

## Prime Minister Justin Trudeau admits foreign worker rules need to be reviewed

Gilles Gagné

SAINT-SIMÉON – The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, admits that some relaxation is needed regarding the rules governing the recruitment of foreign workers. He thus responded to two major Gaspé employers during his August 18 visit to the Baie-des-Chaleurs area.

These employers particularly want it to be easier to recruit these workers through a reduction in paperwork, and for these workers to be able, for example, to move from a seafood processing plant to a farm or a food processing company without having to leave the country, which is compulsory in almost every case as of now.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau indicated that his government will look into ways to modify the system in place.

“What we are seeing is that we have to revisit this (...), that temporary workers can turn into permanent workers. We must also counter the declining birth rate,” he told Gino Lebrasseur, Director General of Unipêche MDM, of Paspebiac, a group owning several fish processing plants in the Gaspé Peninsula and on the North Shore.

The Prime Minister thus went further than Mr. Lebrasseur's request. He is committed to addressing the issue of foreign labour, a phenomenon increasingly present in the Gaspé Peninsula and elsewhere in maritime Quebec.

“These people are here to work,” underlines Mr. Lebrasseur. “We want the government to facilitate the administrative aspects of recruiting these workers and to ensure that the criteria is relaxed. We must maximize their use. If they come to work in the fisheries, and if fish processing goes down during the season, they have to be able to work in agriculture. There are farms close that would take



Photo: G. Gagné

*Prime Minister Justin Trudeau volunteered for several photos, as seen above with the Bourdages Farm family.*

them, like Ferme Bourdages and Ferme Paquet, for example.”

Pierre Bourdages, President of Saint-Siméon's Ferme Bourdages, a major processor of food products, welcomed Prime Minister Trudeau on August 18 at the farm he owns with his brother Jean-

François. Pierre Bourdages made him aware of the difficulties of recruiting foreign workers. Ferme Bourdages hires 12 people year-round, but about 100 in the summer.

“It would really help us if recruiting was simplified. I did not speak to him specifically about transferring workers

from one sector of activity to another, but it would be a very good idea,” notes Mr. Bourdages.

Justin Trudeau also made stops at Fabrication Delta and Rail GD in New Richmond. At the latter place, vice-president and minority shareholder Gabriel Bélanger showed him

around.

Despite numerous requests, journalists were not allowed to ask questions to Prime Minister Trudeau before, during or after the industrial visits. He did not make any announcement in the Gaspé Peninsula but he did the following day in the Magdalen Islands.

## Justin Trudeau questioned on the fate of caribou

Nelson Sergerie

NEW RICHMOND - The fate of the woodland caribou in the Gaspé Peninsula Park came up for discussion at noon on August 18 in New Richmond during Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to the Gaspé Peninsula.

Environnement Vert Plus activists displayed a banner reading “Stop the caribou cuts.”

The Prime Minister spoke briefly with the few activists there. “I'm going to take this back to the team. I am following this file closely. I know that people are working hard on it. We'll get back to you,” said Justin Trudeau to Pascal



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke briefly with Pascal Bergeron.*

Bergeron, spokesperson for Environnement Vert Plus.

“We did not have a delay in relation to the issuance of the decree. We are in the same

position as last April. We are promised one. We are waiting impatiently to stop the cuts in the peripheral areas of caribou habitat. We hope that today's

visit will help make it all happen,” said Mr. Bergeron.

The activist also mentioned that the Federal Ministry of the Environment is aware of the Bioparc de la Gaspésie project, which wishes to welcome caribou to ensure their survival.

“We want to emphasize that this is a good project and that it is potentially one of the only possible avenues for saving the caribou of the Gaspésie. It's not the only thing to do, but if it's to save the species, we'll have a way to increase the population quickly and the breeding project at the bioparc is one of those ways,” concludes Mr. Bergeron.



# Town of Bonaventure borrows \$459,000 to support new housing initiatives

Gilles Gagné

BONAVENTURE — The Town of Bonaventure adopted a budgetary item of \$459,000 in order to support new housing initiatives over the next decade, an attempt to diminish the effects of the shortage of apartments and houses in the municipality.

The regulation project was part of the discussions held since the fall municipal election campaign of 2021, where

the housing shortage was one of the main topics.

