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Wait for September

Through the smile
of a child

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Quebec honours West Quebec Cathy Naud for opening trapping to women



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

Cathy Naud, the Aylmer trapper who founded the group Trappeuses du Québec, was among 24 women honoured at the Assemblée nationale du Québec on June 5 with the Reconnaissance Maud-Maloney-Watt, a new provincial distinction created to recognize women for their work in hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife management. The awards were presented by Pascale Déry, the minister responsible for the environment, climate change, wildlife and parks, who said the women are helping to move those fields forward across the province.

The recognition, handed out for the first time at the ceremony, is named for Maud Maloney-Watt, the first woman to work as a game warden in Quebec. Recipients received a medal, a certificate and a lithograph from the Fondation pour la biodiversité et la faune du Québec. The province created the honour in 2024 under its strategy for equality between women and men, with the goal of recognizing women in fields long dominated by men. The same ceremony marked the 2026 Harfang des neiges prizes.

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Aylmer trapper Cathy Naud, founder of Trappeuses du Québec, was one of 24 women honoured at the Assemblée nationale on June 5 with Quebec's new Reconnaissance Maud-Maloney-Watt for her work bringing more women into trapping and the wildlife trades. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY



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Partnership between the Outaouais Health Board and McGill University - Outaouais campus Renewed for five years



Drazen Seslija

The Integrated Health and Social Services Centre of the Outaouais (CISSSO) and McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' Outaouais Campus will continue their collaboration for the next five years. The two organizations announced the renewal of their partnership agreement, which allows cohorts of

future physicians to complete their full medical training in the Outaouais region.

Thanks to the Outaouais Campus, which opened in 2021, students can now complete all four years of McGill University's undergraduate medical program entirely in French in the region. The project is the result of a partnership between the CISSS de l'Outaouais and McGill University, established to strengthen medical training and help meet the needs of the regional health network. The renewal of the agreement

will notably allow the University of Ottawa to continue welcoming cohorts of 38 medical students annually. Project leaders believe that the presence of health learners in the region fosters their integration into the Outaouais community and increases the likelihood that they will choose to practice their profession there after their studies. This approach is part of a collaboration that has united McGill University and Outaouais health institutions for over three decades.

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Quebec honours West Quebec Cathy Naud for opening trapping to women

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The government's citation names Naud as a pioneer in promoting trapping among women and as the founder of Trappeuses du Québec. It is a role she did not see coming. In the winter of 2018-2019, she followed her partner onto his trapline, drawn more by the forest than the trade. "I started to take an interest in trapping by going with my partner on his line," she said. She had grown up in the Hautes-Laurentides, spent years in the city, and felt the pull of the land returning. The line kept drawing her back. "The more time I spent at the camp and on the line, the more I realized how much it let me reconnect with something essential."

What held her, she said, was how much the work asks of a person. "Trapping calls for knowledge of wildlife, observation, resourcefulness and a lot of respect for the animals and their habitat." She completed her formal training in 2019 and ran her first season that same year.

The group followed from something she noticed once she was inside the milieu. "There were very few spaces where women could talk to each other, ask their questions and share their experiences without feeling judged," she said. She founded Trappeuses

du Québec in February 2020 to change that, welcoming beginners, veterans and the simply curious, and tying it to a broader aim of ethical practice, public understanding and the full use of natural resources such as fur. The community has since reached close to 1,700 women in Quebec and beyond, spilling off social media into trade shows, conferences and trappers' days. It also gave rise to the Association des Trappeuses et Artisanes du Québec, which Naud now leads as founding president.

She is direct about why such a space was needed. "Historically, trapping has often been seen as a man's activity, and yet women have always had their place in it, even if their contribution was rarely brought to light," she said. Some women still feel they must prove themselves more than men do, she added, though that is changing as more of them earn their certificates, run their own lines, take up fur craft and step into leadership. Visibility, she believes, is what moves the needle. "When a woman sees other women trapping, sharing what they know and living their passion fully, she's far more likely to imagine herself in that world too."

The honour landed hard, even though she had to look up its namesake. "Even

though I didn't know Mrs. Maloney-Watt's story before receiving this honour, I now understand how important this recognition is," she said. She is quick to share the credit. "Even though this recognition is given to me personally, it also belongs to the women who came along on the adventure. Without them, there would be no community. Together

we helped open the trail for the ones who follow us today."

She would also like outsiders to look more closely at her region. The Outaouais, she said, still hides spots like Pink Lake and the Lusk Caves where the pace falls away. "It's still possible to find places where you can slow down, watch the wildlife, enjoy the quiet and reconnect with nature."

Partnership between the Outaouais Health Board and McGill University - Outaouais campus Renewed for five years

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A TEACHING CLINIC WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN BUCKINGHAM

The announcement also includes a new project designed to strengthen clinical teaching in the eastern part of the region. A teaching clinic will be established at Papineau Hospital in Buckingham to accommodate medical students and resident physicians as part of their training.

This announcement comes at a time

when the Outaouais region has been seeking for several years to improve access to healthcare and attract more professionals. The partners hope that maintaining this university collaboration will help train a new generation of qualified medical professionals while strengthening healthcare services in the region.

For the CISSSO and McGill University, the renewal of this agreement confirms their shared commitment to continuing the development of medical training in the Outaouais region.



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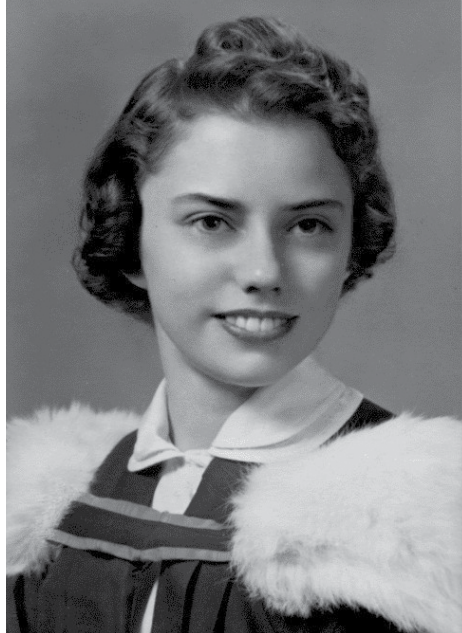
Marjorie Goodfellow's final wish becomes a lasting home for English Quebec studies at Bishop's



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Marjorie Elizabeth Goodfellow spent her life arguing that the story of Quebec's English-speaking communities deserved to be studied, defended, and remembered. Bishop's University showed how far that conviction reached on June 12, two years after her death, when it announced a research chair in her name funded by an estimated \$2-million bequest from her estate. The Marjorie Elizabeth Goodfellow Chair in English Quebec Studies was unveiled at the university library in Lennoxville before her family, university leaders, and representatives of Eastern Townships organizations.

