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Application training sessions soon

Investment of \$1.2 million announced for Outaouais arts and literature



Culture Outaouais, along with Robert Bussière, Mathieu Lacombe, Ville de Gatineau, Municipalité de L'Ange-Gardien, Mathieu Lévesque, Culture et Communications Québec, Conférence des Préfets de l'Outaouais, Devenirs corps, Transistor Média, and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, celebrated the launch of the \$1.2 million Territorial Partnership Agreement to support cultural projects in the Outaouais region. (TF)

PHOTO COURTESY OF CULTURE OUTAOUAIS



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

In a significant boost for the arts and cultural scene in Outaouais, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) and its partners announced to-

day an investment of \$1,195,500 as part of a new Territorial Partnership Agreement. The agreement, which runs from 2024 to 2027, aims to support artistic and literary projects that connect local communities with culture, marking an exciting development for the region's creative landscape.

This investment, which represents a \$444,750 increase from the previous agreement, is designed to enhance the Outaouais Territorial Partnership Program. The program will finance creation, production, and dissemination projects, with the goal of fostering deeper ties between art and the community. The funds will be distributed over the next three years, ensuring sustained support for local artists, writers,

and organisations.

"This agreement is excellent news for the region!" said Mathieu Lacombe, Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications and Minister responsible for the Outaouais region. "The renewal of this partnership will allow numerous artistic projects to come to life, enriching the cultural offerings for the people of Outaouais."

Continued on page 3

Buckingham Veterinary Hospital commits to a greener future



Méjissa Gélinas
LJI Reporter

On Sunday morning, October 20, the green bend race took place, organized by the Buckingham Veterinary

Hospital, with the aim of raising funds for the Carbone Boréal organization.

Several participants were there at Armand-Daddy-Lacelle Park to mark the event.

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Outaouais
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOREST ACTIVITIES IN OUTAOUAIS FROM OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 24, 2024

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts invites the general public to take part in the public consultation on the 2023-2028 integrated operational forest development plans (the operational plans) for the Coulonge-et-Basse-Lièvre and Haute-Gatineau-et-du-Cabonga development units in Outaouais.

MUNICIPALITIES AND TERRITORIES CONCERNED

The operational plans present the potential forest operations zones in which non-commercial forestry operations may be carried out from April 2025 onwards. The work to be done may include land preparation, reforestation, release and regeneration, pre-commercial thinning, clearing and phytosanitary pruning. The work covered by the consultation will take place within the administrative boundaries of the Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, Pontiac and Papineau regional county municipalities (RCMs).

The municipalities and territories concerned are as follows:

MUNICIPALITIES AND UNORGANIZED TERRITORIES

Cayamant	Montpellier	Lac-Lenôtre
Chichester	Otter Lake	Lac-Moselle
Denholm	Sheenboro	Lac-Nilgaut
Kazabazua	Waltham	Lac-Pythonga
Mansfield-et-Pontefract	Cascades-Malignes	Réservoir-Dozois

To consult the plans and zones and to submit comments:
Quebec.ca/consultations-foret-outaouais

You have until 11.59 p.m. on November 24, 2024, to submit your comments.



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

The Department's specialists, in collaboration with the Pontiac RCM, will hold one virtual information session on the potential forest operations zones presented for public consultation. Instructions for submitting comments online will also be given, along with a description of the follow-up to the concerns expressed. The activity will end with a question period for participants.

Thursday, November 7, 12:00–1:30 p.m. – Register at www.trgirto.ca before noon on November 6, 2024.

A web link and instructions will be e-mailed to participants.

CONTACT US

The Department's specialists are also available from Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., as follows:

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts

Tel. 819 246-4827, ext. 701449

Consultationpafi-outaouais@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca

Note: It will not be possible, at this consultation, to review public land use or rights granted.

Québec 

Canada invests \$1.75 million to support area businesses



Tashi Farmilo
LJI Reporter

In a strategic effort to spur economic growth and innovation in Outaouais, the Canadian government is injecting close to \$2 million into four local businesses in Gatineau. The funding, delivered through Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (CED), is aimed at expanding production, fostering innovation, and bolstering the local economy.

This initiative underscores the government's ongoing commitment to regional economic development, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are seen as crucial engines of local growth. The announcement was made by Steven MacKinnon, Member of Parliament for Gatineau and Minister of Labour and Seniors, alongside Stéphane Lauzon, MP for Argenteuil—La Petite-Nation, representing Minister of Tourism Soraya Martinez Ferrada.

The financial support, which amounts to \$1.75 million in repayable contributions, targets four distinct businesses that have become pillars in their respective sectors.

La Trappe à Fromage de l'Outaouais, a well-established local producer known for its artisanal cheeses, will receive \$750,000 to expand its production facility. This expansion is not only expected to boost output but also to meet increasing demand for its products across the region, cementing its reputation as a local culinary staple.

Precision Portes et Moulures, a manufacturer of doors and mouldings, has been awarded \$600,000 to construct a new factory and acquire cutting-edge production equipment. The investment is poised to enhance the company's production capabilities and competitiveness, enabling it to better serve both the local market and beyond.

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Buckingham Veterinary Hospital commits to a greener future



Participants during the Green Bend Race at Armand-Daddy-Lacelle Park. (October 20, 2024)

PHOTO: MÉLISSA GÉLINA

Continued from page 1

The runners had to cover five km on the cycle path where some were accompanied by their 4-legged companions. The Guardian Angels of the animals were also on site to collect donations for their organization, which helps animals in need.

Both a program specialized in tree planting in deforested areas of Quebec and a research infrastructure at UQAC, Carbone Boréal aims to enable organizations and individuals to offset their greenhouse gas emissions. Tree planting is carried out, more precisely, in Quebec's boreal forests, which are naturally

bare. This allows for regeneration of the ecosystem.

