

Professional Auto Body Repair & Painting
 • Insurance Work Accepted • All Work Guaranteed • Expert Color Matching
 • Factory Genuine Parts • Import Car Specialists • Major & Minor Repairs



A2 AUTO
 1385, Boul. des Laurentides local 103, Vimont, Laval
514 476-4565

Nouvelles **PARC-EXTENSION** News

Le seul journal de Parc-Extension depuis 1993
The only paper in Park-Extension since 1993

WAGAR
 ADULT
 EDUCATION
 CENTRE

A CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Sign up
 for
 English
 or
 French
 Classes
 today!



5785 Ave Parkhaven, Cote St. Luc H4W 1X8 (514) 488-8203
 For info regarding documents: www.emsb.qc.ca/wagar

Commission scolaire English-Montreal
 English Montreal School Board

Adult Education & Vocational Services

newsfirst
 MULTIMEDIA

Vol. 30-10

18 mars, 2022 / March 18, 2022

450-978-9999

www.px-news.com

editor@newsfirst.ca



**MÉLANIE
 JOLY**
 One of three
IRON LADIES
 in the Federal
 Government

Page 2



Your lease
 What you need to know
 about it and
 it's renewal

Page 3



**Shield of Athena launches new
 'For the Love of Women' campaign'**

Pages 8-9

Parc - Ex News Exclusive

From the left, Shield of Athena executive-director Melpa Kamateros, Montreal city councillor responsible for women's issues Despina Sourias, Montreal city councillor for Park Extension Mary Deros, Shield of Athena president Chris Ann Nakis, supporter Pearl Eliadis, board member Litsa Pelonis, and Laval city councillor Sandra El-Helou. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

Thinking of Selling Your Home?

Call me today for a **FREE** evaluation with no obligation.




VOULA KOTTARIDIS
 REAL ESTATE BROKER
 514 993.5010
AGENTVK@GMAIL.COM

FREE EVALUATION OF YOUR HOME WITH NO OBLIGATION!

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

ROYAL LEPAGE

HUMANIA CENTRE Agente immobilière 450.682.2121

The three IRON LADIES of the Trudeau government Part 2

Mélanie Joly: From defeated mayor to Canadian Minister



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

As part of the ongoing Park-Extension News's tribute to International Women's Day, we present in three sequels the three iron ladies of the federal government continuing with Mélanie Joly.

For her part, Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly, on the other hand, took action with her G7 counterparts as soon as the first evidence that Russia was mobilizing troops along the border with Ukraine was confirmed, in order to compile a list of Russian entities and individuals who would be quickly hit with financial sanctions in

the event of an invasion.

Mélanie Joly called for a ceasefire in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, arguing that the Ukrainian government needed to catch its breath as it entered talks with the Putin regime. "We must do our best to support the Ukrainians while holding diplomatic talks under maximum pressure. "Because when we do that, we are actually giving them breathing space to negotiate," said Jolie "Right now, this is not a diplomatic solution. "It has to do with saving lives and that is why it is a humanitarian corridor - and there must be a ceasefire. Because you can not negotiate when you have a gun in your head."

Earlier Wednesday on March 9th, Jolie spoke with Ukrainian counterpart Dmitry Kuleba before heading to Turkey for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. It was one of three conversations between Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of his cabinet over four members of the troubled Ukrainian government in Kyiv.

The talks took place in Berlin, where Trudeau was on the third day of his European tour in four countries. Freeland, Joly and Trudeau then spoke to reporters outside the area near the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin's famous symbol of peace and freedom.

Jolie told reporters that "more sanctions are coming and you will have more information" to maintain "maximum pressure" on Russia.

Who is Melanie Jolie?

After completing her law degree at the Université de Montréal in 2001, Joly became a member of the Barreau du Québec. She then received a Chevening Fellowship and continued her studies at the University of Oxford, where she received a Magister Juris in Comparative and Public Law in 2003. Joly also did an internship at Radio Canada in 2007.

Early in her career, Joly practiced law at two major Montreal law firms, Stikeman Elliott and Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg. In the latter company, her mentor was former Prime Minister Lucien Bouchard, who gave her a letter of recommendation for her application to Oxford. She worked mainly in the fields of civil and commercial disputes, bankruptcy law and was also a prosecutor before the Gomery Commission of Inquiry.

In 2010, she became the first Quebec recipient of the Arnold Edinborough Award, which recognized her philanthropic contribution to the Canadian cultural community.

In 2013, he was appointed head of the Quebec Advisory Committee on the Liberal Party of Canada's leadership campaign for Justin Trindade.

In June 2013, Joly announced her candidacy for mayor of Montreal in the election that year. She founded a new party, the Vrai changement pour Montréal, to support her candidacy. On November 3, election day, she garnered 26.50 percent of the vote, finishing six points behind the winner, Dennis Conter.

In 2015, Joly left city politics and announced her candidacy for the Liberal Party of Canada in the new Ahuntsic-Cartierville constituency for the 2015 federal election. Joly won the seat with 47.5 percent of the vote, defeating Maria Murani.



GALERIE OASIS

1877 Boulevard du Curé-Labelle, Laval, QC
450.973.0000 • galerieoasis.ca

60% OFF RUG SALE
LIMITED TIME OFFER
ENDS MARCH 23RD

 <p>YALAMEH 4'2 X 2'8</p> <p>ONLY \$199 reg. \$495</p>	 <p>BAHKTIAR 8'2 X 5'2</p> <p>ONLY \$695 reg. \$1739</p>	 <p>BOKHARA RUNNER 8' X 2'6</p> <p>ONLY \$399 reg. \$995</p>	
 <p>KASHAN 10'5 X 7'6</p> <p>ONLY \$1595 reg. \$3995</p>	 <p>TABRIZ 8'7 X 5'7</p> <p>ONLY \$639 reg. \$1595</p>	 <p>NEW ARRIVAL RUGS</p>	



HAND
KNITTED

ENJOY THE WARMTH, BEAUTY & LUXURY OF OWNING A HANDMADE RUG!

 <p>MONACO 4' X 6'</p> <p>ONLY \$110 reg. \$220</p>	 <p>BALI 5' X 8'</p> <p>ONLY \$230 reg. \$460</p>	 <p>SAVANNAH 7' X 10'</p> <p>ONLY \$340 reg. \$680</p>	<p>THE LARGEST HANDMADE RUG SELECTION IN CANADA</p> <p>1000'S OF RUGS TO CHOOSE FROM</p> 
 <p>SUPERIOR SHAGGY 7' X 10'</p> <p>ONLY \$480 reg. \$960</p>	 <p>MESA 8' X 11'</p> <p>ONLY \$625 reg. \$1300</p>	 <p>DIAMOND 5' X 8'</p> <p>ONLY \$180 reg. \$360</p>	



MACHINE
MADE

PHAHMED

Comptabilité et Gestion d'Affaires Inc.
Accounting & Business Management Inc.

Mustaque A. Sarker

Accountant & Business Consultant

Accounting + Bookkeeping
Business Management & Taxes

524, Jean Talon St. West, suite 3
Montreal, Qc H3N 1R5

T. 514.274.5793
F. 514.274.5793
pahmed.acc@gmail.com



Lease 101

What you need to know about your lease



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

With moving day only three months away, many renters in the neighbourhood will either be renewing their existing lease or moving to a new apartment. While leases can start and finish throughout the year, most run from Jul. 1 to Jun. 30.

Many myths and misinterpretations persist with regards to leases and tenant rights, which can sometimes open the door to abuses and unfair treatment of tenants.

This article hopes to address some of the most important questions regarding leases and what tools and protections exist to help protect the people who rent their homes.

What is a lease?

According to Éducaloi, a lease is a written or oral contract between a landlord and a tenant in which the tenant agrees to pay rent and the landlord allows the tenant to live in the rental unit and enjoy it in peace.

"It is signed between a tenant and a landlord. In it, the landlord agrees to provide the tenant with a rental unit in good condition in exchange for rent," explained Éducaloi.

The document lists the conditions set to be followed by both the tenant and the owner, including specifications on maintenance to be undertaken and the conditions to be respected by the tenant, such as a ban on smoking inside or the interdiction of keeping animals in the dwelling.

The *Tribunal Administratif du Logement* (TAL) stipulates several protections for renters when it comes to leasing conditions. For example, modifying rent price during the period of the lease or increasing rent if the number of occupants increases is not permitted and can be contested.

Lease renewal

A lease is generally signed for 12 months, where conditions between the tenant and owner can be renegotiated once it expires. This often includes a rental increase agreement that is negotiated between owner and tenant.

Although owners are allowed to propose amendments to a lease once it expires, tenants are by no means obligated to accept the new conditions and cannot be forced to leave if they refuse them.

If the landlord does not send a notice of renewal or amendment to the lease, it will renew automatically under the same conditions as the previous year.

Maximum rent increase?

But by how much can an owner increase rent price? In Québec, no law stipulates a maximum

rate of increase. "The law does not require a landlord to respect a certain rent increase threshold when renewing a lease," said Denis Miron, spokesperson for the TAL.

A tenant can nonetheless refuse a rent that they feel is exorbitant up to a month after the notice is received. The owner would then be able to ask the TAL to intervene and set an appropriate rent, often pegged at around 2% per year.

The TAL recently published its rent increase rates for 2022, set at 1.28% for an unheated dwelling and 1.34% for a dwelling heated with electricity. A tool is available on the TALs website to calculate appropriate rent increases.