Adopted by the municipal council of the Town of Bonaventure during the special meeting of June 27, the purpose of regulation R2022-761 is to set up a new housing assistance program for the residential sector of Bonaventure. The program pertains to new constructions.

To achieve the goal of alleviating the housing crisis, an amount of \$459,000, re-

payable over 10 years, will be borrowed.

The borrowing bylaw came into force following the approval of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on July 28.

“Considering that the housing shortage is a real hurdle for economic development and given that it accentuates the shortage of manpower, the municipal council, supported by the Table of MRCs of the Gaspé

Peninsula, wishes to put in place concrete actions by adopting this specific aid program to stimulate the town’s development,” says Mayor Roch Audet.

Thus, financial assistance of \$15,000 per dwelling built after the entry into force of the bylaw will be granted, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per eligible building owner. Housing must be dedicated to residential rental for at least five years. The program

eligibility period will end on December 31, 2026, or until funds are exhausted.

The details and other criteria pertaining to the bylaw can be consulted in the “services to citizens” section of the Town of Bonaventure website, under the Public Notices and Bylaws / Borrowing Bylaws section.

It is also possible to obtain more information from the urban planning department of the Town of Bonaventure.

## Independent fish harvesters of Canada call for an end to fisheries takeovers by businesses and foreign interests

Gilles Gagné

Canadian commercial fishermen recently wrapped up their summer council meeting of directors in Prince Edward Island with a clear message to those willing to allow business and foreign interests to control access to the country’s oceans and prevent Canadian families from participating in fisheries.

“By allowing foreign companies to take control of this resource of such crucial importance, we are willing accomplices in undermining our industry and depriving Canadians’ cultural, economic and food benefits that are rightfully theirs,” sums up Melanie Sonnenberg, president of the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters’ Federation, in a press release.

The commercial fishing industry brings great value to coastal communities across Canada, she adds, and this value goes well beyond the mere economic impact. Fishing connects Canadians to their oceans and defines the economic, social and cultural fabric of coastal communities across the country.

“As representatives of Canada’s coastal communities, our members are deeply concerned about the corporatization of fishing, especially vertically integrated companies and multinationals, as well as foreign financial investment,” points out Jim McIsaac, vice-president of the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters’ Federation.

Loss of independent ownership and local exploitation of fisheries has multiple con-



Photo: G. Gagné

*The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters Federation is the advocacy organization for Canada’s independent, owner-operator fish harvester organizations. Its main objective is to protect and strengthen policies that place independent fish harvesters as the cornerstone of the country’s fisheries.*

sequences over the long-term. This phenomenon jeopardizes the future of independent local processing plants, threatens the country’s collective food safety, raises prices for the final local consumer, and withdraws benefits from companies based in local communities through putting them in the hands of the companies’ shareholders.

That reality can prevent independent aboriginal and non-aboriginal fishermen, who are owners-operators of their boat and licence, to negotiate a fair landed price. Ultimately, that reality undermines the owner-operator principle, which is the economic backbone of Canada’s coastal communities.

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters’ Federation supports a competitive

market environment, but the community and the government must ensure that the control of these precious public resources, which must be managed for the good of all Canadians, remains in the hands of Canadians for generations to come.

Melanie Sonnenberg stresses that there is a need to provide fair and equitable opportunities for the future generations of fishermen. The Federation there recommends the development of clear regulations to limit foreign ownership and corporate control of Canadian fisheries.

Three weeks ago, the Federation had the opportunity to welcome the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Joyce Murray, at the summer council meeting in Prince Edward Island. The organi-

zation’s members were “delighted” to learn of the minister’s desire to deepen her engagement with industry and working together.

“We had several productive discussions with the minister and we are grateful to her for taking the time to join us to address this crucial issue. We are looking forward to continuing these conversations with her and her government colleagues,” assures Melanie Sonnenberg.

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters’ Federation calls on the government to honour the promise contained in the law to protect independent fishermen and their coastal communities. Its members have expressed four conditions that must be respected.

It starts with allocating sufficient financial and

human resources to enforce the regulations of owner-operators in the Atlantic fisheries and, as proposed, by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans of the House of Commons to develop a similar approach and regulations for the Pacific region. Along the coast of British Columbia, processing companies control a significant part of the fishing capacity.