Furthermore, tree planting also serves as experimental research for long-term carbon sequestration. Each tree was verified according to the protocol: ISO 14064-3 (Bureau de normalization du Québec).

Currently, forests capture a total of up to 25% of carbon. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it will be possible to increase the rate of carbon sequestration by more than 15% with the continuation of the efforts put in place, and this, through very simple actions like planting trees.

Application training sessions soon

Investment of \$1.2 million announced for Outaouais arts and literature

Continued from page 1

The initiative brings together a coalition of government and regional bodies, including the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the MRCs of Collines-de-l'Outaouais, Papineau, Pontiac, La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, the City of Gatineau, and Culture Outaouais. Each partner contributed to the agreement to ensure a wide-reaching impact across the entire region. Promoting Cultural Vitality and Regional Growth

Andrée Laforest, Quebec's Minister of Municipal Affairs, stressed the broader implications of the investment, stating, "Our government's involvement through the Regional and Rural Fund is helping to democratise access to the arts for citizens of the Outaouais. This agreement connects communities with unique creative projects that will enhance the region's appeal."

Benoit Lauzon, President of the Conférence des préfets de l'Outaouais, highlighted the importance of culture in territorial development, noting that the investment is crucial for the region's creators, artists, and artisans, whose work contributes to the vibrancy of the community.

CALQ's Interim President and CEO, Véronique Fontaine, celebrated the new agreement as a milestone. "For 30 years, CALQ has been supporting regional realities, ensuring art is accessible throughout Quebec. This agreement is a perfect birthday gift for CALQ, and I am grateful to all partners for their commitment to fostering local culture."

A call for projects has been launched for artists, professional writers, and arts organizations in the Outaouais region. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their

proposals to the CALQ by January 16, 2025. The new program provides support in various areas, including creation, production, mobility, and dissemination.

Culture Outaouais will also provide technical support for artists and organisations looking to submit proposals. To facilitate the application process, information sessions will be held on November 4 and November 5, 2024, catering to both individual artists and organisations.

Clara Lagacé, Co-President of Culture Outaouais, expressed enthusiasm for the potential of the new agreement. "The financial boost of this program is a real asset for the region. The previous agreement supported 46 projects, and this renewal will undoubtedly foster even more collaborations between artists, writers, and cultural organisations, driving creativity and community engagement across Outaouais."

Canada invests \$1.75 million to support area businesses

Continued from page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA TRAPPE À FROMAGE

On the agritourism front, *Courges & cie*, a popular farm offering a range of activities for visitors, will use its \$250,000 in funding to diversify its tourist attractions. Central to this expansion is the development of a market gardening ecomuseum, which will provide an educational experience for visitors and further integrate the farm into the region's burgeoning tourism sector.

Meanwhile, *Flirt Drinks*, a local beverage producer, is set to receive \$150,000 to acquire specialized equipment to scale up production. The company, known for its innovative drink offerings, has experienced growing demand,

and this investment will allow it to increase output while continuing to deliver high-quality products.

MacKinnon highlighted the importance of such investments in fostering a collaborative ecosystem where local businesses, government, and the community work in tandem to drive economic development. "By investing in local businesses like *La Trappe à Fromage* and *Precision Portes et Moulures*, we are reinforcing Gatineau's position as a vibrant economic hub," said MacKinnon. "These businesses are not only contributing to the economic strength of our region but also enhancing the quality of life for residents."

Lauzon echoed these sentiments, stressing the critical

role that SMEs play in the fabric of local communities. "SMEs are at the heart of our economy," he said. "By supporting local businesses, we are helping them grow, innovate, and continue to offer products and services that benefit everyone."

Soraya Martinez Ferrada, who leads CED as part of her role as Minister of Tourism, emphasized the broader goal of preparing Canada's regions for the economy of tomorrow. "Our mission is to support businesses and regions in seizing the opportunities of the future," she said. "By investing in Quebec's diverse regional assets, we are ensuring that local economies thrive and remain resilient."

L'Univers des Bambinos, Luskville installation celebrates their 25th of early childhood education



Sophie Demers
LJI Reporter

The Early Childhood Education (CPE) L'univers des Bambinos, Luskville installation, celebrated their 25th anniversary. Their event gathered over 90 educators, parents, and children on October 4th. The event consisted of a 45-minute music show by Junkyard Johnny Symphony. They then presented photos and news articles from the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th anniversaries. They also did a balloon send off to mark the milestone.

"We are proud of how we have incorporated nature in our pedagogy in the past few years," said Di-

ane Daigle, assistant director at CPE L'univers des Bambinos. "The kids have a lot of time outside and we organize many activities for them in nature. We have hens that the kids feed every day, we made a vegetable garden with the kids. In the spring we make maple syrup because we have a lot of maples near us." Daigle also highlights their collaboration with local businesses who provide them with vegetables in the summer and who have helped organize various outings for the children.

Daigle highlights that in order for these programs to continue they need more support from the Ministry of education to be able to get more staff and increase educators' salaries.



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Hydro-Quebec is Quebec's birthright, Mr Legault!



FRED Ryan

We shouldn't assume there is only one form of separatism / sovereignty within Quebec, and that the differences between them can be important. Thus, they're worthwhile for us (anglos) to pay close attention to.

First, of course, are the sovereignty policies of our current CAQ government. Premier Legault has told us from the start: he's not "a separatist in a hurry". He promised to take his time, preparing the "nation" for nation-hood, neatly sidestepping all the chaos and animosities generated by another Referendum, Capital 'R'.

Indeed, and that's what Legault is doing: cleaning out the minorities -- squeezing us from health services and from education, especially. He's betting

that if he can increase the heat enough, there'll be an exodus which will weaken the resident, historic minorities. "We didn't do nutin'" the CAQ could then claim. That's a major CAQ dream: simply "squeeze 'em out!"