Goodfellow was born in 1938 and raised near Sherbrooke. She graduated from Bishop's in 1959, earned a Master of Library Science from McGill in 1967, and worked in Ottawa and Montreal before returning to the Townships in the early 1970s, where she built a career as a library consultant and a researcher devoted to local history and genealogy. She helped found the Townshippers' Association in 1979 and spent decades fighting for the rights of the anglophone minority, with a particular focus on equal access to health care. She served thirteen years on the board of the regional hospital body now known as the CHUS, advised Quebec's health minister through a provincial committee, joined Bishop's board of trustees in 1985, and



Marjorie Elizabeth Goodfellow, a Bishop's University alumna and lifelong Eastern Townships advocate, has left an estimated \$2-million bequest to create a research chair in her name dedicated to the study of Quebec's English-speaking communities, unveiled by the university on June 12. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY

received an honorary Doctor of Civil Law from the university in 1993. At the time of her death

she was still completing her first book, a history of the Brompton Road community where she grew up, told through her mother's diary, and left the manuscript unfinished.

The gift was decades in the making. Goodfellow had written the chair into her will roughly twenty-five years before the announcement and kept it through later revisions, so the plan existed long before anyone knew of it. The university learned of the bequest only after she died in October 2024.

It surfaced at a tense moment for anglophone Quebec. The same week, the Coalition Avenir Québec government dropped its proposed Quebec Constitution Act, Bill 1, which died when the legislative session ended on June 13 after heavy opposition from anglophone, Indigenous, and civil-liberties groups. The government said it had run out of time and would try again. Set against that uncertainty, Goodfellow's gift looks less like a response to the moment than a bet she placed long ago, that the community's history would still need careful keeping.

The chair is built to range widely. Rather than sit in a single department, it will draw on history, literature, sociology, political science, education, and linguistics to study the language, culture, and shifting identity of English-speaking Quebec within the larger provincial and national picture. The chairholder will lead research, shape curriculum, mentor

students, and connect the university to the community through conferences, public lectures, and other efforts to carry scholarship into wider conversation.

Vice-Principal Academic and Research Dr. Kerry Hull called the position "an exceptional opportunity for our institution," one that would open a space for dialogue among faculty, students, and community partners, with lessons reaching beyond Quebec to other minority-language settings. Faculty studying English-speaking Quebec could become eligible to apply as early as the fall of 2027, with a first appointment expected in the fall of 2028. The chair is designed to rotate after one or two five-year terms, so that new questions keep reshaping it.

Principal and Vice-Chancellor Sébastien Lebel-Grenier tied the gift to the university's own character, describing Bishop's as an institution that has always sat "at the intersection of Quebec's two linguistic communities." That vantage point, he said, would guide the chair's research and its work to preserve and make sense of minority-language life in the province.

For Scott Stevenson, the executor of her estate, the gift suited the woman who made it, reaching past her own lifetime toward the community she never stopped serving. Her decision, he said, "carries on her life's work for the benefit of all Quebecers today and in the future."

Outaouais CEGEP Teacher honoured for preventing classroom tragedy



Drazen Seslija

More than a year after the event at the Gabrielle-Roy campus of the Outaouais CEGEP, the institution publicly recognized the courage and quick thinking of mathematics teacher Christian Belzil-Lacasse, whose intervention prevented a tragedy on April 1, 2025.

In a press release issued on June 2, the Outaouais CEGEP noted that Belzil-Lacasse acted in an exceptional situation when a distressed student appeared at the only exit of a classroom and attempted to set himself on fire.

According to information released by the Quebec government during Police Recognition Day 2026, Belzil-Lacasse was teaching a math class to about 30 students

when a young man doused himself with kerosene and tried to light a lighter. Christian Belzil-Lacasse immediately intervened, throwing himself on the student to prevent him from carrying out his action. He managed to wrest the lighter from him and restrain him until security guards, police officers, and paramedics arrived.

The Ministry of Public Security determined that his quick intervention not only protected the student in crisis, but also the approximately 30 people present in the classroom, who could have suffered serious consequences had the incident escalated. For his actions, Christian Belzil-Lacasse received a Citation of Honour from the Quebec government, following a recommendation from police authorities. The Director General of Cégep de l'Outaouais Steve Brabant, commended the teacher's commitment and the mobilization of the

entire college community. He also highlighted the role played by support staff, intervention teams, administrators, and police services in the hours and months following the incident.

The Cégep notes that this situation has profoundly affected its community and reaffirms its commitment to mental health prevention and support for individuals experiencing distress. The institution affirms its continued efforts to maintain a safe, supportive, and conducive learning environment that fosters success for all.

Here are some resources in the Outaouais region for psychological distress and support available 24/7:

To quickly reach a psychosocial intervention professional to discuss your situation and be directed to the appropriate service:

Dial 811, option 2

To find support if you or a loved one is thinking about suicide:

Phone: 1-866-APPELLE or 1-866-277-3553

Text: 535353

Live chat: Helping, informing, and preventing suicide in Quebec

Suicide.ca

24/7 Helpline TEL-AIDE OUTAOUAIIS
819-775-3223 or 1-800-567-9699
telaideoutaouais.org

For listening, help, and support in the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau region:

Suicide Detour:

819-441-1010 ext. 2

(Some services are available 24/7, such as shelter, telephone support, and online chat)

suicidedetour.org



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Plenty of summer activities in Gatineau!



Jude Osmond

Gatineau is about to get livelier as we welcome back the Profite de l'Été initiative, where Old Gatineau, Hull, Buckingham and Aylmer will host hundreds of free activities and shows to enjoy throughout the summer. The initiative opened this year on June 5 at La Place Notre-Dame, where several of its activities will take place.

The program runs from Friday, June 5, to Sunday, September 27.

There will be a wide range of activities that happen intuitively on a daily basis,

including physical activities and sports, including karate, dancing, and small shows where local artists perform, movie nights in the park, and other fun activities to get families outdoors during the summer season.

The cultural trail returns with another 2-km urban-art trail run, celebrating its 10th anniversary. Another recurring event in the activities is the Festival on Rue Eddy with its family edition on July 4.

"All the sectors and blocks in the city are revolving around activities like these; it ultimately creates a very strong community link," said Timmy Jutras, municipal councillor for the Lac-Beauchamp District. The activities are

meant for people of all ages to enjoy and spend time with family during the summer in Outaouais. "They can discover new artists, businesses.... Whether it's Friday, Thursday or even Tuesday, it allows people to discover new sectors of the city and new arts," he added.

The locations of the various activities vary by sector, with some taking place in Buckingham, Gatineau, and Aylmer, in parks such as Park du Renard, Park Moussette, and many more. Place Laval, Place Notre-Dame, and other vibrant spaces will also host some of the activities throughout the summer season.

Jutras mentioned that this was a positive initiative that creates a cultural

hub between the sectors and helps attract everyone to local businesses.

Mayor Maude Marquis-Bissonnette stated, "Once again this summer, Gatineau comes alive with a 100% free, 100% fun program. Thanks to a diverse offering of shows, sports activities, art workshops, and outdoor events, Profite de l'Été allows residents to come together and enjoy the summer season. I invite Gatineau residents to explore the activities offered in all sectors of the city and to experience summer with family, friends, or neighbours fully."

For more information on the activities and the initiative, visit Gatineau.ca/été.

National Capital Commission to open two new swimming docks this summer



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Swimmers will have two new places to take a dip in the Ottawa River this summer, including one right behind the Canadian Museum of History, the National Capital Commission announced June 3.

