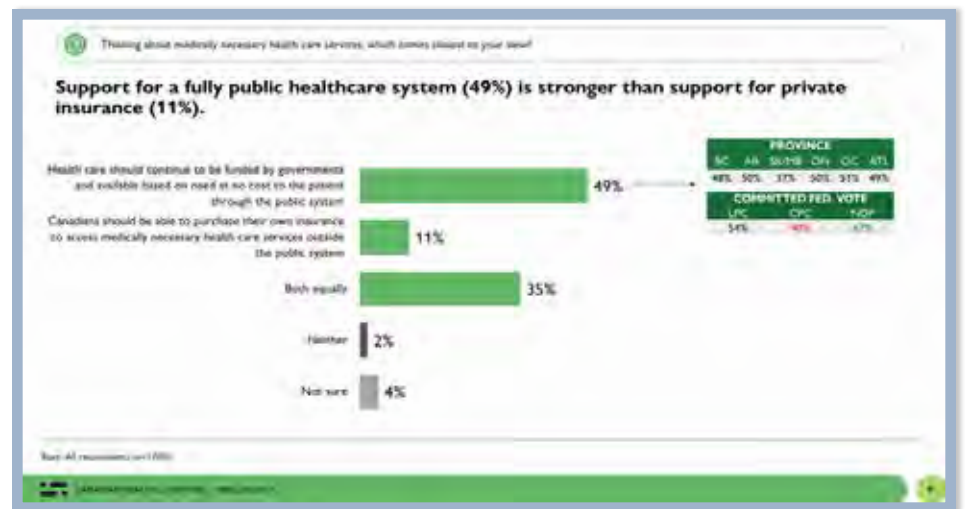
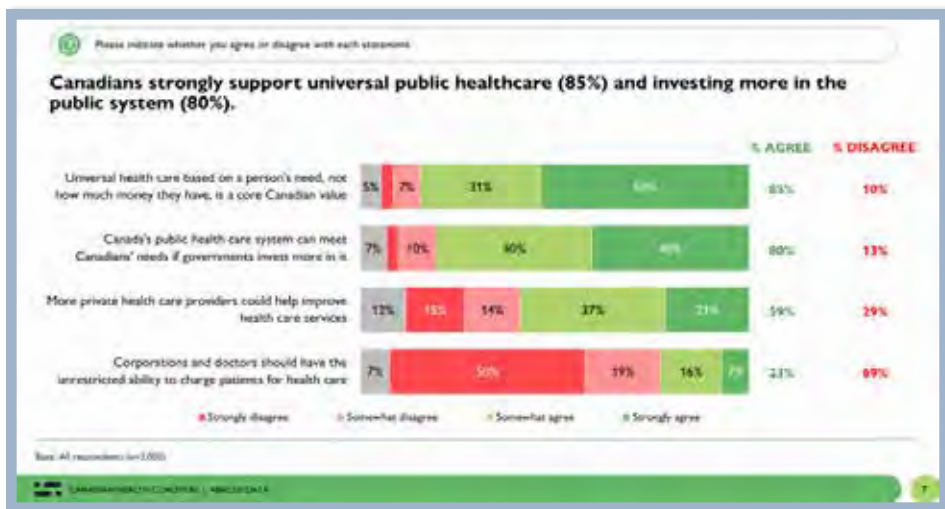
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Low awareness of Bill 11 does not mean public acceptance

Awareness of Bill 11 remains relatively limited outside Alberta. Seventy-one percent of Canadians outside the province had not heard about the legislation before participating in the survey. But once respondents are told what it would do, opinion becomes clearer.

Fifty-three percent oppose Bill 11, compared with one-third who support it. Those who strongly oppose the legislation outnumber those who strongly support it by four to one.

Canadians are also more likely to believe Bill 11 will make Alberta's health care system worse rather than better, by 40% to 26%.

And that concern is not confined to people outside Alberta. Within the province, 47% expect Bill 11 to make the system worse.

Opposition is strongest among NDP supporters, at 71%, followed by Liberal supporters at 59%. Conservative supporters are more divided: 41% oppose the legislation, while 33% expect it to improve health care in Alberta.

Concerns about cost and unequal access drive opposition

The reasons Canadians are concerned about Bill 11 are perhaps more revealing than overall support or opposition.

Eighty-five percent are concerned about higher health care costs for patients. Eighty-three percent are concerned about unequal access based on income, and the same proportion worry about the additional cost of private insurance.

More than eight in ten are also concerned about longer public-system wait times, weaker public services, and for-profit companies making money from health care.

These concerns extend well beyond Liberal and NDP voters.

Among Conservative supporters, 81% are concerned about higher patient costs, 80% about private insurance costs, 79% about longer public wait times, and 76% about unequal access based on income.

Conservative voters remain more open to Bill 11 overall. But the results suggest many are still uneasy about its practical consequences. That creates a political vulnerability for advocates of the legislation.