"This allows you to establish the rent increase, taking into account the variation in municipal and school taxes, insurance, major improvements, as well as all the operating costs of the building," continued Miron.

Long-term leases

While most leases last 12 months, no law stipulates how long a lease should last. A lease can be for a fixed term or for an indefinite period, where the end of the contract is not determined in advance.

Although uncommon, a lease can in theory last more than 12 months. "If the lease is for a fixed term of more than 12 months, the parties can agree to include a rent readjustment clause during the lease," said Miron on how rent increases would be approached.

"When the lease provides for the readjustment of the rent, the parties may apply to the TAL to contest the excessive or insufficient nature of the proposed or agreed readjustment and have the rent fixed," he added.

Evictions and repossessions

While tenants have a fundamental right to remain in their dwellings, some exceptions exist. Eviction is permitted under certain circumstances where an owner wants to perform major renovations or change the building's use.

Owners are also permitted to perform repossessions where they wish to provide the dwelling to a family member.

But protections exist for tenants in these circumstances. If the tenant is 70-years or over, has lived in the apartment for 10 years or more or has an income that would qualify them for low-rental housing, eviction is not allowed.

It is also important that owners give appropriate notice of at least 6 months before the end of a 12-month lease, compensate tenants for 3 months' rent and pay all expenses associated with moving. If tenants think the owner acted in bad faith, they can sue the landlord for damages through the TAL.

More information and resources are available through multiple organizations like Éducaloi, *Comité d'action de Parc-Extension*, *Tribunal Administratif du Logement* (TAL) and RCLALQ.



If the landlord does not send a notice of renewal or amendment to the lease, it will renew automatically under the same conditions as the previous year.

WAGAR
ADULT
EDUCATION
CENTRE

Sign
up
for
French
or
English
Classes
today!

A CENTRE FOR ALL COMMUNITIES



KNOWING FRENCH MEANS \$\$\$



**-Better Paying Jobs
-Communicating Better
with all around
-Improved Lifestyle**

**REGISTER TODAY FOR OUR
DAY & EVENING SESSIONS
ENGLISH COURSES ALSO AVAILABLE
Full time and part time**

CALL TODAY 514 488-8203

- **MULTICULTURAL:** Our students hail from over 49 different countries
- **COMPREHENSIVE:** Our courses include everything you need to start learning as an adult.

**-Free Parking
-Bus Stop nearby (Take the 80 to Park Avenue
corner Van Horne and then take the 161**



SEE YOU IN CLASS

Course Fees:

• English Courses \$100.00 (includes required book) • French Courses \$85.00 (includes required book)

**5785 Ave Parkhaven, Cote St. Luc H4W 1X8 (514) 488-8203 For info
regarding documents: www.emsb.qc.ca/wagar**



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board



Adult Education &
Vocational Services



Publishers:

George Bakoyannis
George S. Guzman

General Director:

George Bakoyannis

VP Sales & Marketing:

George S. Guzman
sales@newsfirst.ca

Graphic Design:

Elena Molter
Thomas Bakoyannis

Advertising Consultants:

Peter Stavropoulos
peter@newsfirst.ca

Jean Paul Chamberland

Editorial Staff:

Matias Brunet-Kirk
Martin C. Barry
Maria Diamantis
Renata Isopo
Robert Vairo

The views, opinions and positions expressed by
columnists and contributors are the author's alone.
They do not inherently or expressly reflect the
views, opinions and/or positions of our publication

QCNA Member of
Quebec Community Newspapers Association &
Canadian Community Newspapers Association

Layout: Media Trek

Distribution: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL/DIFFUMAG

Printing: TC. TRANSCONTINENTAL

National Representation:

RÉSEAU SÉLECT

TEL: 1-800-361-7262 ext 241056



Project funded in part by

Canada

Toute reproduction des annonces ou informations, en tout ou en partie, de façon
officielle ou déguisée, est interdite sans la permission écrite de l'éditeur. Le Journal
Nouvelles Parc-Extension ne se tient pas responsable des erreurs typographiques
pouvant survenir dans les textes publicitaires, mais il s'engage à reproduire unique-
ment la partie du texte où se trouve l'erreur. La responsabilité du journal et/ou de
l'éditeur ne dépassera en aucun cas le montant de l'annonce. Les articles publiés
expriment l'opinion de leurs auteurs, mais pas nécessairement celle de la direction.

Publishers' Liability for Error: The publishers shall not be liable for slight
changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement.
The publishers' liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any adver-
tisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement in any subsequent
issues or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement. Articles published
reflect writers' opinions, but not necessarily the opinion of this newspaper.

ENTIRE CONTENTS COPYRIGHT 2022

OPINION & Editorial



Playing Russian roulette with food security

Government shouldn't compensate Canadian companies hurt by sanctions, including agri-food

With war comes economic sanctions. Instead of sending troops to fight the old-fashioned way, wars are fought with money, and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia is no exception.

The United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, the European Union, Turkey and a few more have sanctioned Russia in one way or another.

Canada has targeted the banking system and barred Russian airlines from using its airspace. It has also cancelled all export permits and halted new ones, primarily affecting the aerospace industry.

Nobody knows for sure if these sanctions will work, but both the energy and food sectors have been spared so far by all sanctioning nations.

Sanctions are designed to affect President Vladimir Putin's regime, not Russia's people, recognizing that many Russians may not be supportive of the invasion of Ukraine.

Corporations are also potentially affected, as some Canadian companies in the food sector have invested in Russia over the years. American corporate giants Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Starbucks have now pulled out of Russia.

Canadian corporation McCain Foods – which was building a \$200-million plant in the Russian Tula region – opted to halt its construction for now. The company may decide to pull its project out in the coming days. But it's been reported that McCain is still conducting business in Russia.

Meanwhile, McCain has announced it will donate \$200,000 to relief efforts in Ukraine, making clear that it condemns Putin's actions.

On the other hand, Maple Leaf Foods doesn't have any operations in Russia and has given \$500,000 in relief funds to help Ukrainians. Good on them.

Convenience store giant Alimentation Couche-Tard also operates stores in Russia and could be affected by sanctions. The company just announced it was suspending operations in Russia. The company, which controls the Circle K chain, only has 38 stores and more than 320 employees in Russia. It was present in Russia by way of Norway's Statoil Fuel and Retail.

Some Canadians made calls for a boycott of Canada-based Mac's and Circle K stores operated by Alimentation Couche-Tard until the Quebec-based company made a clear decision to cease its operations in Russia. That's likely why it did. The company also donated US\$1.5 million to the

Red Cross in recent days.

Another major Canadian food player in Russia is Restaurant Brands International, the parent company of Tim Hortons. It also owns Burger King and the chain operates 800 stores in Russia. Other than a corporate statement registering concerns about the invasion, no clear decision has been made. Many people recently took to social media to ask the chain to stop conducting business in Russia.

Asking these companies to pull out and stop doing business with Russia is the easiest and most obvious thing to do. The atrocity of the invasion is simply inexcusable.

But we also need to keep in mind that these Canadian companies are very much part of the food security fabric for the Russian people. On the surface, closing convenience stores or fast food joints or not selling French fries could be seen as trivial. But any corporate decision to pull out or cease doing business in the country would compromise Russia's access to food, thus penalizing its people.

It's truly a delicate balancing act between reputational risks and food security. The stakes are different when compared with other economic sectors.

Last week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was vague and non-committal about whether his government would compensate Canadian companies hurt by sanctions imposed on Russia. Compensating companies conducting business abroad affected by wartime sanctions would set a very dangerous precedent.

The federal government should not compensate Canadian companies hurt by sanctions imposed on Russia, including companies in the agri-food sector. Geopolitical risks are always in the mix when investing abroad, and these companies, not the Canadian people, took on these risks when they opted to invest in Russia.

Moreover, many of these companies have insurance against such sanctions. And sanctions against Russia were actually started more than eight years ago when Russia invaded Crimea.

Canadian companies shouldn't be surprised by how things are unfolding, and Canadian taxpayers shouldn't be on the hook for their choices.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois



#NewsMatters:

The National
Assembly Report

By Raquel Fletcher

“Anglophones need to stop being hostages of the Liberal Party”: Éric Duhaime

Quebec Conservative Party leader seeks common ground with English-speakers

Éric Duhaime is categorical that Bill 96, the government's French language reform legislation, is fundamentally flawed. Applying the notwithstanding clause upfront so that the bill cannot even be challenged in the courts goes against the very spirit of the Charter of Rights, he says.

“Our concern is regarding human rights, basically,” Duhaime says in an interview. “Even people who are very nationalist or sovereigntist should be against this bill.”

The leader of the Conservative Party of Quebec is hoping to find some common ground with the province's anglophones, the vast majority of whom also do not support the legislation. According to an online Angus Reid poll last October, 95 per cent of English-speaking Quebecers are somewhat or strongly opposed to Bill 96.

“I want the Conservative message to be heard among anglophones,” Duhaime says. He is courting the protest vote. He sees his party as a credible alternative for federalist English-speaking voters looking to send a message of their discontentment with the current CAQ government, as well as those who may be disillusioned with past Liberal governments.

“I think Anglophones need to stop being hostages of the Liberal Party,” he says.

In second place among francophones

Duhaime's party is becoming increasingly popular. Recent polls put him second behind the Coalition

Avenir Quebec (CAQ) among French-speaking voters, even if the gap between the two parties is still in the double digits.