The federal Crown corporation said it will install swimming docks on both sides of the river as part of its "Summer at the Capital Cottage" programming, which encourages residents and visitors to enjoy the waterfront close to home rather than driving to a cottage.

The dock on the Quebec side will sit behind the Canadian Museum of History. According to renderings released by the NCC, the site will include a floating island and an unsupervised deep-water swimming area enclosed by buoy lines. The second, the East Wharf Dock, will be on the Ontario side, attached to the East Wharf platform near the entrance to the Rideau Canal locks. That platform opened in the fall of 2025 following construction that began in mid-2025 and was built during low water levels to limit the impact on the river ecosystem in collaboration with Parks Canada.

The docks arrive as the region positions itself within a global movement to make

urban rivers swimmable again. Ville de Gatineau, the City of Ottawa and the NCC have been selected to co-host the Swimmable Cities Summit 2027, an international gathering set to convene urban planners and water authorities along the Ottawa, Rideau and Gatineau rivers to push investment in healthy, climate-resilient waterways. Registration is expected to open on World Rivers Day, September 27.

The NCC said its flagship waterfront sites drew more than one million visits last summer, and that demand for accessible public spaces along the water continues to climb. "The Capital's waterfronts are among our most cherished public spaces," NCC chief executive officer Tobi Nussbaum said in a statement, adding that the goal is to offer "cottage vibes without the drive, right here in the heart of the region."

Gatineau Mayor Maude Marquis-Bissonnette welcomed the museum dock in a social media post, describing it as new access to a river that has shaped the city's identity and crediting collaboration among the NCC, the Government of Quebec and the Canadian Museum of History. She said the project would let more people enjoy the river in a safe and accessible setting.

Quebec fines West Quebec artisan for failing to add French to her business website



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

A Gatineau artisan has been fined for failing to bring her business website into compliance with Quebec's French-language requirements, the Office québécois de la langue française announced on June 5.

Marcela Martinez, who operates a sole proprietorship called Akiani Handmade Jewelry, was found guilty on May 1 of an offence under section 205 of the Charter of the French Language. The Court of Québec imposed a fine of \$700, the minimum penalty an individual can face under the legislation. The business is located

at 49 rue du Chinook in Gatineau.

According to the language office, the case began with a complaint that commercial content on the company's website, akianihandmadejewelry.com, was available only in a language other than French. The office said it documented the violation on September 16, 2024, and that the conviction stemmed from the proprietor's failure to comply with an order the office had issued.

The Charter, adopted in 1977 and commonly known as Bill 101, makes French the official language of Quebec and is enforced by the language office. Section 52 requires that commercial publications be written in French. Although websites are

not named explicitly in the law, the office and Quebec courts have long treated them as commercial publications, meaning businesses that market goods or services to Quebec consumers must offer a French version of their sites, including substantive content along with elements such as terms and conditions and return policies.

The enforcement process generally unfolds in stages. The office investigates a complaint, and if it finds a breach it can issue an order under section 177 directing the party to comply or stop the violation within a set period. A business has 30 days to challenge such an order before the Administrative Tribunal of Quebec.

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Through the smile of a child



Today, I am introducing you to Doug Sinclair. The purpose of this writing will unfold as you read this. As Doug revealed, "I was bred and buttered in Ottawa, and I graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1963."

That was the year I had completed my first year of teaching.

Over a decade of serving in the Canadian Forces, Doug's postings included Calgary, Germany, St. Hubert, and Ottawa. After becoming interested in computers, he took leave of the forces to pursue a career in computer financial planning.

His parents introduced him to the joys of Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas at a relatively young age. However, it wasn't until later in life that he had an opportunity to audition for and perform in the Vancouver Operatic Society's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado. He has since been active in choirs and stage productions.

Upon returning to Ottawa, he joined the Savoy Society that was founded by the Montreal Operatic Society to perform Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas. That is where we met at the Savoy Society's production of the Mikado in 2010. After several years of voice training, it was my first attempt at performing in this kind of musical genre. Doug was one of the performers who mentored a rather nervous voice through the production process.

After four other Savoy Productions over the years, Doug suggested that I come out to see what Atlantic Voices, the Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa, was all about. We were the same age. I marvelled at Doug's endurance to perform with both Savoy and Atlantic Voices over the years. I managed to do that for one year before focusing on Atlantic Voices alone.

After all those years singing together, would you believe that I've just discovered another of Doug's talents? That is the purpose of today's column. Doug has also written poetry. Here is one of his poems, entitled Renewal:

He shuffled his feet down the lonely street

As the old man took his walk.

Nobody paused to say hello

Nobody stopped to talk.

Too busy – they rushed and hurried by

Into their towers of steel.



Doug on a ski trip to Vermont (VL)

PHOTO: COURTESY

Swallowed up by the man-made tombs
Away from the world of real.

For he looked at the mountains towering high
Rising straight from the sea
And he looked at the sun and the clear blue sky
And he looked at the grass and the trees.
And he knew that the mountains would still be there

Long after the buildings were gone
And he knew that the rivers would still flow clean
In the distant unknown dawn.

Then he stopped – and beside him he saw
The child

Smiling – with golden hair
And the innocent smile, the smile of the child
Was beautiful and fair.
And he smiled a smile of his care-worn years
Full of love and wisdom and pain
And the innocent smile, the smile of the child
Touched his heart again.

For he saw in that smile, the hopes of his youth

And the dreams now faded and worn
And he smiled his smile as he walked awhile
In peace on that warm spring morn.
Then the child skipped away to find his day
And the old man rested a while
And thought of the promise of hope he had seen
In the innocent smile of the child.

For the hopes of youth are the dreams of truth
Which may fade as the years slip away
But are soon reborn on a warm spring morn
In the smile of a child so gay.

— J.D.W. Sinclair

Middle Eastern Wars: Wait for September



by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Last Tuesday US President Donald Trump told journalists that the United States and Iran are "in the final throes of what will be a very, very good deal."

On Wednesday, after an American helicopter gunship crashed in the Strait of Hormuz, presumably downed by Iranians, he declared angrily that "They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price!!!"

And later on the same day, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqai took on the role of only grown-up in the room, saying that the United States is "damaging the diplomatic process through the contradictory messages it sends, its repeated shifts in positions and demands, and, worst of all, through repeated violations of the ceasefire."

The pattern is pretty clear by now. Trump oscillates wildly between wild optimism and frustrated fury, while the Iranian negotiators keep their voices down, never shift their positions, and display performative patience. That enrages Trump even more, and I suspect the Iranians secretly enjoy it.

Taunting Trump feels like a dangerous game, because this man has threatened to make a 'civilisation-ending' strike on Iran's infrastructure that would leave its 92 million people desperate for food, water, even light: dams, power stations, bridges all gone. Tens of thousands would die, and it would be years before the economy was functioning again.

Trump came within less than two hours of his deadline before calling the whole thing off – but the point is that he did call it off. He was not willing to take the blame for ruining or ending so many civilians' lives. 'Taco!' ('Trump Always Chickens Out'), but good for him.