Public health care remains a defining Canadian value

The language used to describe health care reform matters. Reactions shift when health care is described in more explicitly commercial terms.

Seventy percent say "U.S.-style health care" sounds like a concern. Sixty-one percent react negatively to "for-profit health care," while 59% say the same about "private-pay health care."

Older Canadians are especially concerned.

Among those aged 60 and older, 84% react negatively to U.S.-style health care, 77% to for-profit care, and 71% to private-pay care.

The political differences are also smaller than might be expected. U.S.-style health care concerns 77% of NDP supporters, 76% of Liberal supporters, and 62% of Conservative supporters.

Voters may disagree about the role of the private sector, but there remains broad resistance to a system associated with private insurance, direct payment, and unequal access.

Affordability is the most persuasive argument

When Canadians are presented with different arguments about Bill 11, affordability stands out. Ninety-one percent find the argument that health care could become another expense for households already struggling with housing, groceries and other everyday costs convincing.

That includes 95% of Liberal supporters, 96% of NDP supporters, and 86% of Conservative supporters.

Arguments based on equal access are nearly as persuasive. Eighty-nine percent find it convincing that health care should be based on need rather than income, and the same proportion respond positively to the idea that Canadians should need a health card, rather than a credit card, to receive medically necessary care.

The findings reinforce how closely this debate

is tied to affordability. For Canadians, the question is whether they create another household expense and make income more important in determining access to care.

Canadians expect Ottawa to play a role

Although provinces deliver health care, most Canadians do not believe the federal government should stay on the sidelines when the principles of the public system are at stake.

Half say federal and provincial governments should share responsibility for protecting the health care system. Another 27% believe Ottawa should play an active role even though provinces are responsible for delivery.

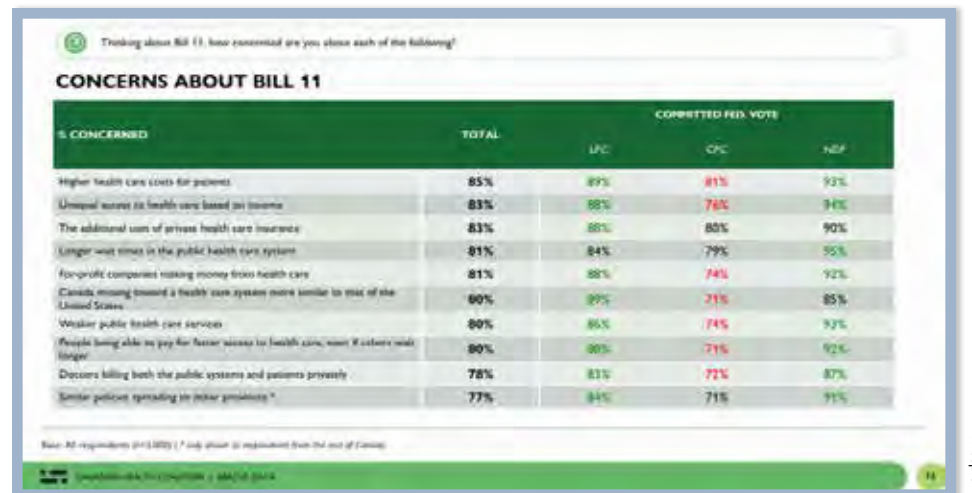
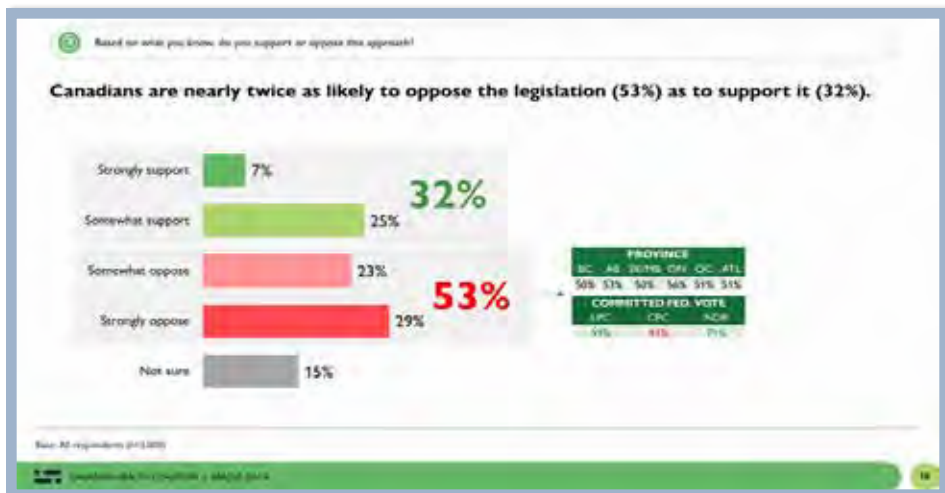
Only 13% say the federal government should generally stay out of provincial health care decisions.