Since taking over as leader in April 2021, he's increased the membership of his party ten-fold from 500 members to almost 50,000. He has established riding associations in 105 of 125 constituencies according to a recent report by Radio-Canada.

For now, his support appears to be concentrated in the Quebec City region, where Duhaime is most well-known, due to his long career as a host on trash radio. However, Duhaime is confident he can also make inroads with the anglophone community, largely represented on the island of Montreal.

A similar message

His message is similar to what the CAQ tried to convey in the 2018 election. In a memorable speech during a party convention, leader François Legault said: “If you wish for Quebec to flourish within Canada, if you have had enough of being stuck with the Liberal Party that is worn out, if you're tired of being taken for granted, you now have an option. Join us.”

It didn't resonate. The CAQ was elected with an overwhelming majority but received very little support from Quebec anglophones. English speakers fed up with the Liberals were more likely to stay home on election night then cast a vote for the CAQ. So why would Anglophones vote for the

Conservative Party this time around?

“We're not a spin-off of the PQ,” Duhaime replies, referring to Legault's past as a Parti Québécois cabinet minister.

Asked if he thinks anglophones will respond to his anti-health measure message, the Conservative leader credits much of his newfound support to Quebecer's frustration over health measures, particularly during this last COVID-19 wave. Duhaime supported the trucker convoy and other protestors in Ottawa and Quebec City and says the Legault government went too far with health measures, which he has qualified as excessive or even “abusive.”

He has been particularly critical of shutdowns, curfews and masks for kids in the classroom. The province should have “protected the most vulnerable,” namely seniors, without preventing everyone else from living their lives, he says.

“You have to take into consideration the population as a whole... everything was focused on COVID,” he explains. “We imposed measures on youth that have never been imposed on them. What will the long-term effect be on them?”

Duhaime denies that his position is radical. “I just believe in freedom of choice.”

Will Quebecers see his party as a credible choice in the upcoming fall election? It's definitely a long shot, but I wouldn't count him out.

Montreal Jewish community appeals for help to assist Jews in Ukraine

War-ravaged nation's Jewish community is the fifth largest in the world



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

Federation CJA, the Montreal Jewish community's central fundraising agency, has launched an urgent appeal in conjunction with Jewish Federations of North America and its global network to amass \$20 million in relief funding for Jews in war-torn Ukraine.

"We are an integral part of a worldwide campaign to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate suffering and safeguard Ukraine's Jewish community, as well as Jews in neighbouring countries," said Yair Szlak, CEO of Federation CJA.

"We are proud that over one thousand community members have already stepped up and donated close to five hundred thousand dollars in support of these efforts. But, so much more is needed on an urgent basis."

Support urgently needed

"Thousands of Jews living in Ukraine are trapped in conflict zones," says the federation. "Thousands more are on the move – including many to be relocated to Israel and elsewhere." They say an unknown number will seek shelter in Montreal, Laval and across Canada. The organization says it is committed to supporting its partner agencies on the ground, in Israel and at home, to ensure the well-being of these Jewish refugees.

"The immediate support from the public is critical in helping to secure families who are trapped in Ukraine and those who are on the run," Szlak added. "The needs are urgent. By donating to the Ukraine Emergency Relief Fund, you will be helping during this incredibly difficult time. We hope for an immediate cessation to this horrific tragedy and pray for peace for the Ukrainian people."

On the ground in Ukraine

As the crisis in Ukraine escalates, the federation notes that thousands have come under fire in areas across the country, while hundreds of thousands more have fled the fighting. "These people, and thousands more, require our immediate assistance," the federation said.

The federation says the emergency funding it will be channeling will focus on the following:

- Helping people make Aliyah (immigration) to Israel;
- Securing the local community and its institutions;
- Maintaining critical welfare services;
- Assisting internally displaced people in multiple locations;
- Securing temporary housing for people in transit;
- Purchasing satellite phones to maintain communications across the region;
- Securing five Jewish schools and training staff to manage crisis needs.

Here at home

According to federation CJA, work is well underway to support those affected in Montreal as well, since others will soon arrive here. The federation says its social service partners, Agence Ometz and Cummings Centre, currently are:

- Keeping current clients with family in Ukraine informed, connected and supported

by providing psychosocial support and trauma-sensitive services in Ukrainian and Russian languages;

- Coordinating with local and national partner agencies across Canada to ensure preparedness;
- Gathering resources for newcomers: families who are ready to provide emergency shelter, employment offers, basic needs, and psychosocial support;
- And organizing post-arrival settlement and integration service responses.

The federation says its advocacy arm, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), is working with various government agencies to ensure that Jewish refugees who wish to come to Montreal can do so.

200,000 Jews in Ukraine

It is estimated that during World War II and the German Nazi occupation of Ukraine, more than 1 million Jews were shot and killed by German paramilitary death squads and by local Ukrainian supporters in various regions of Ukraine.

According to a number of information and data sources available on the web, including the World Jewish Congress and the European Jewish Congress, the Jewish community in Ukraine is the third-largest Jewish community in Europe and the fifth-largest globally.

Writing in *The New Yorker* on Feb. 28, Montreal-born journalist Bernard Avishai noted that Ukraine is home to about 200,000 people who qualify, by Israel's definition of who is a Jew, for Israeli citizenship, and could therefore emigrate to Israel under the law of return.

Ukraine's president is Jewish



While Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is himself a Jew and has pledged to keep fighting the Russians, Avishai maintains that Israeli leaders believe a significant number of other Ukrainian Jews would rather emigrate to Israel, rather than resist a continued Russian assault or occupation.

"We'll be happy to receive any Jew that wants to immigrate from Ukraine," he quotes an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson as having told *Newsweek*.

Yet, presumably, Avishai continues, a mass evacuation wouldn't be possible if Israel incited Russian leader Vladimir Putin's anger, or provoked an outburst of Russian anti-Semitism. By Avishai's account, there are some 175,000 Jews still living in Russia.

What to do before seeking medical attention during the pandemic.



I've tested positive for COVID-19.

BEGIN TREATMENT AT HOME



I have questions about my health.

CALL INFO-SANTÉ 811



I have concerns or I'm in a difficult situation.

CALL INFO-SOCIAL 811



I want to renew my prescriptions.

SPEAK TO YOUR PHARMACIST

Québec.ca/HealthNeeds

Votre gouvernement

Québec

Les baux locatifs

Ce que vous devez savoir sur votre bail



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

À environ trois mois du 1er juillet, de nombreux locataires du quartier se questionnent à renouveler leur bail existant ou bien déménager dans un nouvel appartement. Bien que les baux puissent commencer et se terminer tout au long de l'année, la plupart s'étendent du 1er juillet au 30 juin.

De nombreux mythes et interprétations erronées persistent en ce qui concerne les baux et les droits des locataires, ce qui peut parfois ouvrir la porte à des abus et à un traitement injuste des locataires.

Cet article espère répondre à certaines des questions les plus importantes concernant les baux ainsi que protections qui existent pour aider les personnes qui louent leur logement.

Qu'est-ce qu'un bail ?

Selon Édualoi, un bail est un contrat écrit ou oral entre un propriétaire et un locataire dans lequel le locataire s'engage à payer un loyer et le propriétaire lui permet d'habiter le logement et lui assure la jouissance paisible des lieux.

« Le bail est un contrat de location entre le locataire et le locateur. Le propriétaire s'engage alors à offrir un logement en bon état au locataire en échange du paiement du loyer », explique Édualoi.

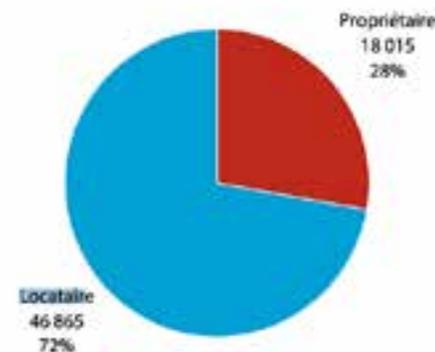
Le bail énumère les conditions que doivent

LOGEMENT PROFIL SOCIODÉMOGRAPHIQUE : Recensement 2016 par Montréal en statistiques.

Les locataires sont majoritaires dans l'arrondissement

Les 64 880 logements de l'arrondissement sont majoritairement occupés par des locataires : 46 865 logements sont en effet en location, soit une proportion de 72 % de l'ensemble du parc de logements du territoire. On recense par ailleurs 18 015 logements privés occupés par un propriétaire, soit une part de 28 %.

Logements privés selon le mode d'occupation, arrondissement de Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, 2016



respecter le locataire et le propriétaire, notamment les spécifications sur l'entretien à effectuer et les conditions à respecter par le locataire, telles que l'interdiction de fumer ou de ne pas avoir d'animaux dans le logement.

Le Tribunal Administratif du Logement (TAL) prévoit plusieurs protections pour les locataires en ce qui concerne les conditions de location. Par exemple, modifier le prix du loyer en cours

de bail ou augmenter le loyer si le nombre d'occupants augmente n'est pas autorisé et peut être contesté.

Le renouvellement du bail

Un bail est généralement signé pour une période de 12 mois, où les conditions entre le locataire et le propriétaire peuvent être renégociées à son renouvellement. Cela inclut souvent un accord d'augmentation de loyer qui est négocié entre le propriétaire et le locataire.