Quebec's other separatist parties each have their own variant projects for the process and for the results of a possible sovereigntist election win. The PQ has led many of these older battles, but behind their legislative agenda has been a philosophy contrary to Legault's: the PQ (& others) intend to expand and strengthen Quebec to demonstrate that Quebec need not depend on Canada (which contains Alberta!) but we Quebecers (of all stripes) can show we can do it on our own, here, in our very large and rich province. And "we", they know, are the hardest audience to win over in this debate.

Rene Levesque and the PQ did not drive the minorities out; they rather incentivized learning French and getting involved in building a new, prosperous and generous nation of Quebec. "We" can decide if we want to make this big change, but at least we've been given honest reasons to support the change, not merely that minorities are always in the way.

A long time ago my wife and I farmed 500 acres in the Pontiac, with 300 breeding ewes, for 18 years. This was the era of the infamous first PQ "separatist" government, with Jean Garon their mInister of Agriculture. Mr Garon (his office) was as helpful to us, both of us anglos, as to anyone else -- his government's goal was to build a near-self-sufficient agricultural base for Quebec. Food security was the target; language seemed not the only issue.

That was Rene Levesque's, and the PQ's, approach -- quite different and softer than the CAQ's threat of slo-mo ethnic cleansing and its privatizing agenda.

On the other hand, Mr Legault's cabinet is largely pulled from the private sector (read: from within America's branch-plant economics), so there's little surprise to see these guys in suits salivating over the possibility of selling off successful public-run enterprises as Hydro-Quebec. And calling that "independence".

Premier Legault has invented a new form of "a sovereign Quebec" -- and he seems within striking distance of winning his point : A Sovereign Quebec Associated with Canada. Not subject to Canada. Not under any federal jurisdiction, unless Q buys in.

That should bring life to a full standstill.

LETTERS

to the **Editor** *Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the paper*

Legislating the protection of Gatineau Park

The National Capital Commission (NCC) stated in the latest Gatineau Park Master Plan the advantages and the need for modernizing the park's legal framework. As the plan points out, legislation would firm up the park's conservation mission and its protection, modernize pricing of activities, establish regulations and assign powers of protection.

To be sure, the idea of governing legislation for Gatineau Park is not new: Over the past several decades, individuals and conservation organizations have petitioned Parliament, and met with ministers, senators and members of Parliament. Social media campaigns to "make it a real park" are ongoing.

This may surprise readers who think Gatineau Park is a "real park" under a federal act. Sadly, Gatineau Park's boundaries are currently not legislated, and as such lands can be sold, or traded without parliamentary approval.

To date, Senators and MPs and even ministers have sponsored thirteen pieces of legislation. However, each died on the Order Paper for a variety of reasons. This underlines the absence of real parliamentary commitment and the lack of a clear assignment of responsibility in a ministerial mandate letter.

We now have a fourteenth effort to have legislation passed led by Senator Galvez and MP Chatel. This Bill is noteworthy for the effort to get input from interested parties and individuals. The Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has been directly involved in helping to draft the legislation, drawing from decades of research and consultation.

This Bill aimed at modifying the National Capital Act is important in that it clearly prioritizes the importance of maintaining ecological integrity, much like the National Parks Act. Further,

boundaries would be legislated and authority would be provided to the NCC to draw up and enforce regulations. A new and important proposed amendment is the need to work closer with the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation and neighbouring municipalities, including offering economic opportunities for the former.

Gatineau Park, on the doorstep of the National Capital, is significant in that it belongs to all Canadians and not just people in its vicinity. With climate

change impacts on our horizon, expanding urban developments and growing recreation demands, it is critical that Gatineau Park's biodiversity be given the high level of protection it deserves. The 118 rare or endangered species in the Park and 50 pristine lakes count on the passages of this Bill.

Nikita Lopoukhine
(retired Director General National Parks and former chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas)

Letters to the Editor Guidelines:

To make sure your letter is published:

All letters must be signed with a phone number (not published).

Any language is acceptable ... but be clear, civil, and not rude. All letters are edited for grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc, and for length.

Expect your letter to be edited. No personal attacks, nor promotional pieces for political candidates or parties accepted.

The Editor

West Quebec Post

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Why It Is So Important to Make Sure that You Are on the Voters' List and to Vote in the English School Board Elections on Sunday, November 3, 2024



On February 7, 2020, **Bill 40: An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance** was passed by a vote of 60 to 35 in the National Assembly of Québec. It had been introduced by Jean-François Roberge, then the Minister of Education and Higher Education. It intended to convert all commissions scolaires into centres de services scolaire, and the nine English-language school boards into school service centres.

The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) challenged the legislation as a violation of the minority language education rights under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Québec Superior Court Judge Sylvain Lussier in August 2023 issued a 125-page judgment on the constitutional challenge awarding a stay to the nine English-language school boards. The Attorney General of Québec has challenged the judgment of Justice Lussier.

Canada has always been blessed with four levels of government: federal, provincial, municipal, and school board. Unfortunately, the majority Government of Québec attempted to dispense with the fourth level on February 7, 2020. Kudos to the leadership of QESBA for standing up to the authoritarian

Coalition Avenir Québec government who repeatedly uses closure and the Notwithstanding Clause to bulldoze through unpopular legislative measures.

It is important for voters to ensure that they are on the voters' list and to inform themselves about the candidates running for Chair of the Board and for Commissioner in their electoral division. The voter turnout is of primordial importance. The most used reason by the government especially when it came to the commissions scolaires was the embarrassing low percentages of voter turnout over the years.

All nine English-language school boards have appointed Returning Officers and Election Clerks.

The Western Quebec School Board has appointed Ms. Rachel Vincent as Returning Officer. She may be reached at 819-592-0895 rvincent@wqsb.qc.ca. Mr. Eldon Keon is the Election Clerk. He may be reached at 819-661-5965 ekeon@wqsb.qc.ca.