When asked specifically about changes such as Bill 11, 53% say the federal government should do more to protect public health care. Just 12% believe provinces should be allowed to make these decisions without federal involvement.

There is also concern Bill 11 could become a precedent elsewhere.

Among Canadians outside Alberta, 74% are concerned similar policies could be adopted in their province. That rises to 81% in Ontario and 81% among Canadians aged 60 and older.

Within Alberta, 76% are concerned Bill 11 could remain in place and expand over time.



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ELECTIONS 2026



What the parties are promising in Quebec's 2026 election campaign as of September 4th

A comprehensive guide to where Quebec's major political parties stand on the issues shaping the 2026 election

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA
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With the election campaign now underway, Quebec's major political parties are unveiling new promises aimed at addressing affordability, healthcare, housing, transportation, taxation, education and immigration.

Several proposals announced in recent weeks signal important shifts in campaign priorities. Québec Solidaire is focusing heavily on wealth redistribution through a proposed tax on large fortunes. The CAQ is promoting new transportation infrastructure and healthcare initiatives. The Conservatives are emphasizing parental choice through direct childcare payments. The PQ continues to highlight

Quebec identity and culture while stressing government accountability, and the Liberals are positioning themselves as a centrist option focused on economic growth and improved public services.

For voters, the campaign increasingly presents a choice between competing visions of government's role in the economy, public services and Quebec society.

CAQ: transit infrastructure and service delivery

Under leader Christine Fréchette, the Coalition Avenir Québec continues to focus on economic growth, infrastructure development and improving public services.

A major new campaign commitment is the proposal to revive a REM-style rail project linking Montreal's eastern end with Repentigny. The proposed transit corridor would connect eastern Montreal with growing North Shore communities that have long faced transportation challenges.

The CAQ argues that transportation investments are necessary to reduce congestion, strengthen economic development and

improve mobility for commuters. The proposal has become one of the party's most visible infrastructure promises during the campaign.

Economy

The CAQ continues to promote a business-friendly environment, support major infrastructure projects and encourage investment in strategic sectors.

The party argues that strong economic growth remains the best way to finance healthcare, education and social programs

while maintaining Quebec's competitiveness.

Healthcare

The CAQ has made healthcare modernization a major campaign priority. The party highlights efforts to reduce wait times, improve access to family doctors and increase efficiency throughout the healthcare network.

The CAQ is also promoting greater use of telemedicine and digital health tools to improve access to healthcare services in both urban and regional communities.

Quebec Liberals: modern services and economic competitiveness

Led by Charles Milliard, the Quebec Liberal Party continues to position itself as a centrist alternative focused on economic growth, public services and the protection of minority rights.

Healthcare modernization

Healthcare has become one of the party's major campaign priorities. Liberals are promoting expanded telehealth services and greater use of technology to improve access to care, particularly in underserved regions where recruiting healthcare professionals remains challenging.

The party argues that modernization can help reduce wait times while providing patients with faster and more convenient

access to healthcare services.

Economy

The Liberals continue emphasizing investment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The party argues that sustained economic growth is necessary to generate the revenues required to improve healthcare, education and public infrastructure while maintaining Quebec's competitiveness within Canada and internationally.

Housing

The party supports increasing housing supply through partner-

ships with municipalities and private-sector builders.

Liberals argue that addressing housing affordability requires both government action and private-sector participation.

Language and minority rights

The Liberal Party continues to advocate protection of the French language while emphasizing the importance of protecting the rights and institutions of Quebec's English-speaking minority communities.

The party argues that language protection and minority rights can coexist and should not be treated as competing objectives.

Québec Solidaire: wealth tax becomes signature proposal

The biggest new commitment unveiled by Québec Solidaire is a proposed tax on Quebec's wealthiest households. Leader Ruba Ghazal says a QS government would introduce an annual 1 per cent tax on fortunes worth more than \$25 million and a 2 per cent tax on fortunes exceeding \$100 million.

Québec Solidaire estimates the measure would generate approximately \$5 billion in additional government revenue.

The party argues that a small number of wealthy individuals have accumulated enormous assets while many Quebecers struggle with rising housing costs, affordability pressures, overcrowded classrooms and shortages in public services. QS says a significant portion of the new revenue would be directed toward education, healthcare, affordable housing and other public programs.

The proposal reinforces the party's central election message that growing economic inequality requires more direct government intervention and redistribution of wealth. Supporters view the proposal as a way to finance improved public services without increasing taxes on middle-income families, while critics argue it could discourage investment or encourage wealthy taxpayers to move assets elsewhere.

Healthcare and public services

Québec Solidaire continues to advocate major investments in public healthcare, education and social services. The party argues that improved public services are essential to addressing inequality and improving quality of life.

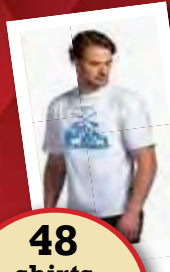
The party supports hiring more healthcare professionals, expanding access to frontline services and strengthening publicly delivered healthcare rather than increasing reliance on private providers.