Bien que les propriétaires soient autorisés à proposer des modifications au bail une fois celui-ci expiré, les locataires ne sont en aucun cas obligés d'accepter les nouvelles conditions et ne sont pas obligés de partir s'ils les refusent.

Si le propriétaire n'envoie pas d'avis de renouvellement ou de modification du bail, celui-ci sera renouvelé automatiquement aux mêmes conditions que l'année précédente.

Augmentation du loyer

Mais de combien un propriétaire peut-il augmenter le prix du loyer ? Au Québec, il n'existe pas de loi qui stipule un taux d'augmentation maximal. « La loi n'oblige pas un locateur à respecter un certain seuil d'augmentation du loyer lors du renouvellement d'un bail », a précisé Denis Miron, porte-parole du TAL.

Un locataire peut néanmoins refuser une augmentation de loyer jusqu'à un mois après la réception de l'avis, tout en restant dans son logement. Le propriétaire peut alors demander au TAL une augmentation indexée, souvent fixée à environ 2 % par an.

Le TAL a récemment publié ses taux d'augmentation de loyer pour 2022, fixés à 1,28 % pour un logement non chauffé et à 1,34 % pour un logement chauffé à l'électricité. Un outil est disponible sur le site web du TAL pour calculer

Electoral commitment:

Québec solidaire propose rent control



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

As the general election is approaching fast, Québec solidaire announced that resolving the housing crisis will be one of its electoral priorities and that this will include, among other things, rent control. The measure would enforce the annual increase recommendations of the Administrative Housing Tribunal (TAL).

Manon Massé, spokesperson for Québec solidaire, accompanied by Andrés Fontecilla, deputy responsible for housing for Québec solidaire and our MNA in Park-Extension as well as Shophika Vaithyanathasarma, solidarity candidate for the Marie-Victorin by-election, made the announcement on March 10th in Longueuil.

"The rising cost of living means making tough choices for many people. Add to that unreasonable rent increases with each lease renewal, it is clear that families will have difficult choices to make over the next year," said Manon Massé, spokesperson for Québec solidaire.

Last year, the Administrative Housing Tribunal recommended a 0.8% increase in rents. The suggestion was largely ignored by landlords, leading to an average 3.4% increase in rental prices. Currently, tenants can file a complaint

with the TAL when they believe that the increase proposed by the landlord is abusive. However, a majority of Quebecers do not do so, for fear of damaging their relationship with their landlord and exhausting themselves in complicated procedures, with no assurance of success.

"With our proposal, it will rather be up to the owners to justify the increases exceeding the limit given by the Court. Thus we can put an end to this asymmetrical negotiation which creates tensions between landlords and tenants by rebalancing the balance of power so that it is fair for everyone," explains Andrés Fontecilla, head of housing for Québec solidaire.

Andrés Fontecilla believes that the measure announced will significantly slow the current trend of rent increases that is perpetuated by the Legault government's inaction. According to the political formation, at the end of a first solidarity mandate, it has the potential to represent a saving of \$70 per month for tenants throughout Québec.

"The housing crisis is hitting Quebecers hard. Every day, I receive testimonies from citizens affected by the situation and who are prompted to ask themselves difficult questions. "Do we have to move? Are we going to have to change the school children? If we stay, will we be able to eat properly?" said Andrés Fontecilla, head of housing for Québec solidaire.

CHOMEDEY

RARE SPLIT
Detached split situated close to all conveniences. Offering 3+2 bedrooms, 3 full baths, large entrance, living room, dining room, family room, large playroom, double garage, beautiful backyard.

A MUST SEE!!

EXCELLENT SERVICE | EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

ROYAL LEPAGE

HUMANIA CENTRE Agence immobilière 450.682.2121

VOULA KOTTARIDIS REAL ESTATE BROKER
514 993.5010
AGENTVK@GMAIL.COM

PROTECTION ROYALE

- Delays and Withdrawals
- Special assessment for co-ownerships
- Legal Assistance
- Latent Defects

les augmentations de loyer appropriées.

« Celui-ci permet d'établir l'augmentation du loyer, en tenant compte de la variation des taxes municipales et scolaires, des assurances, des améliorations majeures, ainsi que de l'ensemble des coûts d'exploitation de l'immeuble », poursuit M. Miron.

Baux à long terme

Bien que la plupart des baux durent 12 mois, aucune loi ne stipule la durée permise d'un bail. Un bail peut être à durée déterminée ou indéterminée, à laquelle la fin du contrat n'est pas déterminée à l'avance.

Bien que peu fréquent, un bail peut en théorie durer plus de 12 mois. « Si le bail est à durée fixe de plus de 12 mois, les parties peuvent s'entendre pour inclure une clause de réajustement de loyer en cours de bail », a déclaré M. Miron.

« Lorsque le bail prévoit le réajustement du loyer, les parties peuvent s'adresser au Tribunal pour contester le caractère excessif ou insuffisant du réajustement proposé ou convenu et faire fixer le loyer » a-t-il ajouté.

Éviction et reprise de logement

Bien que les locataires aient un droit fondamental au maintien dans les lieux, il existe certaines exceptions. L'éviction est autorisée dans certaines circonstances lorsqu'un propriétaire souhaite effectuer des rénovations

importantes ou changer l'usage du logement.

Par contre, un propriétaire ne peut pas évictionner un locataire pour rénover un logement. Les propriétaires sont également autorisés à procéder à des reprises de logement lorsqu'il s'agit d'emménager un membre de leur famille.

Il existe tout de même plusieurs protections pour les locataires dans ces circonstances. Si le locataire est âgé de 70 ans ou plus, vit dans l'appartement depuis plus de 10 ans ou a un revenu annuel qui le rendrait admissible à un logement à loyer modique, l'évincement n'est pas autorisé.

Indemnisation

Il est également important que les propriétaires donnent un préavis approprié d'au moins 6 mois avant la fin d'un bail de 12 mois et indemnisent les locataires pour 3 mois de loyer et toutes les dépenses liées au déménagement.

Si les locataires pensent que le propriétaire a agi de mauvaise foi, ils peuvent aussi demander au TAL d'ordonner le propriétaire paye des dédommagements.

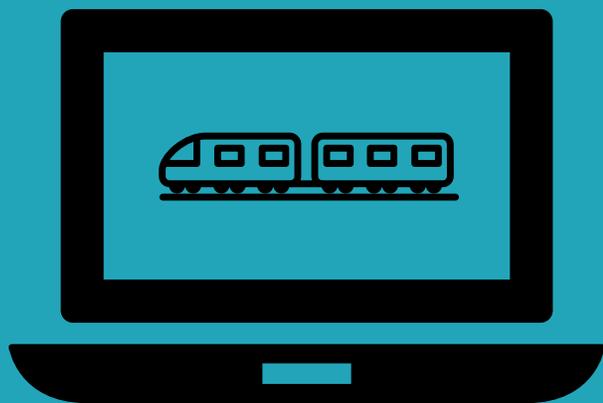
Plus d'informations et ressources sont disponibles pour les locataires à travers plusieurs organismes Éducaloi, le Comité d'action de Parc-Extension, le Tribunal Administratif du Logement (TAL) et le RCLALQ.

Séance publique virtuelle d'exo

24 mars 2022

En direct du centre
de maintenance
Pointe-Saint-Charles

Venez échanger avec nous
et poser vos questions
sur le transport collectif lors
de cette séance virtuelle.



Visitez:
exo.quebec/seancespubliques

exo

En contexte de pandémie, quoi faire avant de consulter ?



J'ai un résultat positif à la COVID-19.

DÉBUTER LES SOINS À LA MAISON



J'ai des questions sur ma santé.

APPELER INFO-SANTÉ 811



J'ai des inquiétudes ou je vis une situation difficile.

APPELER INFO-SOCIAL 811



Je souhaite renouveler mes ordonnances.

EN PARLER AVEC VOTRE PHARMACIEN(NE)

Quebec.ca/besoinsanté

Votre gouvernement

Québec

Getting the message out about violence to women – and its survivors



MARTIN C. BARRY
marty@newsfirst.ca

With spring finally arriving in Montreal and the Covid pandemic hopefully behind us, the time seemed right last week for Shield of Athena to launch a new campaign to build even greater awareness of domestic violence, as well as the trauma it has caused many families over the past two years.

'For the Love of Women'

Shield of Athena's new 'For the Love of Women' campaign was launched last week at the Casa d'Italia community centre in east-central Montreal, with thirty guests attending a few days after International Women's Day.

They included Laval city councillor Sandra El-Helou (who is responsible for status of women dossiers on Laval's executive-committee), Montreal city councillor for Park Extension Mary Deros, and Montreal city councillor from NDG Despina Sourias (responsible for the Status of Women on Montreal's executive-committee). Shield of Athena has offices and offers services in Laval and Montreal.

Getting the message out

"As we all know during Covid, we had a difficult time getting information across to women who could access the services and know the laws," said Chris Ann Nakis, president of Shield of Athena's board of directors. "This is our contribution to promoting more knowledge on the very important issue of violence against women."



Laval city councillor Sandra El-Helou, who is responsible for status of women dossiers on Laval's executive-committee, said she found Shield of Athena's efforts "profoundly touching." (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

Melpa Kamateros, the organization's executive-director, said the concept arose from the realization they could combine an earlier Shield of Athena book project, Recipes and Stories from Athena's Kitchen, dealing with the turmoil experienced by actual survivors of violence, and joining it to another medium with important messages and information on the resources available to victims.