But if he's not willing to do that, at least not now, then where is his leverage for the 'great deal' that he imagines is just around the corner. Nowhere, that's where. He has no cards.

Bombing Iran some more just bounces the rubble. Invading it would be a nightmare, because it is a huge country with a very mountainous geography, and the Iranians would fight. Trump keeps pointing out peevishly that he has already destroyed Iran's navy and air force, so why won't they surrender, but the fact is that all that gear now scarcely matters to Iran.

Iran has cards. It has lots of missiles

and drones dug into caves to keep the Strait closed, and a steep, rocky coastline that defies amphibious landings. Its rulers also don't have to worry about October or November elections, unlike the US president and 'Bibi' Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister. All they have to do to win is to not lose, and time is on their side.

So the next few months should be eventful but not alarming: ceasefires made, broken and remade on the US-Iran front, while Gaza rots and southern Lebanon is ground to dust by the Israelis. Come September, however, things will probably start to get exciting, because the elections will create deadlines. Not for Iran, of course, but for Trump and for Netanyahu.

Most Israelis still support Netanyahu's wars on Iran and Lebanon and they care nothing about Gaza, but he will have to have some big concrete achievements by late September or he will be out of office and perhaps subsequently in jail on his long-standing corruption charges. Go Big or Go Home.

Trump's political future does not depend entirely on the November mid-term elections, but losing control of the House would shrink his freedom to rule just as he wishes. The huge gerrymander carried out by the Republicans may save the day for them, but if the outcome is in doubt Trump too will be seeking a big military victory in a war that has gone on too long.

The trouble, for both men, is that they are fighting asymmetrical wars against opponents who refuse to 'stand up and fight fair'. They'd be crazy to give them targets like that because they are totally out-gunned. They are not actually 'guerillas', but they can make life very difficult for their richer and better-armed enemies.

If Trump and Netanyahu are frustrated now by their inability to achieve a decisive victory, how angry and desperate do you think they will be three or four months from now? Angry, desperate men are reckless men, and we don't know what they might do at that point. It could be quite extreme.

I'm aware that all this speculation rests on the assumption that there will not be a mutually satisfactory outcome in the 'peace talks' or 'ceasefire talks' that have already been underway for two months. I just cannot see any reason why the Iranians would make major concessions to Trump, let alone to Netanyahu.

Les Québécois et le fromage, une histoire d'amour



Tashi Farmilo

Peu de choses rassemblent 97 % de la population, mais au Québec, manger du fromage est l'une d'elles. Selon un sondage exclusif mené par Les Producteurs de lait du Québec, la quasi-totalité des Québécois dit consommer du fromage, pas moins de 88 % en mangent chaque semaine, et 74 % en consomment plusieurs fois par semaine.

De plus, le sondage montre que les produits laitiers grimpent sur le podium des produits alimentaires emblématiques du Québec, se classant deuxième derrière le sirop d'érable. Lorsqu'on demande aux Québécois de nommer un produit emblématique, un répondant sur cinq (20 %) évoque spontanément le fromage et un sur quatre (24 %) nomme la poutine.

Le sondage s'inscrit dans la nouvelle campagne publicitaire des Producteurs de lait du Québec, « Fromages d'ici, ici ». Déployée à travers une série de contenus visuels appétissants, notamment des vidéos, de l'affichage, des contenus numériques et des collaborations avec des créateurs culinaires, la campagne vise à transformer une habitude bien ancrée en réflexe encore plus fréquent.

S'ils devaient choisir une seule façon de consommer le fromage, près du tiers (28 %) des Québécois mangeraient leur fromage seul, sans accompagnement, 24 % le mangeraient dans une poutine, tandis que 20 % des répondants choisiraient de le manger sur une pizza.

En Outaouais, 40 % des répondants affirment que « du fromage, ça se mange avec tout », l'un des taux les plus élevés de la province.

Alain Boyer n'est pas surpris.

« Le Québec est la province qui consomme le plus de

fromage au Canada », explique M. Boyer, fondateur et président de la Fromagerie Montebello. « Les Québécois sont de véritables amateurs de fromage. C'est pourquoi il y a tant de fromagers ici, et tant de fromages de qualité. »

M. Boyer connaît bien la région. Il a grandi dans l'Outaouais, a travaillé pendant des années comme fromager à Plaisance et, en avril 2011, a quitté son poste de directeur d'usine pour ouvrir sa propre fromagerie. Il a partagé ce rêve avec un collègue, Guy Boucher, un comptable de formation qui nourrissait la même ambition. M. Boucher l'a rejoint en juin, et la fromagerie a ouvert ses portes cet été-là.

Le moment était parfait. La fromagerie a ouvert ses portes environ un an avant l'achèvement de l'autoroute 50 reliant Montréal à Gatineau, ce qui a entraîné un afflux de nouveaux visiteurs dans l'Outaouais et a fait connaître Montebello à un grand nombre de personnes qui ne s'y étaient jamais arrêtées auparavant.

Les fromages fabriqués par M. Boyer portent cette histoire locale dans leurs noms. Le premier fut le *Tête à Papineau*, un fromage à pâte mi-dure au lait de vache nommé en l'honneur de l'homme politique Louis-Joseph Papineau, dont la famille détenait autrefois la seigneurie sur laquelle se trouve aujourd'hui la fromagerie. Puis vint *La Rébellion 1837*, un fromage bleu nommé d'après le soulèvement des Patriotes. *Le Manchebello* est fabriqué à partir de lait de brebis et affiné pendant une année entière. *L'Adoray*, lancé à l'occasion du cinquième anniversaire

de la fromagerie en 2016, est enveloppé dans de l'écorce d'épinette et représente une combinaison des prénoms du grand-père et du père de Boyer, Adorice et Raymond.

Chaque fromage est affiné à la main trois fois par semaine. La fromagerie emploie aujourd'hui une vingtaine de personnes et s'est agrandie en reprenant le casse-croûte voisin, que Boyer a acheté en 2021 pour y installer de nouvelles salles de production et une boutique dotée d'une grande terrasse arrière donnant sur la rivière des Outaouais.

Demandez à Boyer quel est son fromage préféré, et il répond sans hésiter. « Le bleu. C'est fort, mais c'est tellement bon », dit-il.

Tout le monde n'apprécie pas le fromage bleu au premier abord, concède Boyer, mais l'expérience est comparable à l'apprentissage du vin. On commence par quelque chose de plus doux, puis, avec le temps, le palais s'affine et s'oriente naturellement vers des saveurs plus fortes et plus complexes.

La qualité, ajoute-t-il, est le principe sur lequel la fromagerie ne transigera pas. « Notre mission en tant qu'entreprise, c'est vraiment la qualité. Nous n'utilisons que des ingrédients de qualité. Nous veillons à ce que tout ce que nous produisons offre toujours au client un produit de qualité ».

Ce qui, si l'on en croit le sondage, correspond exactement à ce que recherchent 97 % des habitants de la province. Trad. : MET

Western Quebec School Board warns of major impact from Bill 8

William Dale

The Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) says Quebec's proposed Bill 8 could reduce enrolment in its adult education and vocational training programs by as much as 40 per cent. Introduced by French Language Minister Jean-François Roberge, the bill would extend Bill 101 eligibility requirements to those sectors, limiting access to individuals eligible for English-language schooling under existing rules.