The Federation also requested a freeze on license transfers to any entities other than independent fish harvesters pending developing clear regulations to limit foreign ownership and third-party control of our fisheries.

The Federation wants to ensure as well that independent fishers sit on advisory boards bringing together all of the stakeholders in order to make local voices heard when making decisions about oceans planning and fisheries management.

Finally, the Federation wants communication transparency regarding the changes in the government’s plan for fisheries policies and additional access, including license transfers, as part of its reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples.





# Police report

David Guy, a 38-year-old man from Maria is sentenced to serve four years in prison after pleading guilty on August 12 to six of the nine charges laid against him since March 2021. Those charges stemmed from 17 years of abuse imposed on his ex-wife.

David Guy pleaded guilty to assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm, two charges of uttering death threats, and two breaches of conditions. The acts cover the period from 2004 to March 17, 2021.

For 17 years, the former wife lived through what can be called an ordeal. The case made headlines on March 18, 2021, when the first charges were filed against him. The day before, she had managed to flee the couple's house and take refuge in Maria's hospital. She had just been hit again by her husband who had used a hammer this time.

The escape followed two particularly violent days. The lady had then managed to deceive the vigilance of David Guy and leave the house by car. He had tried to reach her by bicycle and he had even tried to find her in the hospital, which had led to his arrest and a first appearance the next day at the New Carlisle Courthouse.

On August 12, at this same courthouse, the lady read a document recounting what she experienced between the beginning of 2004 and March 17, 2021. She suffered blows of all kinds, sometimes struck with objects such as a garden trowel, a metal bar, a cutting board, a pencil, an awl and a hammer. Some of the blows by a hammer were to her head, such as on March 17, 2021. Previously, a hit by a hammer also broke one of her toes.

Between March 15 and 17, 2021, David Guy urinated on her. He also made death threats. Today, the lady says she then found the strength to flee, convinced that her end was approaching. At that time, she had been sleeping on the bedroom floor for two years, secured to the bed by a tiewrap around her ankle.

Her examinations at the hospital established that she had suffered concussions and broken bones during her 17-year life with David Guy.

Deprived of sufficient food, clothes which the spouse tore up, and various personal effects, and subjected to several forms of psychological violence, the victim was forced to leave her job by her spouse. He

also isolated her socially, refusing to let her see her family members and to consult a psychologist. He also decided to change the dosage of the medications she had to take.

All these abuses prompted the lady to want to end her life. "It led me to make a few suicide attempts, because I was in too much physical and psychological pain. I wanted to stop being in pain, stop being hungry, stop being cold," she recounted in front of the court.

Seventeen months after leaving David Guy, the victim still experiences many physical and psychological consequences. It is impossible for her to lead a normal life. She has great difficulty standing for more than 10 minutes. She has memory problems and she still hasn't overcome the effects on her health of long-term food deprivation. In particular, she is no longer able to work which results in material insecurity.

"She hopes to be able to work again one day," summarizes Maxime Rocheville-Paradis, criminal and penal prosecutor in this case.

In the document she read, the ex-spouse mentions her fear that David Guy will come back to torment her when he has served his prison sentence. She actually fears for her life, she insists.

The four-year sentence stems from an agreement between criminal and penal prosecutor Maxime Rocheville-Paradis and defense lawyer Pierre Gagnon. Judge Janick Poirier indicated that she had never had to lead a similar case in 10 years of practice at the Quebec Court. She also stressed that she experienced problems finding the right words upon rendering her verdict.

"Yes, Judge Poirier spoke of a lenient sentence, but she also said that it was reasonable, considering that the victim was spared from coming to testify at the trial, and considering her memory problems, admitted in her message that she read in court, and difficulty concentrating, as she unwittingly contradicts herself sometimes, another admitted detail in her message. A plea of guilty and three years of probation were secured for the accused. He will also have to leave Quebec for three years, during his probation. Three years is the maximum time for probation," explains Maxime Rocheville-Paradis.

The two breaches of conditions occurred following the incarceration of David Guy. Despite a ban on communicating with his ex-wife, he tried to communicate with her through an intermediary, his own sister, and she refused. Later, he asked a third party to communicate with his sister. These attempts were reported to the Criminal and Penal Prosecutions Department.