Does voting matter? The clear answer is "yes!" Voting is a key element of civic engagement and a critical part of the democratic process. *"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy."* - John Lewis



Mission to Europa

by Gwynne DYER

AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Elon Musk's 'Starship' project did something spectacular this week. The 160-tonne booster landed safely in the arms (or rather, the 'chopsticks') of a rocket-catching device that will soon allow the rapid turn-around and reuse of heavy-lift vehicles.

When fully operational, probably within two years, Starship will cut the cost of putting things into orbit as much as fifty-fold. Maybe it will eventually go to Mars. But in the end it's just a better tool – a giant spacefaring truck.

The scientific event of the year was the launch on Monday of the Europa Clipper mission from Cape Canaveral. It's carrying the biggest unmanned vehicle ever sent beyond Earth orbit. It will take more than five years to reach Europa, but when it finally gets there (almost three billion km. later) it may be able to tell us what we really want to know.

"If we discover life so far away from the Sun, it would imply a separate origin of life to the Earth," explained Mark Fox-Powell, a planetary microbiologist at Britain's Open University. "That is hugely significant, because if that happens twice in our solar system, it could mean life is really common."

It doesn't need to be very complex life, which is probably unlikely to evolve at the bottom of Europa's sunless sea. We already know that in more favourable circumstances life will evolve into a multitude of forms, so all we need to learn from Europa is that some form of life, even simple microbes, has already come into existence there.

The real question is whether we are alone in the universe. People don't wander around asking themselves that question, of course, but it is the ultimate context-setter. Are we unique, the only bearers of life in an otherwise barren universe, or are we just one more species having a brief fling on one more planet in one more galaxy?

Europa, one of Jupiter's four big 'Galilean' moons, could hold the answer. It's big – about the size of Earth's own Moon – and it appears to have a giant saltwater ocean up to 150 km. deep.

That ocean probably froze over very early in Europa's history, perhaps as early as 4.5 billion years ago, because Europa is five times farther from the Sun than we

are. Indeed, the sheath of ice around Europa is estimated to be fifteen to twenty-five km. thick.

However, beneath that ice there is at least as much liquid water as there is on Earth. Europa revolves around Jupiter, whose immense gravitational pull stretches and squeezes the moon's rock and ice. That creates enormous tidal forces even in solid rock and causes enough friction and heat to keep an entire ocean molten.

There is no light beneath the ice so photosynthesis, which provides the energy for complex life, is not possible. However, living creatures using different biochemical pathways (chemosynthesis) thrive in complete darkness around 'hydrothermal' volcanic vents in the deepest parts of Earth's oceans. That may even be where life on Earth got its start.

If similar living creatures exist on Europa, they would transform our understanding of the universe, for there is no way that they could be related to earthly life. Even more than the distance, the thick carapace of ice that isolates Europa's ocean from the rest of the universe means that any life there will have had a completely separate origin.

The rest follows almost automatically. If two unrelated instances of life have arisen in this single planetary system, then it's a safe bet that life in the universe is as common as dirt. Indeed, there are at least four ice-covered ocean moons in the outer Solar system, and maybe as many as eight, so there could even be many different lineages of life circling our own Sun.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. We don't yet know if there is life in Europa's ocean, and finding out will be very hard. The Europa Clipper mission will only be able to do a low fly-by of Europa for a couple of hours every three weeks, because longer immersion in Jupiter's huge radiation zone would fry its electronics.

Europa Clipper carries nine instruments to explore and measure the moon's surface, its magnetic field and (remotely) its ocean, but the jackpot would be a sample of the seawater, ideally with living things in it. If they get lucky, NASA's scientists could even get that, because some of them think occasional plumes of that seawater erupt from the surface.

Eat your heart out, Christopher Columbus. This is real exploration!

To see more of the *Post*, go to westquebecpost.com

New sustainable development program for Outaouais companies



Djeneba Dosso
LJJ Reporter

The Chamber of Commerce and CREDDO are now offering a new sustainable development program for companies and entrepreneurs. Participants will be accompanied by experts and later accredited certification recognized in Outaouais upon the completion of the program. The Chamber of Commerce has listed the set-up of a feasible action plan, the strengthening of companies' reputations by demonstrating commitment and the meeting of new market expectations as some of the benefits of enrolling in the program.

Two paths are available through either G4G or CREDDO for companies looking to "transition to sustainable and responsible practices."

G4G who has been helping SMEs and NPOs "assess their impact and in-

tegrate strategies aligned with their values and priorities" since 2020 present their exclusive M4P methodology to companies looking to grow their business. Key features of the M4P approach according to their website include an immediate understanding of the issues and opportunities for the company; aid in recruiting people motivated by the company's new positioning; communication advice to enhance and monetize the new positioning of the company, topped off by a certificate with a G4G seal that testifies to social and environmental benevolence.

G4G offers online and in person support option. The in person program is spread over 10 weeks with an expert supervisor while the MP4 online program is mainly done online with the exception of interventions by an expert companion. The online support option will only be available as of January 2025. At the end of the program, an analysis of participants' impact on the 17 Sustain-

able Development Goals (SDGs) will be assessed and they will leave with the promise of a "realistic and measurable three-year policy and action plan."

CREDDO's program is built around creating "sustainable development solutions by carrying out projects in green economy, adaptation to climate change and biodiversity conservation" in the Outaouais. Their ECO-RESPONSIBLE MC certification is divided into four levels; the starting point or current situation, the design of change, the DD Charter and Strategy and the future roadmap. These levels are compiled in two steps, the first being; the turnkey where CREDDO offers support focused on 24 sustainable development issues in order to make "the management of business activities responsible and ethical." This steps requires companies to transition into the adoption of transparent governance practices, the reduction of the environmental footprint of activities, the promotion of the

well-being of employees and local communities, and the creation of long-term value for all stakeholders. Step two is the ECO-RESPONSIBLE MC International Certification Process once the program is completed at which point the company will have all the necessary information to submit its file to the ECOCERT certification body, an independent and international organization that operates in more than 120 countries around the world.