Clientele getting younger

Kamateros said staff at Shield of Athena's shelters are seeing ever-younger women lately.



Shield of Athena executive-director Melpa Kamateros (standing) is seen here with Chris Ann Nakis, president of the board of directors. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

She noted that on a list of women who died as a result of conjugal violence in recent years, 60 per cent were between the ages of 18 and 40. "Which means that society hasn't changed its perception of conjugal violence or violence against women," said Kamateros.

"I find all your efforts profoundly touching," said El-Helou. "As the person responsible for women's issues with the City of Laval, I carry this dossier like a standard every day so that as women we may all have solidarity towards

the constant improvement of conditions for women." She noted that in recent years the City of Laval has taken a lead in promoting the well-being of women in workplace settings, as well as throughout the community.

Has 'seen the sad killings'

"Thank you for helping constantly to improve the quality of life of these women," said Deros, while noting that she has followed Shield of Athena's progress over the 23 years she has sat on Montreal city council. "I have seen the results. I have also seen the sad killings, the lack of human appreciation of a partner. But worse, I know of two cases where the husband killed the woman."

In all, 24 new videos created by Shield of Athena are being made available in French and English and will be distributed for viewing over different broadcast and web-based media. The project was funded by the Quebec Ministry of Justice, with the financial participation of the federal Ministry of Justice.

Recipes joined with messages

The videos use a different and original format to raise awareness of the cause, through recipes inspired by women who have stayed in the organization's shelter. They have shared their recipes and stories in a special cookbook entitled 'Recipes and Stories from Athena's Kitchen.'

Shield of Athena believes the women's strength

▶ Continued on page 9

Aid from Montreal has long been delayed, says municipal opposition



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

The main opposition party in Montreal City Hall is calling for a real "action plan" from Mayor Valerie Plante's administration to better support victims of domestic violence, at a time when the number of female homicides seems to be rising everywhere in Quebec. In recent articles we spoke with the executive director of Athena Shield Melpa Kamaterou in Park Extension, who confirmed firsthand the worrying symptoms of domestic violence in Montreal. A function of the growing negative effects of the pandemic.

"We have just had a very dark year," said Stéphanie Valenzuela, a spokeswoman for the Ensemble Montréal on gender diversity and the situation of women. Thus, the elected official refers to the 17 murders in 2021, a number increased sharply compared to the eight committed the previous year. All this without considering the murders that have already occurred since the beginning of 2022.

In March 2021, a proposal was unanimously approved by which the city of Montreal was asked to introduce various measures to support the victims, including a transport service, a temporary hosting service and a travel service. However, none of these measures have been implemented since then, criticizes the opposition, which will submit a new proposal on March 21 to demand that the city resumes its commitments.

Stéphanie Valenzuela confirms that we must quickly "multiply preventive measures". Her party demands that the available spaces of the city be "used free of charge by organizations", many of which have been struggling for years with the problem of lack of space. The opposition is also proposing the launch of two "periodic" communication campaigns to disseminate resource coordinates, something that has already been successfully done in Longueuil.

"Very specific" impulse

In SOS (SOS violence conjugale), the head of clinical support, Claudine Thibaudau, welcomes these proposals. "These are good ideas. "Victims often need a very specific push," she said.

However, the fight against domestic violence is also much broader, says Claudine Thibaudau. "We need more accommodation, as well as support since there is a whole life after coming out of a violent environment and the victims need to feel safe there," she said.

The director of the Federation of Women's Refugees (Fédération des maisons d'hébergement pour femmes), Manon Monastesse, agrees. "We need a direct channel of communication with the City of Montreal to obtain available land or buildings. It is estimated that at this time three or four more houses are needed, with 25 places each. Our occupancy rates are 110-120% now. "The situation is critical," she said, expressing regret that the mayor's cabinet had never been able to meet.

At the city executive committee, the responsible for the status of women, Josefina Blanco, replies that several actions have already been taken. "We supported the creation of a crisis response unit, started steps with the Regroupement des maisons pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale to organize and receive certification as an Allied Workplace against Domestic Violence (Milieu de travail allié contre la violence conjugale) and created a department that specializes in domestic violence in the Montreal Police (SPVM). "We act on all fronts," said Josefina Blanco.

The City of Montreal also claims that it is continuing discussions with the Legault Government to increase funding for shelters so that they can "increase their reception capacity, hire more staff, have access to suitable facilities and provide all the services offered to the beneficiaries, including transport".



Professional Auto Body Repair & Painting

- Insurance Work Accepted • All Work Guaranteed • Expert Color Matching
- Factory Genuine Parts • Import Car Specialists • Major & Minor Repairs

A2 AUTO

1385, Boul. des Laurentides local 103, Vimont, Laval 514 476-4565



Members of the Shield of Athena staff, board and supporters are seen here on March 10 during the launch of the new 'For the Love of Women' campaign. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

◀ Continued from page 8

and resilience will serve to encourage many other victims to seek help. The recipes have been combined with 12 messages to convey valuable information to victims and their relatives in an effective and more attractive way. The message includes legal information, showing women the help resources that are available, while providing some statistics on domestic violence. The organization hopes to raise awareness on conjugal violence in this time of strife, when people find it difficult to access information and often have to remain confined.

Broadcast on TV and other media
Both of these factors can increase the complex-

ity of leaving a conjugal violence situation, and place more women at risk and increase the occurrence of femicide worldwide. The videos will be broadcast by Shield of Athena's media partner, ICI television, as well as other media in English and French, and later in ten other languages on various media and websites. Shield of Athena says the concerted action will allow them to reach thousands of Quebecers and help vulnerable victims. The organization has taken the initial step of launching the program in French and English on a YouTube channel. The rest of the vignettes are being released in stages until May 12. The release dates were not chosen at random, as they all have an important meaning for women.

Residential and commercial asphalt



with MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OIL BASED SEALER PROTECTION

- We repair:**
- Cracks
 - Pot holes
 - Edges of garage entrances and foundations
 - Replacement of drains



Call Natale for a **FREE ESTIMATE**
(514) 777-3774

Problems with pests, insects or rodents???

Why suffer with infestation!
All kinds of insects and rodents

- Free Estimate
- Written Guarantee
- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial

www.sdextermination.com

S.D Exterminating Service Inc.
SINCE 1971

220 Jean-Talon Ouest, Montréal, Qc. H2R 2X5
Call 514 274-1100 or 514 274-1459

Serving the community for over 50 years
C550279
Membre of Canadian Association

Confusion and neglect at 7535/7545 de l'Acadie

City's 'mistake' orders residents to evacuate their homes



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

Residents of 7535 and 7545 de l'Acadie were left in a state of confusion last week after a City inspector mistakenly gave an order to evacuate the residential building within 6 days due to unsafe living conditions.

"A City inspector communicated the wrong information to some tenants regarding an evacuation date. This information has since been corrected," said Benoit Dorais, head of housing at the City of Montreal, to *La Presse*.

"If an evacuation was necessary, it would be planned according to the rules in place and an evacuation notice with a reasonable time would be sent to the tenants," he added.

Neglected dwellings

The residential building is located on the busy de l'Acadie Boul. and is in a visible state of disrepair, with garbage strewn about the front entrance and seemingly little maintenance done on the building.

According to *La Presse*, the same building had previously appeared in articles on slum housing in Montreal in both 2006 and 2014.

Dorais said the City had found certain issues with the building and had since mandated an engineer's report from the owner, which confirmed certain structural anomalies. Both the City and the owner, Abraham Leimzider, refused to say more on the issue.

Offers of financial compensation

Many residents have since been approached by building representatives encouraging them to vacate their homes. Many have also been offered payment and indemnities if they choose to give up their lease early.

Sujhwinder Singh, one such resident, accepted \$2,000 to leave his apartment. "Pretty much everyone is leaving, how could I do otherwise?" he told *La Presse*. He has since signed a much more expensive lease close by, which he still does not know how he will pay for.

Others have instead decided to stay put, saying they do not want to leave the area, adding they could not find an apartment in the same price range.

Unstable foundation

In a letter written by lawyer Gabrielle O'Reilly Patry dated December 20, 2021, who represented the owner at the time, she stated the foundations of the building were not intact.

"According to the engineers' report, it is recommended that the building be evacuated for the safety of the tenants," she wrote, adding that it would be a good opportunity to subdivide the building to add more dwellings.

"We understand that these unfortunate circumstances can cause upheaval for you. Therefore, our client is ready to offer you a higher compensation than what is provided by law to leave your accommodation as soon as possible," continued the letter.

The City later indicated it would work with



A city inspector mistakenly gave an order to evacuate a residential building due to unsafe living conditions. Photo: Matias Brunet-Kirk - NEWSFIRST

the housing committee to ensure the owner respects his responsibilities towards his tenants and that their rights are respected.

"Gentrification by abandonment"

Housing advocacy organization *Comité d'action de Parc-Extension* has been active in the neighbourhood for many years helping tenants with housing issues and has followed the situation at 7535/7545 de l'Acadie closely.

Amy Darwish, coordinator at *Comité d'action*

de Parc-Extension, told *La Presse* that the inaction of the owner amounts to "gentrification by abandonment"

She added that work had to be done to ensure that vulnerable, low-income tenants were not hastily pushed out and forced to accept new leases that they could not afford.

"The landlord's pressure on people to accept minimal sums in exchange for their lease termination is unacceptable," she continued, explaining that letting the building progressively decay is a tactic to push people out.