According to ministry data from the 2024-25 school year, the WQSB serves 1,147 adult learners. Based on its analysis, the board estimates the proposed changes would affect roughly 458 students. Jennifer Dubeau, director of adult education and vocational training for the WQSB, said such a decline could affect staffing levels and the viability of some vocational programs. "That 40% drop in students also means a loss of teaching staff and support

staff," said Dubeau. "Potentially some of those staff members would lose their jobs as well."

Dubeau also warned that some programs could become difficult to offer if enrolment falls below the minimum numbers required to form a cohort. "If we lose 40% of our population overall, that could have an impact on programs for remaining students who are eligible," she said. "The cohorts may not be able to be filled to offer the course." The board argues that the impact could be particularly significant in the Pontiac, where French-language vocational training options are limited. Dubeau noted that residents seeking programs such as welding, electrical work or carpentry may have to travel outside the region, while some programs offered elsewhere already face lengthy wait lists. She pointed to a personal support worker program in Hull where cohorts are reportedly full through January 2027.

The legislation would also require adult learners to provide documentation proving their eligibility for English-language education. Dubeau noted that eligibility is based on an individual's educational history and that students who attended French immersion programs under an English school board remain eligible. While supporting the goal of ensuring adults can work effectively in French, the WQSB argues that restrictions on access to English-language training are not the best solution. Dubeau pointed to existing partnerships that integrate workplace French-language training into English-language vocational programs and said the board believes that approach better serves learners, employers and the region.



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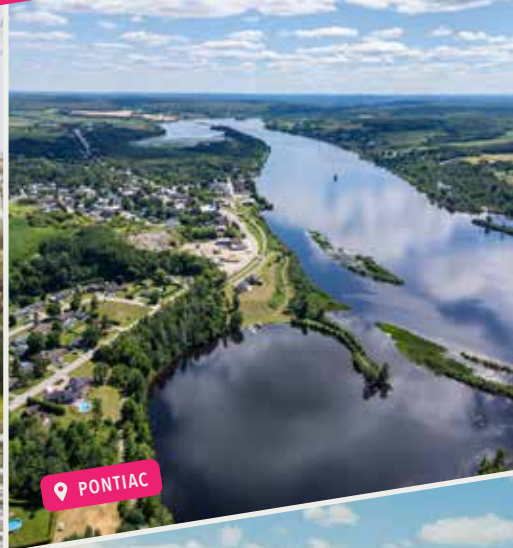
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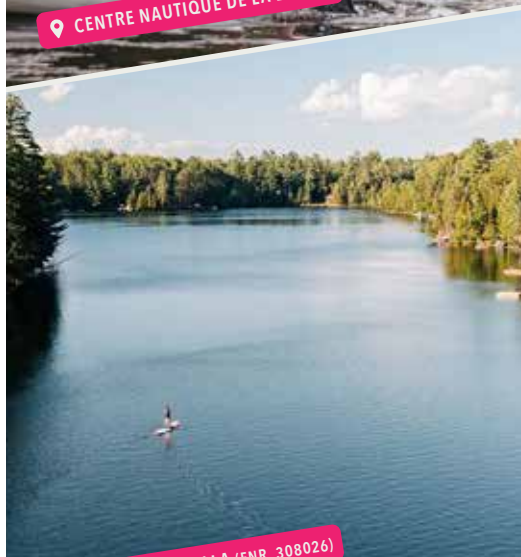
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A New Chapter in Buckingham's cultural life begins with the arrival of Chez Laurette

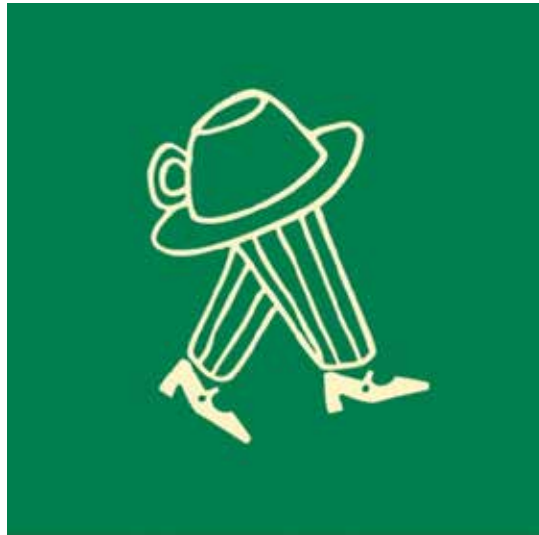


Drazen **Seslija**

Buckingham's cultural landscape is set to welcome a new venue dedicated to the arts and live performances. The Chez Laurette project was officially unveiled to the public during a launch event held on June 2 at 107 Maclaren Street East in the Buckingham neighbourhood. The Chez Laurette team consists of Marie-Hélène Leblanc, Mario Boulianne, Jean-Denis Scott, Julie Moffatt, Wassim Aboutanos, and Marie-Hélène Frenette-Assad.

Organized by the Collectif Chez Laurette, the event—held as a happy hour—allowed visitors to explore the venue before renovation work begins. The evening featured musical performances by local artists as well as several surprises for attendees.

The arrival of this new performance venue is part of a broader effort to revitalize the cultural and community life of the Buckingham area. Although the full details of the project have not yet been made public, the initiative aims to provide a new



Screenshot of the Chez Laurette logo (official Chez Laurette Facebook page) (DS)

PHOTO: CHEZ LAURETTE

venue for artists and a gathering place for the local community.

The project has already sparked interest among many residents and cultural stakeholders, who see it as an opportunity to further invigorate the arts scene in eastern Gatineau.

Lightning Leduc, Gatineau's record-breaking sprinter



Tashi **Farmilo**

Audrey Leduc opened her 2026 outdoor season with a runner-up finish at the USATF Lone Star Grand Prix in College Station, Texas on June 6, clocking 10.97 seconds in a near photo finish for second. The Gatineau sprinter edged Jamaica's Jodean Williams by three thousandths of a second for the spot behind winner Sabrina Dockery, a result that put one of Canada's fastest women back among the leaders of a deep international field early in the year.

For anyone who has followed her rise, the placing was the latest chapter in a story rooted at home. Leduc, 27, was born and raised in Gatineau and came to track almost by accident. Soccer was her first sport, and the running it demanded pulled her onto the track around age 10, when she joined the Gatineau Athletics Club. The speed she showed there earned her a nickname that has stuck ever since, "Lightning Leduc." She specialized in the 100 metres but also competed in the long jump, a versatility that would pay off later.

Unlike many of Canada's top young sprinters, Leduc chose to stay home rather than chase a US college scholarship. She enrolled at Université Laval in Quebec City and ran for the Rouge et Or while completing a bachelor's degree in psychology and then a master of business administration. The choice worked. She won a U Sports long jump title in 2023 with a personal best of 6.11 metres, went undefeated indoors over 60 metres the following season, and in 2024 was named U Sports female athlete of the year, one of the highest honours in Canadian university sport.