CREDDO's program lasts roughly five to six months and their certificate is valid for two years before needing renewal.

Unlike G4G's program, CREDDO's certification is recognized beyond the borders of the Outaouais. Nonetheless, "companies that participate in the program proposed by CREDDO can also register in the local G4G directory to have their actions in the Outaouais enhanced."



Avis public d'élection

Commission scolaire Western Quebec - Élection scolaire du 1er décembre, 2024

AVIS PUBLIC est, par la présente, donné aux électeurs de la commission scolaire par Rachel Vincent, présidente d'élection, que :

1. Les postes suivants sont ouverts aux candidatures:

- Poste de commissaire :
 - o Circonscription 5 (École Chelsea)
 - o Circonscription 7 (École Greater Gatineau)
 - o Circonscription 8 (École PETES, Hadley-PWHS, Hull Adult Ed.)
 - o Circonscription 10 (École Lord Aylmer, WQCC)

2. Toute déclaration de candidature à ces postes devra être produite au bureau de la présidente d'élection aux jours suivants :

Du 22 octobre, au 26 octobre; inclusivement De 9:00 h à midi et de 13 h à 16 h	le dimanche 27 octobre, le bureau sera ouvert de 13 h à 17 h
Commission scolaire Western Québec 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, QC J9J 0A6	

3. Si plus d'un candidat pose sa candidature à un même poste,
- Un scrutin sera tenu le 1er décembre de 10 h à 20 h et,
 - Un vote par anticipation sera tenu le 24 novembre, de 12 h à 20 h.

4. J'ai nommé M. Eldon Keon pour agir à titre de secrétaire d'élection.

5. Un électeur qui n'a pas d'enfant admis aux services éducatifs de la commission scolaire anglophone ou du centre de services scolaire francophone qui dessert son domicile peut choisir d'exercer ou de révoquer son droit de vote dans la commission scolaire anglophone. L'électeur fait un choix en présentant un avis écrit signé à la présidente d'élection de la commission scolaire anglophone, du 4 novembre au 12 novembre, à 22 h.

6. Vous pouvez me joindre, ou joindre mon secrétaire, aux coordonnées suivantes :

Présidente d'élection

Rachel Vincent
819-592-0895
rvincent@wqsb.qc.ca

Secrétaire d'élection

Eldon Keon
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Donné à Gatineau, le 10 octobre.

Rachel Vincent
Présidente d'élection

Western Quebec School Board elections: a focus on educational excellence and community engagement

Salma **Quardouz**
LJI Reporter

The Western Quebec School Board (WQSB) is gearing up for its upcoming elections, set to take place on November 3, 2024. As the region prepares to vote for new commissioners, the emphasis is on enhancing educational quality, fostering community engagement, and addressing the evolving needs of students and families in the district.

The WQSB, which serves a diverse population across the Outaouais region, has always provided high-quality education that respects the unique cultural and linguistic backgrounds of its students. This year's election is particularly significant given the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic and the shifting dynamics in education. The outcomes will directly impact policies regarding student resources, school environments, and community involvement in educational programs.

Candidates are vying for positions in several key areas, including governance,

finance, and community relations. Each candidate brings a unique perspective and set of experiences, aiming to contribute to the school board's mission of delivering inclusive and effective educational opportunities. As of now, the candidate slate includes a blend of seasoned educators, local business professionals, and community advocates, all passionate about enhancing the learning experience for students in the region.

One of the main issues at the forefront of this election is the need for improved mental health resources in schools. Many candidates are campaigning on platforms that prioritize mental health initiatives, recognizing the importance of creating safe and supportive environments for students. With the recent rise in mental health concerns exacerbated by the pandemic, the focus on this issue resonates strongly with both parents and educators.

Additionally, candidates are placing a spotlight on the integration of technology in classrooms. As digital learning becomes increasingly essential, there are discussions around allocating resources

for technological advancements and training teachers to implement these tools effectively. By embracing innovative teaching methods, the WQSB aims to equip students with the skills necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving job landscape. Community engagement is another significant theme in this election.

Candidates are advocating for greater collaboration between schools, parents, and local organizations to create a more cohesive educational ecosystem. Initiatives are being proposed that encourage parent participation in school activities, workshops to inform families about educational opportunities, and forums for open communication between the board and the community. This approach is expected to foster a sense of belonging and solidarity that extends beyond the classroom.

The WQSB has also been under scrutiny regarding its handling of funding and resource allocation. Candidates are emphasizing transparency and accountability in financial matters, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are efficiently utilized

to benefit all students. Discussions surrounding equitable access to programs and services for schools across the region are expected to be a focal point during the campaign. As the election date approaches, it is essential for community members to engage in the electoral process. Voter turnout is crucial in ensuring that the voices of parents, students, and educators are heard. The WQSB encourages residents to learn about each candidate's platform and participate in local debates and forums.

The upcoming Western Quebec School Board elections present an opportunity for the community to shape the educational landscape for years to come. With an emphasis on mental health, technology integration, financial transparency, and community engagement, the newly elected commissioners will play a pivotal role in fostering a positive and enriching environment for students in Western Quebec. The elections on November 3 will undoubtedly set the stage for a new chapter in the region's commitment to educational excellence.