Housing

Housing remains one of QS's top priorities. The party proposes significantly expanding affordable and social housing construction and increasing government intervention in the housing market to improve affordability for renters and first-time homebuyers.

Environment

Climate policy remains central to the QS platform. The party supports accelerated investments in public transit, renewable energy, green technologies and infrastructure projects designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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ELECTIONS 2026



Parti Québécois: culture, identity and accountability

The Parti Québécois under Paul St-Pierre Plamondon continues to focus on government accountability, Quebec identity and support for Quebec-owned businesses.

A notable new proposal would require students to read a selection of Quebec literary classics throughout their education. The PQ argues that young Quebecers should develop a stronger understanding of Quebec's cultural heritage, history and identity.

Supporters say the measure would strengthen cultural literacy, while critics question whether governments should mandate specific reading selections.

Environment and industry

The party has also attracted attention for its approach to the Fonderie Horne environmental file. While previously advocating stronger environmental measures, the PQ now says it does not want to disrupt agreements already negotiated to reduce arsenic emissions and improve environmental performance. The party argues that environmental protection must be balanced with economic realities and the protection of regional jobs.

Economy and regional development

The PQ continues to emphasize Quebec ownership of strategic

industries, regional economic development, innovation and support for small and medium-sized businesses. The party maintains that economic decisions should prioritize long-term provincial interests and strengthen Quebec's economic autonomy.

Government accountability

Transparency and accountability remain central themes of the PQ campaign. The party promises stronger oversight of public spending and reforms designed to improve confidence in government institutions.

Conservative Party of Quebec: direct support for families

One of the most widely discussed promises announced during the campaign comes from Éric Duhaime's Conservative Party of Quebec. The party would provide parents with \$100 per week for every child kept at home rather than placed in Quebec's subsidized daycare system.

Conservatives argue that many parents cannot obtain daycare spaces despite years-long waiting lists. The proposal is designed to offer greater flexibility for families while providing financial support to parents who choose home-based childcare.

The initiative is expected to cost approximately \$1.4 billion over five years.

Affordability and taxes

Lower taxes and greater purchasing power remain central elements of the Conservative platform.

The party argues that government spending has expanded too rapidly and that Quebecers should be allowed to keep more of their income during a period of rising living costs.

Healthcare

The Conservatives advocate reforms intended to introduce more flexibility and efficiency into the healthcare system. The party generally supports increasing patient choice and reducing bureaucracy.

Economy

The PCQ believes economic growth is best achieved through lower taxes, reduced regulation, support for entrepreneurs and a smaller role for government in the economy.

Key new campaign promises

CAQ

- Proposed REM-style transit link connecting eastern Montreal and Repentigny.
- Expanded emphasis on telehealth and healthcare modernization.

Liberals

- Expanded telehealth and healthcare modernization initiatives.
- Continued focus on economic growth and minority rights.

Québec Solidaire

- 1% wealth tax on fortunes above \$25 million.
- 2% wealth tax on fortunes above \$100 million.
- Estimated \$5 billion in new annual government revenue.
- Increased spending on education and public services.

Parti Québécois

- Mandatory reading of Quebec literary classics in schools.
- More pragmatic position on the Fonderie Horne emissions issue.

Conservatives

- \$100 per week per child for parents who choose home-based childcare.
- Greater focus on affordability and parental choice.

This version reads more like an up-to-date 2026 election guide because it highlights the major promises being made during the current campaign rather than simply describing each party's traditional positions.

The issues that may decide the election

Housing

Rising rents and soaring home prices have transformed housing into one of the defining issues of the election. Every major party agrees more housing is needed, but they differ significantly on how to achieve that goal.

Healthcare

Long wait times, shortages of family physicians, and pressure on emergency rooms continue to dominate voter concerns. Healthcare may ultimately become the single most important issue influencing election results.

Cost of living

Food prices, utilities, insurance costs, and housing expenses

remain top concerns for families and seniors throughout Quebec.

Language and minority rights

Questions surrounding the protection of French, access to English-language services, and the future of minority-language institutions remain highly significant, particularly in Montreal, Laval, and other diverse communities.

Immigration

Parties differ sharply on immigration levels and integration policies. The debate centres on balancing economic needs, labour shortages, housing pressures, cultural integration, and protection of the French language.

What voters will decide

The 2026 election is ultimately about competing visions of Quebec's future.

Should government play a larger role in solving social and economic problems, or should private enterprise lead the way? How should Quebec balance immigration with integration? How can the province protect French while respecting minority rights? What is the best way to address housing shortages, healthcare challenges, and affordability concerns?

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Parc-Extension residents asked how the borough should tackle neighbourhood cleanliness

A multilingual consultation gives residents until Sept. 21 to identify concerns and propose improvements

DIMITRIS ILIAS
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

From litter on streets and sidewalks to debris in alleys and improperly discarded household items, cleanliness has an immediate effect on how residents experience their neighbourhood. The borough of Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension is now asking people who live in Parc-Extension to help determine how those challenges should be addressed.