That 2024 season turned her into a household name. She raced at the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glasgow over 60 metres, then erased a Canadian record that had stood for 37 years, running 10.96 in Baton Rouge to break Angela Bailey's 100-metre mark from 1987. Weeks later, in Atlanta, she added the 200-metre national record at



Gatineau's Audrey Leduc, Canada's national record holder in the 100 and 200 metres, opened her 2026 season with a second-place finish at the USATF Lone Star Grand Prix in Texas, the latest mark in a career that has carried the 27-year-old from a local track club to the Olympic stage. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AUDREY LEDUC'S INSTAGRAM PAGE

22.36. The two performances sent her to her Olympic debut in Paris, where she lowered her own 100-metre record again to 10.95 in her opening heat and advanced to the semifinals. She also ran the 200 metres and anchored Canada's women's 4x100 relay, which reached the final.

Leduc has kept pushing the standard since. In the summer of 2025, she trimmed the national 100-metre record once more to 10.94 at a meet in Edmonton, and that September she captured the senior women's 100-metre title at the national championships in Ottawa, a short drive across the river from where she grew up.

As for what comes next, the Texas result is a season opener, and the summer ahead is a busy one. Leduc figures to race the European circuit and defend her national title before the year's marquee event for Commonwealth athletes, the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, where track and field runs from July 27 to August 1. Beyond this season, the longer goal is a return to the Olympic stage at Los Angeles 2028. For now, the woman who started out chasing a soccer ball in Gatineau remains the standard-bearer for Canadian women's sprinting, and her hometown will be watching every step.

Quebec fines West Quebec artisan for failing to add French to her business website

Continued from page 4

If the order is neither contested successfully nor obeyed, the failure to comply becomes a separate offence under section 205, which is what led to Martinez's conviction.

Penalties under the Charter were tough-

ened in 2022 through Bill 96, which overhauled the law for the first time in decades. Fines for individuals now range from \$700 to \$7,000 per violation, with amounts doubled for a second offence and tripled for any further ones. Higher penalties apply to corporations.



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Moisson Outaouais Launches Expansion of its Facilities to Meet Growing Food Needs



Drazen Seslija

Moisson Outaouais has reached a significant milestone in its development with the official launch of its expansion project. At a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony held on June 5, attended by representatives from various levels of government, partners, and community associations, the organization confirmed that construction will begin in the coming weeks.

According to Sylvain Bertrand, President of BBL Construction, the project is on track for rapid completion. Construction is expected to be finished before the start of winter, while the new industrial kitchen should be operational by mid-summer, allowing the organization to expedite meal preparation for its clients.

The project represents an investment of approximately \$6 million and will add some

8,200 square feet to the existing facilities. The chair of the Moisson Outaouais board of directors, Joseph Aghaby, indicated that the expansion will notably contribute to increasing storage capacity, optimizing logistics operations, and better supporting the 51 partner organizations served by the organization.

To finance the project, Moisson Outaouais is conducting a public campaign to raise \$3.5 million. To date, approximately \$1.7 million remains to be raised. At the event, BBL Construction announced a \$75,000 contribution to the campaign.

“When you have the power to make a difference, you have a duty to make a difference,” said Sylvain Bertrand, inviting the business community and citizens to support the initiative to strengthen the region’s food assistance network. The expansion is being welcomed by the organizations that benefit from the support of Moisson Outaouais. With



To date, approximately \$1.7 million remains to be raised to reach the goal of \$3.5 million. (DS)
PHOTO: MOISSON OUTAOUAIS

this expansion, Moisson Outaouais hopes to increase its capacity to meet the growing needs of the population and to more effectively support community organizations that fight food insecurity in the region daily.

New languages commissioner vows to defend English-speaking Quebecers as constitution bill is shelved



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

Canada's new Commissioner of Official Languages, Kelly Burke, used her first speech in Quebec to promise support for the province's English-speaking minority, telling community leaders in Montreal on June 12 that protecting minority-language access to essential services such as health care is a question of safety and respect. She delivered the address to the advocacy group TALQ a day after the organization welcomed the collapse of the Quebec government's contested constitution bill.

Burke, sworn in only weeks earlier, is still introducing herself to the people she now represents. She became Canada's eighth Commissioner of Official Languages at the end of March, taking over from Raymond Théberge, who had held the office since 2018. Before moving to the federal role, she spent three years, from 2020 to 2023, as Ontario's French Language Services Commissioner, working to protect and promote the rights of that province's French-speaking minority.

A native of Cornwall, Burke described growing up in a family that was anglophone, francophone and bilingual across several generations, and said that background shaped her commitment to both official languages. She was careful to present the pressures on language communities as running in both directions, arguing that French is being worn down across

the country while English-speaking communities face their own difficulties. For her audience, the framing mattered, because it cast their concerns as part of a national conversation about language rather than a complaint aimed at their French-speaking neighbours.

Burke also restated a point the community seldom hears so plainly from Ottawa: that Quebec's roughly 1.3 million English speakers make up an official-language minority recognized under federal law. She said more had to be done to help the rest of the country understand the community's contributions, and noted that more than seven in ten anglophone Quebecers speak both languages.

The speech came at a tense moment. The previous day, June 11, Quebec Justice Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette announced that he was giving up on Bill 1, the Coalition Avenir Québec government's plan for a provincial constitution. With the legislative session due to close on June 12, the bill ran out of time and died, and Jolin-Barrette said the opposition had refused the consent needed to push it through. The legislation, tabled in October 2025, had been presented by then-premier François Legault as a way to anchor what he described as Quebec's shared values, among them secularism, the French language, gender equality and abortion rights. The Quebec Liberal Party, Québec solidaire and the Parti Québécois all stood against it, along with more than 200 organizations across the province.

Continued on page 10



AVIS DE RADIATION (dossier : 24-2025-01225)

AVIS est donné par les présentes que le Dr Serge Chartrand (95380) (médecine de famille), exerçant la profession de médecin à Gatineau (Québec), a plaidé coupable devant le Conseil de discipline du Collège des médecins du Québec des infractions qui lui étaient reprochées :

- d'avoir traité, au cours de la période du 9 mars 2024 au 26 janvier 2025, en ne sauvegardant pas son indépendance professionnelle, en assumant le suivi d'une proche personne, pour diverses conditions dont particulièrement ses problèmes de lombalgie, en complétant et en faisant parvenir à la CNESST des rapports médicaux attestant de son incapacité de travail, en posant un diagnostic de trouble de déficience de l'attention et en prescrivant plusieurs médicaments dont des psychostimulants, un sédatif hypnotique et des opiacés (chef 1)
- d'avoir commis, le ou vers le 28 juin 2024, un acte dérogatoire à la dignité de la profession, en faisant parvenir à la CNESST un rapport médical concernant [la patiente] en y tenant des propos et des commentaires inappropriés et déplacés à l'endroit du personnel et du système administratif de la CNESST (chef 3)

Le 23 avril 2026, le conseil de discipline a imposé au Dr Serge Chartrand une radiation du tableau de l'ordre pour une période de 3 mois et demi sur le chef 1 et d'une période de radiation de 2 semaines sur le chef 3 de la plainte modifiée. Ces périodes de radiation doivent être purgées concurremment.