Public Notice of Election

Western Quebec School Board – School Board elections of December 1, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the electors of the school board by Rachel Vincent, returning officer, that:

1. The following positions are open for applications:

- Commissionners for:
 - **Ward 5 (Chelsea Elementary)**
 - **Ward 7 (Greater Gatineau Elementary)**
 - **Ward 8 (PETES Elementary, Hadley-PWHS, Hull Adult Ed.)**
 - **Ward 10 (Lord Aylmer Elementary, WQCC)**

2. Nominations for these positions must be submitted to the office of the returning officer on the following days:

From 22 October to 26 October inclusively, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	on Sunday 27 October, the office will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Western Quebec School Board 15, rue Katimavik, Gatineau, QC J9J 0A6	

3. If more than two candidates apply for the same position,

- A poll will be held on 1 December from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,
- An advance poll will be held on November 24, from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

4. I have appointed Mr. Eldon Keon to act as my election clerk.

5. An elector who does not have a child admitted to the educational services of the English-language school board or the French school service centre serving his/her domicile may choose to exercise or revoke their right to vote at an English-language school board. This choice is made by sending a notice in writing to the returning officer of the English-language school board, from November 4 to November 12, at 10 p.m.

6. You can contact me or my clerk on the following numbers:

Returning Officer

Rachel Vincent
819-592-0895
rvincent@wqsb.qc.ca

Election Clerk

Eldon Keon
819-661-5965
ekeon@wqsb.qc.ca

Given in Gatineau on October 10.

Rachel Vincent
President of elections

Innu artist Mike Paul Kuekuatsheu brings the spirit and history of his people to Gatineau



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

On the evening of November 5, the quiet shelves of the Donalda-Charron Library in Gatineau's Aylmer sector will transform into a portal for an immersive cultural experience. Mike Paul Kuekuatsheu, an Innu singer-songwriter, cultural guide, and traditional hunter-gatherer from the Mashteuiatsh community, will lead an audience through a vivid journey of his people's history, traditions, and spiritual connections. The conference, Mike Paul Kuekuatsheu: History of the Innu People, is a free event organized by the Ville de Gatineau, but those interested must register ahead of time to secure their places.

Kuekuatsheu's life is deeply intertwined with the collective memory of the Innu people. His music—an evocative blend of folk, rock, and traditional rhythms—is more than just melody; it reflects his heritage. “Our music is the heartbeat of our people,” he explains, emphasizing that his work is inspired by the natural world and the spiritual significance it holds in Innu culture. “In our tradition, the drum is the beating heart that connects us with the caribou spirit, the land, and the animals. It's how we communicate with the spirit world.”

This conference is not merely a presentation but an immersive experience. Kuekuatsheu will guide attendees through the myths and realities of the Innu people, using stories, music, and objects like ceremonial drums and moccasins crafted by his family. “I want people to feel the rhythm of our land, to understand that the caribou is not just an animal for us—it's a lifeline, a spirit. The drums we play before the hunt connect us to the caribou, asking for a good hunt and honouring its spirit,” he says, highlighting the sacred relationship his people have with nature.

A key focus of the event will be the Innu language, Innu-aimun, which is endangered. “Language is more than words; it's the soul of our culture,” Kuekuatsheu re-



Mike Paul Kuekuatsheu's upcoming conference in Gatineau will offer an immersive exploration of Innu history, culture, and spirituality, highlighting the sacred connection between the Innu people and the endangered caribou amidst modern environmental challenges. (TF)

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE PAUL KUEKUATSHEU

flects. Having grown up in the forest learning from his parents and grandparents, he experienced firsthand the oral traditions that form the backbone of Innu knowledge and spirituality. “When we lose our language, we lose our way of understanding the world,” he continues, stressing the urgency of preserving this linguistic heritage.

In an era where Indigenous languages and traditions face ongoing threats, Kuekuatsheu's work is a testament to cultural resilience. His mission is not just about keeping traditions alive for their own sake but about transmitting the “heartbeat of the Innu” to younger generations and wider audiences alike. “I bring the drums, the caribou skins, and our stories so that people can touch and feel what it means to be Innu,” he says. “It's not about reading history from a book; it's about living it.”

The event promises more than a passive education; it is an invitation to experience the rhythm and spirit of a people whose existence has been intricately tied to the land and its animals for generations. For one evening,

attendees will be transported into the heart of Nutshimit, the Innu's inland territory, where Kuekuatsheu will share not just the past, but the ongoing realities faced by his community. The caribou, central to the Innu's traditional way of life, is not only a source of sustenance but a profound spiritual connection that shapes their identity. However, these animals are now on the brink of extinction due to industrial activities, logging practices, and the impacts of climate change.

Mike Paul Kuekuatsheu's presence in Gatineau goes beyond a simple visit; it is a vibrant act of cultural preservation and sharing. By bringing the stories of his ancestors, he builds bridges of understanding, reminding us that the heartbeat of the land still resonates for those who choose to listen. Attendees can expect more than just knowledge; they will experience an intimate connection with the enduring spirit of the Innu people. For more details about the event, visit: https://calendrier.gatineau.cloud/calendrier/evnement.aspx?langue=en-ca&id_evenement=44725.

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Diabetes: risks and management, Connexions helps Outaouais understand



REUEL S. Amdur

Connexions Resource Centre held an information session on diabetes at the Wakefield Community Centre on October 16. The event was timely, as the Senate had just approved the Pharmacare Act, which is now law. The act provides universal coverage for drugs and supplies for birth control and diabetes. The federal government must now negotiate with the provincial and territorial governments on implementation. For diabetes this legislation opens the door for payment for test strips, lancets (small needles), and glucose meters, supplies that can be very expensive. The ball is now in Quebec's court to take advantage of the law. The federal government currently in power plans to extend drug coverage in the future.

Roland Blondin, vice-president of Diabète Outaouais, was the speaker. He spelled out the nature of diabetes and its care and prevention. This report covers his account.

In diabetes, the body makes little or no insulin, and the body cannot use it. Insulin regulates blood sugar levels, turning food into energy. There are three types of diabetes, one, two, and gestational. All pregnant women should be tested for gestational diabetes. Diabetes 1 occurs in children and young adults whose bodies produce little or no insulin. This condition is genetic and cannot be prevented. Treatment is much



Roland Blondin, vice-president of Diabète Outaouais, was the speaker at the Connexions information session, October 16. PHOTO: REUEL S. AMDUR

the same as in type 2.