A public consultation devoted specifically to cleanliness in Parc-Extension is underway, with residents invited to complete an online questionnaire before Sept. 21.

The survey contains seven questions and is expected to take approximately five minutes. Participants may provide their responses in writing or through a voice message, allowing residents to describe problems they have observed and suggest possible improvements in their own words.

The consultation is available in French, English, Greek, Urdu, Bengali and Punjabi. Offering the questionnaire in six languages provides an important point of access in one of Montreal's most linguistically diverse neighbourhoods.

Participants must sign in using a telephone number or email address and receive a verification code before submitting their answers. According to the consultation page, responses will remain confidential under the platform's



privacy policy.

The borough says it is seeking public input to respond more effectively to cleanliness challenges in the area. However, the consultation page does not identify particular measures already under consideration, announce additional spending or indicate when the results will be released. It also does not specify whether a new cleanliness

plan will follow the consultation.

That makes the questionnaire an opportunity for residents to provide detailed information about the locations and types of problems they encounter. Comments could address conditions on residential streets, commercial corridors, sidewalks, alleys and public spaces, as well as the handling of household garbage and bulky objects.

The consultation should not be confused with the City's existing system for reporting a problem requiring attention. Residents who see debris or accumulated dirt in a street, alley or park may submit a cleanliness report through Montréal's online service or contact 311. Problems involving garbage, recycling, food waste, construction materials or bulky items left outside at the wrong time may also be reported as collection issues.

Residents uncertain about collection days can use the City's Info-collectes service, which provides address-specific schedules for household waste, recycling, food scraps, green waste and bulky items. The borough maintains a separate information page explaining the different collections offered throughout Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension.

The borough has previously promoted shared responsibility through its J'aime mon quartier propre initiative. Residents can obtain a neighbourhood-cleanliness sign from the borough's Bureau Accès Montréal or through Ville en vert, which operates the local Éco-quartier program. Ville en vert can also assist residents interested in organizing community cleanup activities.

The new consultation goes beyond reporting an isolated missed collection or discarded object. It gives residents an opportunity to tell the borough which cleanliness problems deserve priority and what changes they believe could improve conditions across Parc-Extension.

The questionnaire remains open until Sept. 21 on the Polaire consultation platform.

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Chomedey: Enjoy the best of both worlds in this stylish two-bedroom, open-concept condo. Located in the heart of the action, this home features a beautiful kitchen designed for both daily life and hosting. Commuting is a breeze with immediate access to major highways and a location just minutes from the Lachapelle Bridge. Best of all, you'll never hunt for a spot with two dedicated parking spaces (one garage, one exterior).

MLS: 23852845

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Chomedey: Discover this 1 bedroom, 1 bath, newer construction condo ideally located in the heart of Laval, just steps from groceries, pharmacies, schools, parks, daycares, restaurants, and public transit. The open concept layout features large windows that flood the space with natural light, complemented by quality finishes throughout. This well built concrete and steel structure offers superior soundproofing between floors, two elevators, and a convenient storage locker. Also enjoy access to a cardio gym on the main floor and a stunning rooftop terrace with panoramic views. Easy to visit! Must see!

MLS: 13585109

Laval: Here is your opportunity to become a homeowner in one of Fabreville's most soughtafter neighbourhoods. This charming semi-detached bungalow offers generous living space and has been beautifully maintained by its owners over the years. The property features a total of 3 bedrooms and 1+1 bathrooms. The main floor boasts a bright, openconcept layout that seamlessly connects the kitchen and dining area, complemented by a welcoming living room perfect for relaxing. The basement provides an excellent additional living space with a cozy family room ideal for unwinding or hosting guests.

MLS: 14952293

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MLS: 20380508

Cote-des-Neiges: Apartment for 4 1/2 for rent. Newly renovated 2 bedroom apartment located in the Cote-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grace close to all amenities, shopping, schools and transportation. Included are all stainless-steel appliances, fridge, stove, dishwasher washer/dryer and cooking fan. Close to all services, restaurants, hospital and pharmacies.

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Borders become spaces of memory and belonging at Parc-Extension exhibition

Three Latin American artists explore migration, citizenship, identity and the environments people inhabit

DIMITRIS ILIAS
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

In a neighbourhood where generations of newcomers have confronted the questions of arrival, identity and belonging, a new exhibition at the Maison de la culture de Parc-Extension examines what borders mean beyond the lines separating countries.

Les espaces de frontière, presented as part of the Festival LatinArte, brings together work by Gabi Lacoste, María Claudia Quijano and Sabina Gámez. Curated by Claudia Arana, the free exhibition opened Sept. 2 and continues until Oct. 25.

The exhibition treats borders not simply as geographical divisions, but as places of passage, tension and transformation. Through textile installations, sculpture and multimedia works, the artists consider how displacement between countries, cities and inhabited environments can reshape both individual and collective identities.