Le Dr Serge Chartrand est donc radié du tableau de l'ordre pour une période de radiation temporaire totalisant 3 mois et demi à compter du 29 mai 2026.

Le présent avis est donné en vertu des articles 156 et 180 du *Code des professions*.

Montréal, le 29 mai 2026.

Linda Bélanger, avocate
Secrétaire du conseil de discipline

Quebec votes October 5: What Outaouais voters need to know



Tashi Farmilo
Reporter

Quebec's next provincial general election will be held on October 5, the date set by the province's fixed-election-date law, which holds the vote on the first Monday of October in the fourth year after the previous general election. The election will choose a Member of the National Assembly (MNA) in each of Quebec's 125 electoral divisions, and an early vote remains legally possible if the government dissolves the legislature first. Here is what residents of Gatineau and the wider Outaouais, including the Pontiac, should know in the months ahead.

THE POLITICAL BACKDROP

This race looks markedly different from 2022. The governing Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) has a new leader and premier, Christine Fréchette, who became leader on April 12, and sits for Sanguinet. The CAQ won 90 seats in 2022 but, after a wave of resignations and caucus departures, holds 79 going into the campaign.

THE OTHER PARTIES

Quebec Liberal Party, led by Charles Milliard, acclaimed leader on February 13, and running in Orford. The Liberals remain the official opposition.

Québec solidaire, co-led by spokespersons Ruba Ghazal (Mercier) and Sol Zanetti.

Parti Québécois, led by Paul St-Pierre Plamondon (Camille-Laurin), who has built momentum through a string of by-election wins, taking seats in Jean-Talon, Terrebonne, Arthabaska and Chicoutimi since 2022.

Conservative Party of Quebec, led by Éric Duhaime, running in Bellechasse. The Conservatives won no seats in 2022 despite taking about 13 per cent of the vote but now hold their first seat in the National Assembly

after the Rimouski MNA joined their caucus in March 2026.

RIDING BOUNDARIES HAVE SHIFTED

This is the single most important item for Outaouais voters, because the region sat at the centre of a long fight over Quebec's electoral map.

An independent commission redrew the map to reflect population shifts. The new boundaries were published in early 2026 and the Supreme Court of Canada upheld them on appeal. In all, the redraw modifies 51 of Quebec's 125 ridings, with the revised map taking effect July 15, 2026. The Outaouais has long been flagged as a fast-growing region whose ridings were running above the provincial average, so boundary lines around Gatineau and the Pontiac may not match those of 2022 or of last year's federal vote.

Voters should confirm their electoral division and polling place directly with Élections Québec rather than assume these are unchanged. Both can be verified at electionsquebec.qc.ca.

THE FIVE OUTAOUAIS RIDINGS, AND WHO IS RUNNING

Western Quebec has five provincial ridings, all of which include part of the City of Gatineau: Gatineau, Hull, Chapleau, Papineau and Pontiac. Coming out of 2022, four were held by the CAQ and one by the Liberals. Candidate confirmations are still being finalized across the region, but here is where things stand:

Gatineau: Incumbent CAQ MNA Robert Bussière is retiring. Although he initially signalled that he would seek a third term, he announced on May 31 that he will not run for re-election and is leaving politics at the end of this mandate. The CAQ has not yet named a replacement nominee, and the Liberal, PQ and Québec solidaire nominations are still being finalized. This is a riding to

watch, having been Liberal in every election from 1962 until the CAQ won it in 2018.

Chapleau: Incumbent Mathieu Lévesque (CAQ) is running for re-election. The Liberals have nominated former radio host Michel Langevin to challenge him.

Hull: Incumbent Suzanne Tremblay (CAQ) is seeking re-election. The Green Party of Quebec has nominated Rachid Jemmah in the riding.

Papineau: Incumbent Mathieu Lacombe (CAQ), the regional minister responsible for the Outaouais, is running again.

Pontiac: Incumbent Liberal André Fortin is running for re-election in the region's lone Liberal seat. Other parties' nominations are still being confirmed.

For real-time candidate updates as the campaign approaches, the Élections Québec Candidates Registry (electionsquebec.qc.ca/en/vote/candidates) is the authoritative source.

WHICH PARTIES ARE REGISTERED

Five parties are represented in the National Assembly and are expected to contest the Outaouais ridings: the Coalition Avenir Québec, Quebec Liberal Party, Québec solidaire, Parti Québécois and Conservative Party of Quebec. The Green Party of Quebec, though unrepresented in the National Assembly, is also fielding candidates in the region, including in Hull. Élections Québec maintains the official, current list of authorized provincial parties on its website. Official candidate lists for each riding are not finalized until the campaign period, when nominations are formally filed.

WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

The provincial parties competing in the Outaouais are pitching distinctly different priorities, with several targeting local concerns directly, including the region's long-running health care difficulties and its prox-

imity to Ontario.

Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ): Outaouais incumbents are Mathieu Lévesque (Chapleau), Suzanne Tremblay (Hull) and Mathieu Lacombe (Papineau). Nationalist, centre-right and business-oriented, the party emphasizes protection of the French language and regional economic development. In the Outaouais, it leans on its infrastructure record, including the new Gatineau hospital. The CAQ opposes Quebec independence while advocating greater autonomous powers from the federal government.

Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ): Outaouais incumbent is André Fortin (Pontiac) and a new candidate is Michel Langevin (Chapleau). Federalist, centre-left and economically liberal, the party presents itself as a defender of minority language rights and economic stability and firmly opposes Quebec sovereignty. Locally, Outaouais Liberals have pressed against the loss of health care workers to higher-paying jobs in Ontario, advocating wage parity for Outaouais healthcare staff to stem the departures across the Ottawa River.

Green Party of Quebec (PVQ): The party's Outaouais candidate is Rachid Jemmah (Hull). Eco-socialist and left-wing, it seeks to merge strict environmental protections with social justice, advocating major investments in public transit, immediate climate action and an expanded public healthcare sector.

Parti Québécois (PQ): Local candidates are still being finalized. A centre-left party, its foundational goal is Quebec sovereignty, with heavy emphasis on language laws and secularism.

Québec solidaire (QS): Local candidates are still being finalized. A progressive, left-wing party, it supports both Quebec independence and wealth redistribution, alongside stronger environmental regulation and social housing programs.

Continued on page 11

New languages commissioner vows to defend English-speaking Quebecers as constitution bill is shelved

Continued from page 9

TALQ was among them, having appeared before a National Assembly committee to oppose the bill, and it met the outcome with relief. The group's president, Eva Ludvig, argued that the proposal had never amounted to a legitimate constitution, pointing to a drafting process she said skipped meaningful public consultation and, at first, declined to recognize the English-speaking community as a full part of Quebec. She tied the bill to other recent measures the community regards as aimed at it, including the 2019 secularism law known as Bill 21, the 2022 strengthening of the French-language charter known as Bill

96, and Bill 84, the 2025 law that set out a provincial model of integration built around the French language.