Keep Your Keys Safe!

If you lose your keys with a War Amps tag attached, we can return them to you by courier, free of charge.



Order key tags online.



The War Amps
1 800 250-3030
waramps.ca

My Pregnancy - A new service to meet the needs of pregnant women from the first months



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

The Minister for Health and Social Services, Lionel Carmant, announces that a service, My Pregnancy, has been deployed since February 28, 2022 to better meet the needs of pregnant women. For the women of Park Extension that are considering having children the establishment of this service promises a slew of different support options. The notice of declaration of pregnancy was a recommendation formulated by the Special Commission on the Rights of Children and the Protection of Youth and the government had undertaken to follow it up.

"A significant number of pregnant women still do not have pregnancy monitoring from the first trimester. This is an issue that concerns me a great deal and which also concerned the Special Commission on Children's Rights and Youth Protection. The deployment of My Pregnancy is in line with all of our actions to better support families in Quebec and positively influence the life trajectory of all children and offer them a better start," said Lionel Carmant, Minister for Health and Social Services

This technological tool is now accessible on the Internet and available to the entire population of Quebec in the form of an online form that can be completed by the woman or any person identified by the latter to help her in her process from the start of the pregnancy. A health professional or other person can also support the pregnant woman in completing the form or accompany her to do so. Women with special needs will be contacted by My Pregnancy workers, who will then be directed to the appropriate resources in the community or health facility.



According to recent data, nearly a quarter of pregnant Quebec women did not have an obstetrical follow-up during their first trimester of pregnancy. The first trimester is the best time to offer certain screening exams, address issues of concern to the woman and their family early on, and act on risk factors. Accompaniment and follow-up adapted to the needs identified during the first months of pregnancy thus promote better health for both the mother and her child.

Completing the My Pregnancy tool allows the pregnant woman to obtain the services she needs. For example:

- obstetric follow-up from the 1st trimester.
- relevant information for her and the unborn baby.
- information on the free services offered near her (eg: prenatal meetings, breastfeeding preparation)
- specific services, if required (eg: integrated perinatal and early childhood services, Olo follow-up – multivitamins and free food, smoking cessation assistance, etc.).

A squad to counter armed violence in Montreal



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

The Eclipse squad is taking part in Operation Night Watch, which is in its second weekend. This operation should continue next weekend in Montreal.

“Operation Vigie Nocturne is an increased police presence in licensed places as well as in unlicensed places. There, because these places are back in full capacity and the return of normal hours of operation, we expect to have more people coming to the city center and if you see situations that are degenerating don't be shy supervisors to call Eclipse”, said Marco Breton, commander of the SPVM.

The night watch operation is part of the measures put in place by the SPVM to reduce the number of firearm violence on its

territory. In 2021, the SPVM seized 674 firearms. “We support our neighborhood stations for all violent crimes and crimes related to firearms,” said a police officer.

The Eclipse squad of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) has been on the front lines for 14 years to fight against armed violence, which has experienced a resurgence in the streets of the city. In it, 66 SPVM police officers work. The squad works on three fronts: it is responsible for management of street gangs, the control of drug related crime as well as cybercrime.

On the budget side, \$92 million from the federal government and \$37 million from Quebec had first been injected into the program for the next five years in 2008. In addition, two Crown prosecutors devoted themselves solely to the street gang file. Tackling pimping is also a way of attacking one of the main sources of revenue for organized crime, which uses the revenue to obtain firearms on the streets of Montreal. The SPVM says it is doing everything in its power to counter this phenomenon.



“However, he cannot do everything on his own. It is important to have the contribution of the community and the citizens of Montreal”, says Commander David Paradis, head of the Eclipse section.

Conflict in Ukraine: the SPVM is close to the communities



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

The Montreal Police department has a new headache as Russian and Ukrainian communities are now put in a difficult position because of the conflict. In Park Extension as well as in all the other boroughs of Montreal, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) has been proactive since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. On the one hand, the Hate Crimes and Incidents Module (Équipe de concertation communautaire de rapprochement ECCR) of the Prevention and Urban Security Division (DPSU) quickly made contact with influential actors in the Russian and Ukrainian communities. In addition, ECCR has set up a monitoring system to quickly detect any event related to the conflict and to provide the appropriate follow-up. The message is clear: hateful acts are unacceptable, and anyone who is a victim or witness is encouraged to report it to the police.

On the other hand, patrollers from the DPSU's Community Coordination Team for Rapprochement (ECCR) visited merchants and priests of the Orthodox faith of the Russian community in order to take the pulse of the latter and ensure reassuring presence in these difficult times when it may be the target of hate incidents or crimes. Following the information that these patrollers gathered, the ECCR approached other organizations to find out about the situation of Russians of the Jewish faith, to offer them support and information sessions.

In addition, these ECCR officers from the Northeast zone also patrolled areas where members of the Ukrainian community reside in Montreal. On this occasion, they stopped at the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which collects donations from citizens to help members of their community in Ukraine or who have taken refuge in neighboring countries.

The person in charge of this collection of donations informed the patrollers of the ECCR of his concerns. The church basement was overflowing



with bags and boxes received over the past few days. After sorting through these donations, he had to free up space and get rid of hundreds of bags of clothes, which he didn't want to throw away. He intended to prioritize sending medical equipment and medicines, but he lacked boxes.

The ECCR patrol officers then met the manager of a thrift store in the area to inform her of the situation. After several steps, the latter obtained the services of a truck. Along with community volunteers, officers assisted in loading hundreds of bags into the latter. A hardware store in the area and the Brotherhood of Police Officers of Montreal also provided boxes that will be used to store and send donations.

Finally, the work of all SPVM police officers continues to prevent any incident or hate crime that could arise from the conflict in Ukraine. If such events are reported, they will be investigated by ECCR. Remember that this module deals with hate crimes as well as hate incidents in order to prevent the latter from becoming hate crimes.

COVID Fines: Quebec's approach was unnecessarily harsh, according to a study



DIMITRIS ILIAS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
For The Parc-Extension News
dimitri@newsfirst.ca

Nearly half (48.4%) of all fines issued in Quebec, or just over 22,500, for violating the curfew. Quebec has seen an explosion of fines related to non-compliance with health measures, but there is no indication that this approach has had a positive effect on the number of COVID-19 cases. For a borough like Park Extension which hosts many low-income families, the results of the study are of particular importance.

The findings come from four researchers from the Observatoire du profilage, which is affiliated with the School of Social Work at the University of Montreal. They analyzed the issuance of infringement reports related to health measures in the province, between 20 September 2020 and 3 October 2021.

Their report, published on Friday the 11th of March, shows that 46,563 infringement statements related to health non-compliance measures were issued during this period, about 123 per day on average, whether it is rallies, curfew, wearing a mask, vaccination passports and so on.

They conclude that their report “clearly demonstrates that during the period under review, Quebec chose to make the public health crisis a public security crisis, which was managed 46,563 times by the police.”

A divisive policy

The writers are very hard on the Legault government's approach. “The preferred approach in Quebec to enforcing the health measures introduced to control the transmission of the COVID-19 virus was to rely on police repression and the use of criminal law. This stems from a political choice and not from an inevitable obligation to “flatten the curve”.

The approach, they say, is directly linked to the divisions that have arisen during the pandemic. “The punitive approach and the repressive speech that opposes the ‘minority’ of unruly people to the measures of the ‘majority’ of people who

respect them have resulted in stigmatizing part of the population and creating a great division, instead of reinforcing solidarity. Eventually, the discussion about guilt rather than mutual help and compassion can quickly prove counterproductive. Not to mention the surveillance climate that has prevailed and is encouraged by the introduction of reporting and complaint systems.” reveals the report.

“Remember that in Quebec, Prime Minister Legault stated at a press conference in December 2020 that he had asked the police and the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du work (CNESST) to give more fines. So, in the province we punished very quickly.»

The number of reports jumped during the winter and spring 2021 curfew, from an average of 206 per week in the fall of 2020 to 1093 in January, February and March and then to a maximum of 2232 by in April and May.

The researchers compared the evolution of the number of COVID-19 cases over the same period to find that the fines imposed did not correspond to the development of infections. Thus, the number of new COVID-19 cases peaked in the week of December 28, 2020, while the number of fines was still quite low. However, the number of new cases fell steadily in the winter and spring of 2021, but the number of fines continued to rise over the same period, especially in relation to the ban imposed on the 9th of January.

“We can assume that the justification for issuing fines is the punishment and prevention of those who do not respect the rules of public health, to reduce contacts and possibly the number of COVID-19 cases. “Our data do not allow us to measure the effect or absence of effects of fines on the number of COVID-19 cases, nor the deterrent effect of imposing criminal sanctions on behaviors,” they said.

Fines in Quebec ranged from \$ 1,000 to \$ 6,000, a much harsher penalty for vulnerable or low-income people. The authors argue that “the impact of such a sanction is undoubtedly disproportionate to low-income people.



SÉCURITÉ SPARTAN SECURITY
Burglar • Fire • Cameras • Intercoms
(514) 289-8585
20 years at your service!
24 HOUR MONITORING

ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION + 12 MONTHS MONITORING!