That subject carries resonance in Parc-Extension. Montréal's historical account of the neighbourhood describes it as a first point of contact with the city and Quebec society for many immigrants. Successive communities have left their mark on its businesses, institutions and public life, making the neighbourhood an especially relevant setting for an exhibition about migration and hybrid identities.

Belgian-Chilean artist Gabi Lacoste uses weaving, embroidery and sewing as tools for reflection and resistance. Born in Zimbabwe and raised in Chile, Lacoste draws upon a life shaped by several national and cultural identities.

The recent loss of her Chilean legal status led her to examine the authority of citizenship systems to determine who belongs to a country and how people are officially defined. Her labour-intensive textile processes connect political questions with the physical and emotional experience of making art.

María Claudia Quijano approaches the exhibition through the urban environment. Originally from Colombia, she has lived in Quebec for approximately 20 years. Initially trained in psychology, she turned toward visual



art in 2018 and completed a bachelor's degree in visual and media arts at UQAM in 2022.

Quijano collects and transforms discarded materials, using objects found in the city to explore everyday life, immigration, displacement and memory. Her work received the Marc-Plamondon scholarship in sculpture and installation in 2022.

In a recent UQAM exhibition, Quijano combined found materials with videos recorded during walks through Montreal. She explained that ordinary details of the city took on new meanings through her experience of immigration, including the discovery that the doors of some Montreal apartment buildings were not permanently locked. For the artist, those doors came to symbolize openness, freedom of movement and access to unfamiliar spaces.

Sabina Gámez, a Colombian artist working in new media, examines the relationship between the body, technology and the environment. Her practice includes video installations and

performances that explore how the female body is represented and recontextualized through digital media.

Gámez has pursued graduate studies in Intermedia at Concordia University and has

been associated with its Loyola Sustainability Research Centre. Her work brings feminist and ecological questions together with ideas about community, embodiment and the traces people leave in digital environments. Her projects have been presented in Colombia, Mexico, South Korea, the United States and Canada.

Together, the three practices expand the definition of a border. In the exhibition, a boundary can be political and territorial, but also social, emotional, technological or deeply personal. The works examine what happens in the space between identities, where relationships to home, memory and community are continually being reconstructed.

Founded in Montreal in 2009, the LatinArte Foundation supports the presentation of Latin American art and the intercultural development of Montreal's Latin American community. Its activities focus on presenting artists, supporting their development and building connections with the wider public.

The public may visit Les espaces de frontière without registration. A guided visit with curator Claudia Arana and artist Gabi Lacoste will take place Oct. 24 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; free tickets are required for that activity.

The exhibition is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Maison de la culture de Parc-Extension, 421 Saint-Roch Street. Admission is free.

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Canada and Quebec labour markets face new pressures in 2026

NEWSFIRST MULTIMEDIA
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Canada's labour market continues to show resilience in 2026, but economists and employers are navigating a period of slower growth, changing workforce demographics, and ongoing labour shortages in several key industries. While employment levels remain relatively strong compared with historical standards, businesses across the country are facing challenges related to productivity, an aging workforce, and economic uncertainty.

Nationally, Canada's unemployment rate stood at approximately 6.4 per cent in July 2026. Although this is higher than the exceptionally tight labour market experienced in the years immediately following the pandemic, it remains within a range that many economists consider manageable. Employment growth has moderated as businesses contend with higher costs, slower economic expansion, and concerns over international trade conditions.

One of the most significant issues facing the Canadian labour market is demographics. The retirement of large numbers of Baby Boomers continues to reduce the pool of available workers. As a result, employers in sectors such as healthcare, construction, skilled trades, transportation, and technology continue to struggle to fill positions. Even in regions where unemployment has increased slightly, many employers report difficulties finding workers with the required skills and experience.

In Quebec, the labour market remains among the strongest in Canada, despite signs of softening during the first half of 2026. According to recent labour market data, Quebec's unemployment rate reached 5.6 per cent in July, still well below the national average. Employment remained essentially unchanged from the previous month, reflecting a labour market that is stabilizing after several years of rapid growth.

However, beneath the surface, notable shifts are taking place. Full-time employment increased significantly in July, while part-time employment declined. At the same time, job losses were recorded in both the private and public sectors, with gains among self-employed workers helping to offset those declines. These trends suggest that Quebec's labour market is adjusting to changing economic conditions rather than experiencing widespread deterioration.

Quebec continues to face severe demographic challenges. The province's aging population and slower labour force growth are limiting its ability to expand employment. In many regions, particularly outside major urban centres, businesses report difficulty recruiting workers. The construction industry, healthcare sector, and information technology field remain among the areas most affected by labour shortages.

The construction sector has faced particular challenges in recent months. Employment in the industry declined significantly during the summer, partly due to labour disruptions and project delays. Nevertheless, demand for construction workers remains high because of ongoing infrastructure investments, housing needs, and public works projects throughout the province.