Type 2 diabetes is most commonly found in people 40 and over. It may be prevented. Risk factors include age, family history of the condition, ethnicity, high blood pressure or cholesterol, overweight, and physical inactivity. People of non-European origins are at greater risk—Black, Asian, Indigenous, Latino, or Pacific Islanders.

We can change some of the risk factors for type 2 diabetes. We can exercise, control our weight, eat healthily, and treat high blood pressure and cholesterol. We

can stop smoking and care for our feet, cleaning and drying between toes.

There are signs of diabetes of which we should be aware: constant thirst, frequent urination, weight change, tiredness, blurred vision, frequent or recurring infections, cuts or bruises that do not heal, tingling or numbness in hands or feet, impotence. Check feet nightly for problems.

If diabetes is not prevented or adequately controlled, long term consequences can be heart attack, stroke, kidney problems, visual impairment and blindness, nerve problems, amputations, and early death.

Meals are important in diabetes prevention and control. Follow the Canada Food Guide. On a dinner plate, half should be for two or more vegetables, a fourth for grains and legumes, and a fourth for lean meat and substitutes such as beans and lentils, with milk or water to drink and fruit for dessert. Junk snacks high in fat and sugar are discouraged. Diabète Outaouais offers cooking classes in French, but interpretation in English is available.

In order to control and prevent diabetes, 150 minutes of weekly exercise is recommended. That includes walking. We need to avoid stress, as it leads to fluctuation in blood sugar level. For help in dealing with diabetes, consult a nurse or dietician. Contact Diabète Outaouais for information or to learn how to participate in the organization. 819-770-0442.

Opération Père Noël faces growing need for volunteers in Outaouais



Tashi Farmilo
LJ Reporter

As Opération Père Noël begins its 30th annual campaign, the organisation has seen a significant rise in requests from children, particularly in the Outaouais region, including Gatineau, Papineau, and Pontiac. The foundation, which connects underprivileged children with "Santas" who fulfil their Christmas wishes, is facing a growing gap between the number of children in need and available volunteers.

With inflation and economic pressures affecting many families, the foundation expects to receive around 33,000 letters from children this year, an increase of 15% compared to last year. Thérèse Guillemette, Mother Christmas and co-founder of Opération Père Noël, points to the difficult financial situation of many Quebec families as the primary cause for this increase.

"We are appealing to people's generosity, especially in the Outaouais, Abitibi, and Gaspésie regions, to ensure that all children can have a magical moment on December 25," said Guillemette. She emphasised that many children, in addition to asking for toys or books, are now requesting essential items like winter coats, boots, and even food, as poverty deepens in these communities.



Opération Père Noël is facing a growing need for volunteers and donations in the Outaouais region as requests from children in need have increased by 15% this year due to economic hardships. (TF)

PHOTO COURTESY OF OPÉRATION PÈRE NOËL

Opération Père Noël allows volunteers to become "Santa Claus" by signing up through the foundation's website, where they receive a child's wish list and provide a gift, typically valued at around \$50. While toys and clothing remain common requests, the foundation is seeing more children asking for basic needs to be

met this year, underlining the financial strain on many families.

"Many young people are not asking for a treat but rather for necessities, like a warm coat or boots," Guillemette added, stressing the importance of fulfilling these requests to bring some relief to struggling families.

To address the growing number of requests and the shortage of volunteers, the foundation is also calling for donations. Monetary contributions help fulfil last-minute requests and provide gifts for children in emergency situations, such as those in shelters or rehabilitation centres on Christmas Eve. Donations can be made directly through the foundation's website: <https://operationperenoel.com/>

On November 6, the foundation will host a Christmas cocktail party at Maison Alcan to raise additional funds. The event offers an opportunity for people to contribute to Opération Père Noël while enjoying a festive evening. Tickets are available online, with all proceeds supporting the foundation's mission to bring joy to children in need.

Thérèse Guillemette expressed her deep gratitude to those who have already volunteered or donated, saying, "Their commitment will make a big difference in a child's life, giving them hope and reminding them that Santa Claus truly exists."

Car-sharing program launches to promote eco-friendly transport



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

In a move aimed at tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions, a new car-sharing initiative called Horizons Partagés has been launched, bringing hybrid rechargeable vehicles to rural communities in Quebec. The project, developed by the Conseil régional de l'environnement et du développement durable de l'Outaouais (CREDDO), is set to transform transportation options in the municipalities of Chelsea and La Pêche by offering residents an eco-friendly alternative to personal car ownership.

Supported by several organizations, including the Fédération Canadienne des Municipalités (FCM), Communauto, and Équiterre, the initiative introduces 16 shared vehicles—12 in Chelsea and 4 in La Pêche—available through the Communauto platform. By encouraging shared mobility, the project aims to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions, with transportation accounting for 79% of emissions in Chelsea.

"We are taking a great step toward a more sustainable future with the launch of Horizons Partagés," said Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi. "This project is a perfect example of collaboration between CREDDO, our private partners, and the community. Together, we're proposing a concrete solution to reduce



A new car-sharing initiative, Horizons Partagés, has launched, providing hybrid vehicles to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable mobility in the municipalities of Chelsea and La Pêche. (TF)

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREDDO

greenhouse gas emissions and promote environmentally responsible mobility."

The project represents more than just a car-sharing service; it signals a shift in urban planning and community development. In Chelsea, municipal regulations have been updated to reduce parking requirements in new developments, with the introduction of shared vehicles expected to

eliminate the need for approximately 150 parking spaces. This change not only reduces heat islands but also supports the region's broader sustainability goals.