\$499⁹⁹

System Includes:

- 1 x Alexor 9155 main alarm unit
- 1 x WT5500 wireless 2 way keypad
- 1 x WS4904P wireless motion detector
- 2 x WS4945 wireless door/window sensors
- 1 x WT4989 wireless 2 way key chain remote with icon display
- 1 x battery backup, power supply, telephone jack
- Incl. 1 year monitoring



PANIER DU FERMIER

BASKET OF Fruits and Vegetables

16 to 20 VARIETIES

2 EASY STEPS:

- 1 Book your basket online or by phone from Monday to Thursday
- 2 Pickup Thursday, Friday or Saturday. Delivery available

A value of \$60+ at the supermarket
You pay only \$35

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGE!

@PANIERDUFERMIER

Our weekly customers save up to \$1,200 per year

(514) 473-4591
3151-B boul. DAGENAIS OUEST
 (near Curé-Labelle) Laval, Québec H7P 1T8
panierdufermier.ca | panierdufermier@gmail.com

Parcours Urbain Parc-Extension

Giving a voice to immigrant women in new urban exploration workshop



Lobna Najar, Nelly Daou and Razan Elkhatib (left to right) are the women behind the new *Parcours Urbain* project. Photo: Nelly Daou



MATIAS BRUNET-KIRK
matias@newsfirst.ca

Many who live in Park Extension know how rich stories and meaning the streets and neighbourhood holds. The many waves of immigration over the past 70 years have brought many layers of experience and influence to a neighbourhood that is known for its multicultural social fabric.

A new program, hosted by local organization Singa Québec in association with Exeko, hopes to draw on that rich local knowledge by providing immigrant women with a space to explore their area and tell the stories of Park Extension.

Parcours Urbain is an urban exploration workshop that will call on immigrant women to explore the streets of Parc-Extension to share their knowledge of the neighbourhood and reflect on the social issues it faces.

Parcours urbain

The workshops will run from Mar. 17 to Jun. 23 and will comprise various exploration and integration activities for immigrant women in Park Extension.

"We are planning 8 meetings with women from the Park Extension neighbourhood and the idea is to give a voice to people we don't usually hear," said Nelly Daou, intercultural mediator at Singa Québec and one of the organizers behind the workshop.

"We want to create a safe space for exchange where women will be able to speak of their experiences in Park Extension, their lived experience in Park Extension and the locations and resources that are significant to them," she continued.

The project will include creative activities such as writing workshops, photography classes and discussions with local change-makers and inspiring community actors.

A circuit through the eyes of immigrant women

Taking place every two weeks, participants will gather at café *La Place Commune* on Querbes before taking to the streets to explore the locations that are most important to them.

"The idea is to get to the end of the 8 meetings and have a set urban itinerary that can then be offered to the larger public," explained Daou. "It will be an itinerary through the eyes of a group of women who live here, a vision of Park Extension," she added.

Two professional photographers will also

participate in the project, giving tips and tricks on using a camera so that the women can take photos and better express themselves.

The project hopes to create a space where women can foster new networks in the community and meet new people. Organizers are also offering financial compensation to those who participate, amounting to a \$20 honorarium for each workshop.

Singa Québec

Singa Québec is a non-profit organization with the mission of better integrating immigrant people into their new home country and creating opportunities for knowledge sharing. They are also financially supported by both the City of Montreal and the Government of Québec.

"The idea behind Singa Québec is to bring people from the host society and immigrants closer together," explained Daou.

"The idea behind All the activities we organize is to create links and create spaces that encourage social links and intercultural learning," she continued.

The organization had previously worked on community initiatives in Park Extension. Notably, they organized *Un rêve dans votre assiette*, a program that integrated immigrant women into a restaurant kitchen and gave them the responsibility of developing a menu using their culinary knowledge and skills.

Why Park Extension?

Although a similar project will also be underway in neighbouring Côte-des-Neiges, Singa Québec expressly chose Park Extension due to its high immigrant population and multicultural social makeup.

"Park Extension is an area that still experiences a lot of prejudice and is still very poorly understood," said Daou on why the project would take place in Park Ex. "The idea for me and other mediators is to be in a humble posture of listening and learning," she added.

"What interests me is creating spaces of expression and creativity," continued Daou on what motivated her to participate. "To give space to women that we often don't hear, that is important for me. Giving a voice to women we don't hear and ensuring we can foster better representation and empowerment," she explained.

Women who are interested in participating can get more information and sign up on Singa Québec's website. Although spaces are limited, organizers will keep slots open to new participants throughout the spring. Workshops will take place every second Thursday from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM.

MEDIA-TREK®

Better service | Better quality | Better value
FOR YOUR MONEY



Business Cards

Qty. 1000 16pt, full colour, 2 sided

2500
Business
Cards
\$94

16 pt, full colour,
2 sided

as
low as
\$54

1000 Post Cards

4"x6" full colour, 2 sided

Only
\$104

100 Posters

12"x 18", 1 sided

Only
\$104

1000 Flyers

8.5"x 11" 100lb, 2 sided

Only
\$234

Retractable Premium Banner (33"X81)

- Protects your graphics in its aluminum base
- Free padded carry case included
- High resolution full color printing, waterproof, sunshine proof, premium banner material



Only
\$234

- Prices are for ready to PDF files. Graphic creation available for additional fee.
- Prices may change anytime. Taxes extra. Delivery extra •

Call us at 450 978-0070
or via email info@newsfirst.ca

Classifieds

Call 450 978.9999 Payment:



We are hiring!

If you are looking for a permanent position with full benefits, higher than average salary, a respectful working environment and additional performance based compensation, Rose Hill Foods may be the ideal workplace for you!

Located in Ville Saint-Laurent (Montreal), with nearly 40 years of continuous evolution since its founding in 1983, **Rose Hill Foods** has become a leader in the Canadian food industry.

We are currently looking for capable and energetic people to work in our **Production and Packaging Line**.

The most valuable asset of our business is our employees!

Want to know more? Contact:

Vasileios Bourmpounis
E-mail: vbourmpounis@rosehillfoods.com
Tel.: (514) 745-1153 ext.: 245

ROSE HILL Foods Inc.

7171 boul. Thimens, St-Laurent, Qc. Canada H4S 2A2 • www.rosehillfoods.com
Tel: 514-745-1153 • SF: 800-361-3102

WE BUY GOLD AND DIAMONDS

- For over 38 years -

450-681-1363



Before selling
elsewhere,
come see us!

Mon. to Wed. - 10am to 5:30pm
Thurs. and Fri. - 10am to 7:00pm
Saturday - 9am to noon
Sunday - Closed

solutionrl.com
*No price by phone

Same address since 1989

1799, boul. Curé-Labelle,
Chomedey (North of St-Martin)



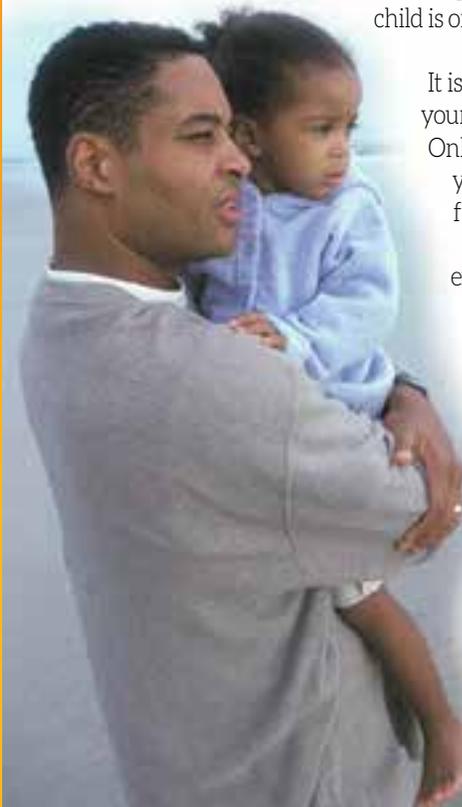
In Memoriam & Obituaries



Surviving the loss of a parent

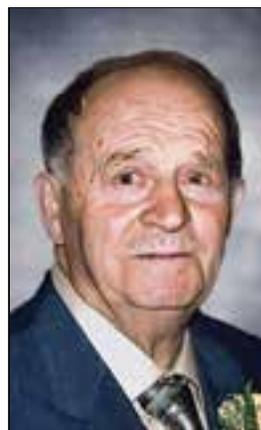
Usually, the parents are the first to go. More often than not, unless a sickness or an accident alters the normal course of things, the children must mourn their parents. However, mourning the people who gave you life, the people you love who taught you everything, is never easy and it can change a child forever.

An intimate bond is broken with the loss of a mother or a father. With such a strong attachment, the sorrow can be extremely difficult to overcome. Shedding tears, being sad and heartbroken, are normal and essential steps in the mourning process. The grief of an orphaned child is one of the greatest hardships in life.



It is strongly suggested that you share your pain with the people close to you. Only by living through your grief can you overcome it. Feeling angry and frustrated, or relieved and at peace, are other feelings that some will experience. If your loved ones were suffering or if you lost them in an event that you feel was unfair, it is quite normal to experience a range of emotions. However, mourning and grief are always unique and personal.

Sharing your memories with the people who are still here and talking about the beautiful moments you shared together is one way to overcome your anguish. Psychological support can help you get through the difficult days, months, or even years.



DI BENEDETTO Donato
1929-2022

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of DONATO DI BENEDETTO on Monday, March 07, 2022 at the age of 92. He will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Maria D'Addario Di Benedetto, his loving children Lucia (Roberto), Lina (Antonio) and Carmela (Mark), his cherished grandchildren Robert (Melanie), Sophia (Rogan), David, Philip (Juliana), Christian, Daniel and Julia, his great granddaughter Olivia, his sister Velia as well as nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends.