Healthcare remains another critical concern. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health organizations continue to compete aggressively for qualified staff. Quebec's government has implemented various recruitment and retention initiatives in an effort to address staffing shortages, particularly among nurses, personal support workers, and specialized medical professionals.

Technology and professional services continue to represent bright spots in the Quebec economy. Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services reached record levels earlier this year, reflecting ongoing demand for expertise in



software development, artificial intelligence, engineering, and business consulting. The Greater Metropolitan area including Laval, remains an important hub for innovation and technology investment.

Looking ahead, labour market experts expect both Canada and Quebec to experience moderate employment growth rather than the rapid expansion seen during previous years. Economic uncertainty, global trade pressures, and demographic constraints are expected to limit growth. However, the sustained demand for skilled workers is likely to keep unemployment rates relatively low by historical standards.

For employers, the challenge will increasingly be attracting, training, and retaining talent. For workers, opportunities remain abundant in sectors facing chronic shortages. As Canada and Quebec adapt to demographic realities and evolving economic conditions, the labour market is expected to remain resilient, though increasingly shaped by the need for productivity improvements, skills development, and workforce modernization.



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OPEN HEART

Q Although I am not usually an indecisive person, I am having a difficult time making a financial decision and would like your thoughts on the matter.

I have belonged to a church for 25 years. I have supported it with increasingly larger amounts as my circumstances improved, although not with tithes as they would like. Over the years religion has come to make less and less sense to me, but I still believe "as you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto me."

Over the last few years, though, I have been disappointed at how little of the church budget actually goes to charitable causes, and I began to feel as if my money could be better spent going to secular organizations like our local food bank. Our church does raise a lot of money for charity, but that is in addition to our monthly pledges.

Since I attend the church, I thought it only fair that I contribute my monthly pledge to keep the church going, no matter what the state of my beliefs. This year I did not make a pledge of financial support, but I intended to keep giving the same amount I had been giving.

However, recently we received a newsletter from our church stating there has been such a good response to the recent pledge drive they adopted a new budget almost 20 percent higher than the previous one. A week after that, disaster struck overseas. Again I began to feel that my money can be better spent going to aid that country, as well as going to local charities that are dealing with this poor economy with less success than my church is.

But, as I said, I am having a hard time making the decision. Part of me feels guilty for participating without paying, and part of me feels if I still believed in Jesus, I'd be doing his wishes best by giving to the less fortunate. I decided to pay this month's pledge to an organization providing medical aid abroad.

After that, I do not know. I don't expect you to

tell me what to do, but I would like whatever insights you can give me.

Tonya

A Tonya, people are born into your church, even as other people die. People move into your area and join the church, even as others move away. Some people simply move on. That's part of the normal life cycle of a church. There is nothing in that to regret.

Aside from advancing what they consider true beliefs, churches are also organizations. Every organization does what it can to perpetuate itself. That is an organization's main goal, whether it is a business, a charity, or a church.

When Jesus drove the money changers from the temple, he said his house is a house of prayer. But, of necessity, there is always an uneasy tension between money and religion. When you donate, it feels like settling a bill. Shaking your pastor's hand, you wonder if he's totaling your monthly contributions in his head.

You may be having a crisis of faith, but in part it's triggered by your church's financial structure and budget. You object to how the money is spent.

Meister Eckhart said whether we know it or not, our nature seeks to "ferret out the track in which God may be found." That is what you are doing. You are trying to come to terms with the ultimate. There is no danger a higher power will misunderstand your motives, for as Eckhart said, "The eye with which I see God is the same eye with which God sees me."

We hear the compassion in your letter. To whomever you give, give in a way that makes you feel good. Once you feel good about giving again, you will give more and with a gladder heart.

Wayne & Tamara

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

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| 3. Canary melon — Mexico | 12. Romaine Lettuce — Quebec |
| 4. Peppers — Ontario | 13. Green beans — Quebec |
| 5. Bananas (4) — Honduras | 14. Onions (2 lbs) — Quebec |
| 6. Golden Delicious apples (3) — Quebec | 15. Pears (3) — Portugal |
| 7. Celery — Quebec | 16. Beets (6) — Quebec |
| 8. Tomato — Quebec | 17. Organic Ginger — Peru |
| 9. Corn (3) — Quebec | 18. Organic Turmeric — Peru |

SMALL BASKET (\$22)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Hass avocados (bag) — Mexico | 7. Broccoli — Quebec |
| 2. Kumato tomatoes — Quebec | 8. Romaine Lettuce — Quebec |
| 3. Pears (2) — Portugal | 9. Corn (2) — Quebec |
| 4. Bananas (3) — Honduras | 10. Peppers (5) — Quebec |
| 5. Carrots — Quebec | 11. Red onions (2) — Quebec |
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ARIES

An invitation sparks your appetite for action. The week picks up your pace, sharpens your instincts and fills your days with stimulating challenges. By taking a step off the beaten path, you'll refresh your spirit of initiative and rekindle your trademark courage.