That backdrop carried into the panel discussion that followed the keynote, which brought together leaders from the Quebec English School Boards Association, the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation, the Community Health and Social Services Network, the English Language Arts Network, the English Parents' Committee Association, and Seniors' Action Quebec. The panellists portrayed a community that remains resilient but feels worn down by shifting laws and regulations, and several argued that defending French and supporting English-

speaking Quebec need not be at odds. Their discussion ranged across the issues that will shape the community's future, from schools and seniors to economic development and employment, and returned to one underlying question: whether English-speaking Quebec will be treated as a partner in building the province or left to manage a gradual decline.

The pause on the constitution question may prove brief. TALQ expects the idea to resurface, most likely during the campaign for the provincial election scheduled for Oct. 5. The organization's director-general, Sylvia Martin-Laforge, noted that every party has signalled support for giving Quebec its own constitution, and called for any future

effort to begin with a more open process and a clearer recognition that the province's diversity is a source of strength.

In a closing conversation with Ludvig, Burke said her task was to help secure the community's long-term future and to address the vulnerabilities it faces, and she promised to carry what she had heard beyond the walls of the event. Ludvig described the morning as a valuable chance to acquaint the new commissioner with the community's challenges and hopes, and said it was counting on her to be its advocate.

For Burke, the morning came back to a single idea she returned to more than once: "No Canadian should feel vulnerable as the result of language."

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AYDELU RECREATIONAL CENTRE 94 Rue du Patrimoine (Aylmer sector). Community hall rental, perfect for all kinds of occasions. For reservations, call Guy Rochon at 819-598-7663.

CHEZ PUTTERS OFFERS 2 VIP ROOMS FREE OF CHARGE: One can accommodate up to 50 people, and the other, up to 25. Drinks must be ordered on site. There is also a restaurant on site to serve you. Reserve now at info@chezputters.ca or call 819-557-1188. Galeries Aylmer, North Entrance, 181 Principale Street, Gatineau, QC J9H 6A6. Visit and like our Facebook page.

HALL RENTAL FOR ALL OCCASIONS. With or without bar service; kitchen; air conditioner; Wifi; TV; dance floor. Questions? Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com or leave a detailed message at 819-684-7063.

MISCELLANEOUS

QCNA offers advertisers a one-order, one-bill service. Call us for details on reaching English Quebec and, through classified ads, French Quebec and every other Canadian province and territory. Contact us at sales@qcna.qc.ca or 819-893-6330. For details, visit <https://qcna.qc.ca/>.

PERSONAL CARE

DIMA THERAPY AND BEAUTY CLINIC Body Contouring, Laser hair removal, Hydro Facial. Located at 36 Court Street, Gatineau. 438-985-2911.

SERVICES

MOUSTIQUAIRES DÉCHIRÉES? Fenêtres, portes-patio. Réparation rapide, service local. Appelez ou envoyez un texto : 819-801-4448.

RIPPED SCREENS? Windows, patio doors. Fast repair, local service. Call or text: 819-801-4448.

WANTED

BUYING VINTAGE & ANTIQUE. Fishing lures & reels, world coins, CAN & U.S. dishes, crystal, jewelry, brooches, bracelets (gold broken items, single earrings), wrist watches and pocket watches, Christmas ornaments, tin toys and electric trains. Ray: 819-669-5690.



BECAUSE WE HAVE YOUR ACTIVITIES AT HEART COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALCOOLIKES ANONYMES PEUT VOUS AIDER. Les Alcooliques anonymes sont une association de personnes qui viennent en aide aux personnes souffrant d'alcoolisme. Nous nous aidons les uns les autres à demeurer abstinents en partageant nos expériences de rétablissement avec d'autres personnes désireuses de mettre fin à leur dépendance à l'alcool. Si tu veux arrêter de boire, nous pouvons t'aider. Tél. : 819-561-2002, AA90.org.

AYLMER LEGION -Saturday, June 27 at 8 p.m.: Rock party with live music by Arc of Fire. -Sunday, June 28 at 1 p.m.: Cribbage Tournament. -Wednesday, July 1, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Canada Day! A large family celebration marking the 95th anniversary of the Aylmer Legion and the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, including: flag raising at 11 a.m.; all-day BBQ; live music by "One Night Stand" at 1 p.m.; outdoor dancing; arts & crafts market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; chainsaw carving demonstration. Kids' zone with bouncy castle, face painting, crafts, special guest, and more! It's all happening at the Aylmer Legion on July 1st! All are welcome! 59 Bancroft street in Aylmer. For information or questions, email us at: Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com.

BINGO AYDELU 94, rue du Patrimoine, Gatineau (secteur d'Aylmer). Tous les mercredis soir / Every Wednesday night 18 h 45 / 6:45 p.m. Ouverture des portes 16 h / Doors open at 4 p.m. 3 800 \$ en prix / in prizes. 18 ans et plus / 18 years and older. Places limitées / Limited places. Nouveau programme / New program. Service de cantine / Canteen service. 819 684-7888 ou/or 819 230-2240.

PORTES OUVERTES DE L'ARTISTE LINDA GIRARD. 20, chemin Eardley, Gatineau, QC. Du 26 au 28 juin, de 9 h à 17 h. Contacter : girardportfolio@gmail.com.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL Your Member of Parliament for Gatineau, Steven MacKinnon, is delighted to invite you to the 9th edition of his family event on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Pavillon La Vérendrye, 730 Main Street, Gatineau. Lemonade, face painting, bouncy castles, and many kiosks! Free! Rain or shine! If you can, please bring some non-perishable food items. In partnership with Moisson Outaouais, the regional food bank. Steven.mackinnon@parl.gc.ca, 819-561-5555.

Quebec votes October 5: What Outaouais voters need to know

Continued from page 10

KEY DATES

Pre-election advertising rules are already in effect. Since January 1, third parties (residents, businesses or organizations not working for a political party) who plan partisan advertising worth more than \$1,000 during the pre-election period must first register with the Chief Electoral Officer.

Expected campaign period: August 29 to October 5, 2026, unless an early election is called. The election period lasts between 33 and 39 days, and candidate nominations are filed during this window.

HOW TO VOTE: FOUR STEPS

To cast a ballot, a voter must be on the list of electors. Most people are already registered at their home address and need do nothing, but confirming is worthwhile.

Confirm registration. Registration can be checked through Élections Québec ahead of time. Registration and address changes are not possible on election day, so any

updates must be handled during the dedicated registration period.

Bring identification. A piece of accepted ID is required to vote. The notice of entry or the yellow reminder card mailed to electors is not mandatory to bring, but it helps election officers direct voters faster.

Go to the assigned polling place. The location should be confirmed in advance, especially given this year's boundary changes.

Cast the ballot. Election officers guide voters through the steps on arrival.

WHO CAN VOTE

Canadian citizens aged 18 or older who have lived in Quebec for at least six months are eligible, but voting is only possible if the name appears on the list of electors.

For anything official, including registration, riding details, voting options and the full schedule of advance and fixed election date, once published, Élections Québec is the definitive source.

**EXCESSIVE CHARGES IMPOSED ON NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
BY THE GOVERNMENT**

Progress

shouldn't
come at the
expense of

journalism.

Publishers are committed to recycling. But the dramatic and unsustainable scale of proposed new fees on newspapers and magazines raises concerns about the future viability of Quebec's news ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