BOUCHARD Nicole
1939-2022

In the palliative care unit of the Marie-Clarac Hospital in Montreal, on March 3, 2022, passed away at the age of 82 years and 7 months Mrs. Nicole Bouchard wife of Blondin Tardif, daughter of the late Édouilda Tremblay and the late Normand Bouchard. She lived in Montreal, a native of Notre Dame du Lac, Témiscouata.



HACHEY Albert
1936 - 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Albert Hachey on February 28, 2022 at the age of 96.

Predeceased by his beloved wife Évangéline Imbeault and son Michel, as well as his three brothers and two sisters. Devoted father to Pierrette and cherished "Pépère" to Andrea, he will also be fondly remembered by many family members and friends.



MILL Nathan (Nat)
1934-2022

After a brief but pain-free struggle with cancer, Nat passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving children, Linda and Perry, and the gentle, caring staff of La Maison de la Sérénité. Throughout his 91 years, Nat journeyed from war-torn Belgium to Toronto, to Montreal where he raised a family and built a career. Nat shared his worldly wisdom, joie de vivre and wonderful sense of humour (and donuts whenever he came to visit!) with his family, colleagues, friends, children, Linda and Perry (Simone) and his grandchildren, Aaron and Kieran. Nat will truly be missed and fondly remembered.



AETERNA
Complexe funéraire • Funeral Complex

*Honor and celebrate life
in accordance to your traditions, values and customs,
while easing your experience during the difficult moments.*

55 Gince, Montreal • 514.228.1888 (Day & Night)
www.complexeaeterna.com

HOROSCOPE

Week of **MARCH 20 TO 26, 2022**

The luckiest signs this week:
ARIES, AQUARIUS AND PISCES

ARIES
You'll decide to make a big change in your life on a whim. You may go back to school or change your career path to follow your dreams.

TAURUS
The heart has its reasons, which reason knows not. In other words, your heart knows better than your head. Sometimes you must step out of your comfort zone to move in the right direction.

GEMINI
In your professional and personal life, you must be willing to negotiate. You must compromise to improve your relationships.

CANCER
Confusion or conflict will inspire you to start a new career. Take the time to weigh the pros and cons, and talk to your loved ones before deciding.

LEO
You'll be admired by many, which could change your life. You'll be recognized for your achievements, which will boost your self-esteem and confidence.

VIRGO
You may decide to move soon. Maybe it's time to sell the family home now that your children have left the nest. Don't be afraid of changes in your love life.

LIBRA
You'll be outspoken and express what others are only thinking. You'll be told a secret that keeps you guessing for a long time.

SCORPIO
You'll be offered an interesting solution to improve your financial situation. You'll finally have the freedom to redecorate your home or invest in a project you're passionate about.

SAGITTARIUS
You've got a lot going on this week. You may have to tell people how you really feel. Even if you usually avoid conflict, you may need to be confrontational to set things right.

CAPRICORN
Your mind is in overdrive. This allows you to deepen your spirituality. You'll start to see things from a more enlightened perspective and have greater empathy for others.

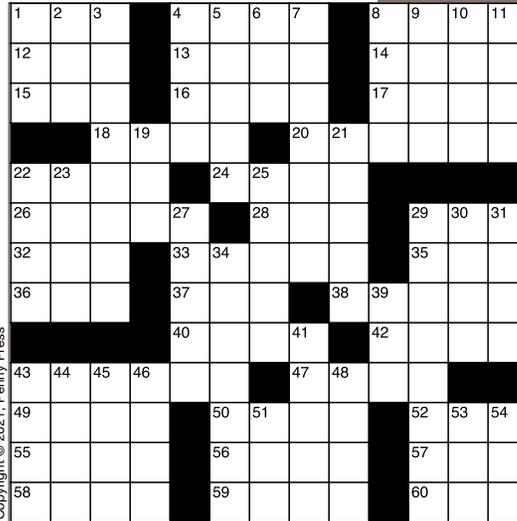
AQUARIUS
You'll be inspired by a social media post. A friend will help you become the person you've always wanted to be and show you how to become happier.

PISCES
You're busy this week. Make sure you space out your appointments to avoid feeling pressured. Time is precious.

Coffee Break

CROSSWORDS

PUZZLE NO. 117



Copyright © 2021, Penny Press

ACROSS

- Wooden nail
- Palo ____, California
- Is mistaken
- The whole amount
- Dog's bark
- Bucket
- Glide over snow
- Housetop
- Land amid water
- Dolls and yo-yos, e.g.
- Yearned
- Be overly fond
- Imprint firmly
- Met musical
- Female pronoun
- Cooling device
- Fuel guzzler
- Beast of burden
- Work by Shelley
- Stallone's moniker
- Smallest bill
- City divisions
- Great Barrier ____

DOWN

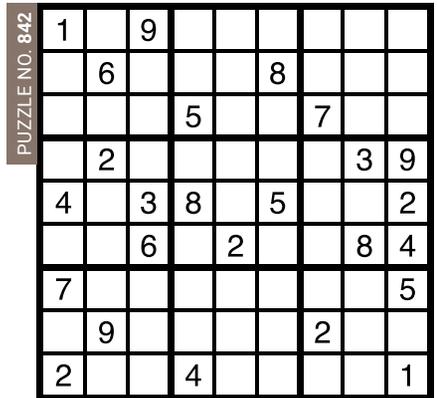
- Mas' mates
- Lodge member
- Sparkling
- Cockeyed
- At liberty
- Moreover
- Policeman
- Saga
- Poison-ivy result
- Annoy
- Husky's load
- Above, in verse
- Toss
- Physicians, shortly
- Milky jewel
- Strikeout number
- Bard
- Tall, woody plant
- Negative prefix
- Room extensions
- Contained
- Flop
- Part of a circle
- Cuban Castro
- Catholic leader
- Worshiped object
- Christmas
- Music and literature, e.g.
- Shortcoming
- Mine rock
- "____ Are My Sunshine"
- Discontinue

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.**

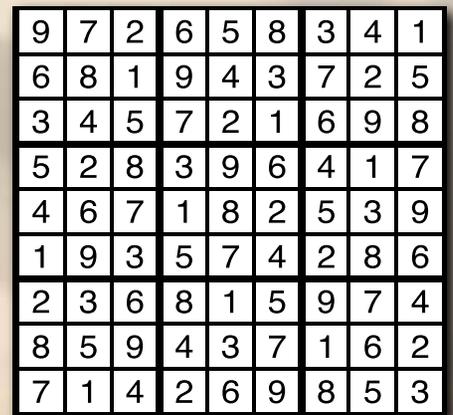


Last Issues' Answers

CROSSWORDS



Sudoku



SAVE MONEY

Print your cheques with us with confidence

We print all kinds of cheques:
Business, Canada or USA
Fast Delivery!

Amazing Prices!
200 for **\$84**
400 for **\$134**
1000 for **\$204**

MEDIA-TREK
Communications - Promotions - Marketing

Full Banking Security Features

Call us for more information **450.978.9999**



DAZZLING DEALS on Samsung Galaxy S21 FE 5G

\$
DOWN

0



SAMSUNG Galaxy S21 FE 5G

on approved credit and 0% interest with
Fido Payment Program¹, on select plans

LIMITED QUANTITIES

Visit mobifone.ca
to see all current offers

Place Forest
10539, Pie-IX Blvd.
514 325-7100

Decarie Square
6900 Decarie, Unit K001
514 739-6838

**436, Jean-Talon St West
du Parc Metro**
514 272-2355

**680, Jarry St East
Jarry Metro**
514 490-0099

MONTREAL

Complexe Desjardins
175, René-Lévesque Blvd. West
Place-des-Arts Metro
514 669-1880

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

Place Alexis Nihon
1500, Atwater Av.
Atwater Metro
514 939-5552

4190, St-Laurent Blvd.
Mont-Royal Metro
514 439-9934

Place Viau
7600, Viau Blvd.
514 887-7784

SOUTH SHORE

Valleyfield Centre
50 Dufferin, Unit 1200
Valleyfield
450 373-2335

Châteauguay Regional Centre
200 d'Anjou Blvd.,
Châteauguay
450 692-7769

NORTH SHORE

Galleries Terrebonne
1185, Moody Blvd.
Terrebonne
450 471-8972

LANAUDIERE

Galleries Joliette
1075 Firestone Blvd.
Joliette
450 499-3014

OUTAOUAIS

Les Galeries de Hull
320, St-Joseph Blvd.
Hull
819 205-1390



EXCLUSIVE DEALER **fido**

Offers subject to change without notice. A Setup Service Fee of \$50 applies to set up your device and related services. Taxes extra. **1. Fido Payment Program:** 0% APR on approved credit with a Fido Payment Program Agreement (FPPA) and an eligible Fido mobile plan. A larger down payment may be required based on our evaluation of your credit. FPPA based on full price less any down payment plus taxes (excluding promo credits, if applicable, which are applied monthly on your bill for as long as your FPPA is in place). Any down payment plus taxes is due in full upon purchase. If your FPPA is terminated or your mobile plan is cancelled, the outstanding Fido Payment Program balance becomes due and the promo credit (if applicable) will end. TMFido and related names & logos are trademarks of Rogers Communications Inc., used under licence. ©2022 Fido