TAURUS

You'll assert your convictions with confidence this week. Your strength will impress others and earn you the recognition of those in authority. Don't doubt your worth: you're taking a critical step toward a leadership role.



GEMINI

You'll crave novelty and feel inspired to develop your own style. Elegant clothing that could redefine your image will catch your eye. This fresh look will align with your professional advancement. Your appearance reflects your confidence.



CANCER

The moon supports family reconciliations. By expressing your feelings candidly, you'll ease tensions at home. A gentler atmosphere settles in, restoring harmony. You'll notice a restoration of balance and warmth in your home.



LEO

You'll doublecheck every detail. Vigilant care for your tools and equipment will help you avoid hassles and delays. Such heightened caution will free your thoughts, giving you the presence of mind you value. Serenity and efficiency go hand in hand.



VIRGO

Your natural clarity is sharpening. You'll organize your spending and set priorities for your budget. This disciplined approach won't feel restrictive; rather, it'll promote inner peace as clarity brings security.



LIBRA

The week begins with a series of demanding tasks. The universe supports your efforts, and you find the strength to persevere without losing momentum. Your endurance will pay off: recognition and personal satisfaction offer the sweetest rewards.



SCORPIO

Troubled by restless thoughts at night? Regular exercise will help clear your mind and convert your struggles into constructive energy. Your body will become your ally in restoring a sense of inner peace.



SAGITTARIUS

Jupiter, your cosmic guide, will shed light on your relationships. You sense it's time to set boundaries with unbalanced friendships. By protecting your energy, you'll regain joy and enthusiasm. No more compromises: it's time to lead with authenticity.



CAPRICORN

Structure and discipline are making a strong comeback, especially at home. Remain firm and diplomatic when children test your limits. Despite your fatigue, your guidance will leave lasting lessons in balance and respect.



AQUARIUS

The call of travel is compelling. Whether the trip is physical, intellectual or spiritual, far horizons will broaden your perspective. Every encounter outside your usual circle becomes a source of growth and opportunity.



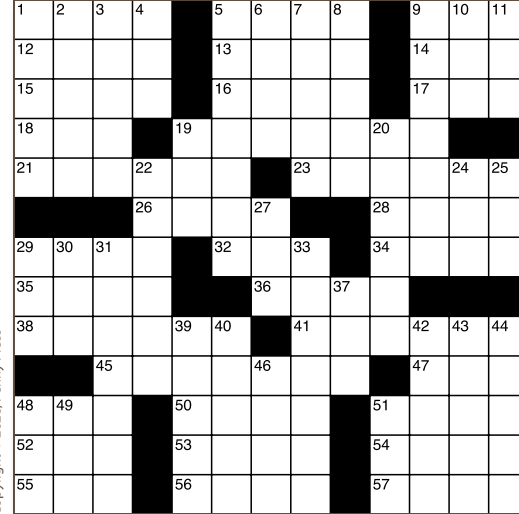
PISCES

A balanced diet and consistent exercise are finally paying off. Your body responds, and your spirits rise. Through discipline, you regain control of an essential rhythm. Harmony returns, and confidence settles in.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORD

GRID N° 311



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ACROSS

- Study for a test
- Frosted
- Stylish
- Maui dance
- Within close range
- "Bells _____ Ringing"
- Send out
- Superman, e.g.
- Alter a skirt
- Lincoln or Vigoda
- Takes umbrage at
- Oil boat
- Leave the track
- Sinful
- Peer
- Off yonder
- Drag
- Rawhide
- Eroded
- Bathe

- Excluding
- Most festive
- Forewarned
- Dispute
- Gave lunch to
- Like lemon juice
- Silver or glass follower
- Dark bread
- Carry along
- On a cruise
- Certainly!
- Potato
- Secretary's need

DOWN

- Play unfairly
- Latin dance
- UFO pilot
- Small carpet
- Acquire
- Average grades
- Having handles
- Monotone
- Rubdown
- Metal-bearing rock
- Morning mist
- Race in neutral
- Victor's memento
- Grain of corn
- Not well
- Rent
- Deep
- Admiration
- Crafty person
- Game rooms
- Bet
- Unhappy
- Mosquitoes, e.g.
- TV's "F _____"
- Cleanse
- Tender spots
- Pinch
- Ballet skirt
- Saute
- Lens opening
- Money roll

Sudoku

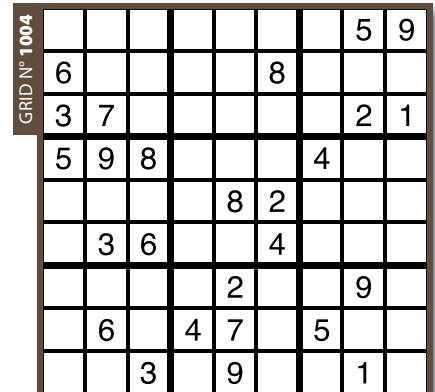
HOW TO PLAY

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





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