"The Horizons Partagés car-sharing project represents a pivotal moment for our municipality," remarked Pierre Guénard, Mayor of Chelsea. "By collaborating with CREDDO, the FCM, and our local partners, we are advancing our commitment to sustainable and intermodal transportation. This initiative not only helps reduce our carbon footprint but also offers residents a new, eco-friendly mobility option."

Local developers and businesses have played a crucial role in bringing the project to life, contributing to both the funding and integration of the vehicles into housing developments. Additionally, Taxi Loyal, a local taxi company, will handle the fleet's maintenance to ensure smooth operation.

Benoit Delage, Director General of CREDDO, noted the importance of this collaborative effort. "This kind of collaboration requires seizing opportunities, aligning the interests of all partners, and understanding the needs of residents. I remain convinced that with a little boldness, climate action is within everyone's reach."

With Horizons Partagés, rural communities are taking meaningful steps toward reducing their environmental impact, offering a model for sustainable transportation that could inspire other regions to follow suit.

Construction careers camp set to inspire Gatineau residents



Tashi Farmilo
LJJ Reporter

The Construction Careers Camp, an initiative aimed at attracting new talent to the construction industry, was in Gatineau on the 26th and 27th of October. The event, organised by the Association de la construction du Québec (ACQ) in collaboration with the Quebec government, offered an opportunity for participants to gain hands-on experience in various trades and explore potential career paths within the construction sector.

The camp, which was free of charge, invited individuals aged 15 and above who are interested in learning about the construction industry or seeking a career change. Participants had the chance to try their hand at several construction professions, including carpentry, masonry, plastering, operating machinery, and electrical work. All necessary equipment, including safety gear and meals, was provided to attendees.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to address labour shortages in Quebec's construction industry, which requires an estimated 17,000 new workers annually. By offering practical, hands-on training, the camp aimed to attract underrepresented groups such as women, Indigenous communities, youth, and those considering a career transition.

The Gatineau event was one of several stops on the Construction Careers Camp tour, which includes vis-



The Construction Careers Camp in Gatineau, October 26-27, offered free hands-on training in various construction trades to attract new talent and address labour shortages in Quebec's construction industry. (TF)

PHOTO: COURTESY

its to cities across Quebec, such as Sept-Îles, Pessamit, Jonquière, and Trois-Rivières. The tour, supported by a \$1.3 million investment from the Quebec government, continues through the fall and early winter, with upcoming events planned in Laval, Montreal, and Sherbrooke.

The camp not only provided a gateway into the construction industry but also a chance to experience a day in the life of a construction professional, offering valuable insights and skills that can lead to long-term career opportunities. For more information, visit the ACQ's official website: <https://www.acq.org/campconstruction/>.

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AYLMER LEGION: -Oct. 26 at 7 pm: Halloween Rock Party with Live Music by "Arc of Fire", free admission, prize for best costume. -Oct. 27, 9 am-noon: Breakfast organized by the Aylmer Lions Club. -Nov. 3: Walk of Remembrance starting at 1 pm at Pink Cemetery. -Nov. 9 at 7 pm: Dance Party with DJ 90s & 2000s music, free admission. -Nov. 11 at 11 am: Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Aylmer Parc Commémoratif followed by a reception at the Legion. -Nov. 12 at 10 am: Empowering Seniors; Protection & Fraud Prevention Workshop. Free admission. -Nov. 16 at 7 pm: Live Music with "Hey Neighbour Mon Voisin". -Nov. 10, 10 am-4 pm: Sip & Shop craft sale and fundraising to help the victims of the Aylmer Arms fire. -Nov. 19 at noon: Seniors and Friends Lunch followed with karaoke and dance, tickets on sale at the Branch. The Aylmer Legion is located at 59 Bancroft Street, Aylmer, QC. For more info, please email us at Aylmerlegion33@gmail.com.

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CHRISTMAS FARM HOP. Come join us for the next Farm Hop on November 2-3, 2024 from 10 am to 3 pm in the Chemin Crégheur area of Luskville, Quebec. The Farm Hop was born out of a desire to share our farms and sustainable practices with our local community. The first of its kind in the area, we are hoping it will be embraced and loved for providing original, quality handmade wares and art, and further people's knowledge on wellness and sustainability. I hope you

can make it out to support your local community! Three farms and a vineyard will be participating, and each farm has animals to see and will have their wares on offer as well as hosting other artisans (the artisans will be posted under each host). There are also Gatineau Park trails along Crégheur for some great hiking. More info can be found at www.luskville.farm-hop.com. NOTE: Please do not bring your dog(s) onto any of the farm properties. 3164 Chemin Wilson, Pontiac, QC J0X, Canada

CHRISTMAS MARKET! Christmas is coming to Aylmer early this year! On Sunday, November 3, from 10 am until 3 pm, come and join us to celebrate the upcoming holiday season and get some early Christmas shopping done. With over 30 local vendors, there will be something for everyone on your Christmas list. At the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 78 Rue Princi-

pale, Gatineau (Aylmer). Canteen on site | Doors prizes | Gifts for the first 25 kids.

NEW DART LEAGUE AT PUTTERS! Located at the Galeries Aylmer 181 Principale Street, Gatineau (Aylmer). Thursdays at 7 pm. The cost is \$5 per person. Everyone welcome! Info: Christine: 819-213-9069, ctubman36@gmail.com or Gaston: 819-210-7041, gastonlarocque21@gmail.com.

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ST. MARK'S CHURCH, 160 RUE PRINCIPALE, ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR on Saturday, November 9th, from 8 am to 2 pm. We will have household items, jewelry, crafts, toys, games, small electronic & sports

items, home-baked goods, and a 'Gift Shop' so come for some early Christmas shopping.

SANTA'S PARADE IN AYLMEER See Santa Claus at the November 30 parade starting at 6 p.m. on Rue Principale, Gatineau, Aylmer sector. The float departs from the Marina and ends at Galeries Aylmer. Dress warmly, find a spot on the sidewalk, and let the magic of the holidays enchant you!

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