Common assault, assault with a weapon, and aggravated assault are the three charges dropped by the prosecution. "They are included in the other charges. We have extended the period during which the other charges are valid to include them in it," says Maxime Rocheville-Paradis.

Because David Guy has been incarcerated since mid-March 2021, and each day in pretrial detention counts as a day and a half in jail after sentencing, he had one year and 325 days left to serve on August 12. He will be able to stay in a provincial prison since the balance is less than two years.

A 31-year-old man, Jean-Félix Beaudry, appeared on August 11 at the Percé Courthouse in front of Justice of the Peace, Sonia Cyr, to face charges of break and enter in a cottage, theft of over \$5,000, also in a cottage and for having committed a mischief of less than \$5,000. The indictment doesn't mention if the acts occurred in the same cottage. It is located in the backcountry of Gaspé, along the road leading to Sirois lake. Jean-Félix Beaudry's address remains unknown for now but in previous criminal files, he was living in Montreal. He is suspected of having stolen in a cottage belonging to Manon Dufresne, a chainsaw, a compressor and its accessories, ammunition, a 410 rifle, two helmets, four jerry cans of fuel, two tanks of propane and a Makita radio.

His August 10 arrest came after a three-week investigation conducted since July 20 by police officers from the Bonaventure, Percé Rock and Côte-de-Gaspé Sûreté du Québec detachments. They received several calls for break and enter files in cottages as well as for an arson file that occurred on the unorganized territory of the Saint John River.

The arrest came after information received from the public as well as various means of investigation. Those elements made it possible to link the sus-

pect to the various events.

Jean-Félix Beaudry came back to court on August 15 and was charged with another count of break and enter, theft and arson. In that case, the cottage was located in the Castonguay township, also in the backcountry of Gaspé. Sûreté du Québec communication officer Hélène Saint-Pierre points out that the investigation is still ongoing and that additional charges are expected to be laid against the 31-year-old man. Some crimes committed in the Saint-Elzéar area are investigated by the Sûreté du Québec.

Quebec Court Judge Lucie Morissette postponed the case until August 22, at which time the bail hearing of the accused could proceed. The tribunal will notably try to establish where Jean-Félix Beaudry is living now.

Raynald Croussette, a 70-year-old man from Les Méchins, initially charged with theft of more than \$5,000, hit and run as well as breach of probation, came back to the New Carlisle Courthouse on August 12, 2022, and now faces nine additional charges, namely obstruction in the work of police officers, break and enter, night intrusion, and mischief as well as a voyeurism charge. Files were also added to the existing charges of theft and attempted theft, as well as breach of probation on August 12. He now faces 20 criminal counts re-

grouped in 17 files.

Following his June 27 court appearance, Raynald Croussette was supposed to find a lawyer and he did since he is now represented by Marie-Ève Lapointe-Lavigne. Quebec Court Judge Janick Poirier "postponed the case until September 15 to allow both counsels to discuss the files in the meantime," explains Criminal Prosecutor Cédric Leblanc-Falardeau.

Raynald Croussette is remanded in custody at the New Carlisle prison in the meantime. He was arrested on June 17 in the woods near New Richmond and appeared in court the same day to face three charges at first. Files were added upon his second court appearance on June 27 and again on August 12. The breach of probation charge is linked to the conditions set when he served a prison sentence of six months less two days for a case of violence that occurred on October 7, 2021.

The Sûreté du Québec officers had to use a Taser gun to arrest him on June 17. He had no known address in the Baie des Chaleurs area at the time.

His arrest came after complaints were laid by New Richmond citizens following a wave of thefts committed in many properties. Raynald Croussette had previously served a six-month prison term for illegal use of a firearm in 2012 and a probation period was imposed on him in 2000 after he committed an assault.



Photo: Gilles Gagné

*The case was heard between March 2021 and August 12, 2022 at the New Carlisle courthouse.*

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Gilles Gagné  
Commentary

Long term  
permits to pollute  
should end

A thorough Radio-Canada-CBC investigation revealed a few days ago that the Government of Quebec has signed agreements with 89 companies, which will allow them to legally derogate from the legislation in force. To put it short, they are entitled to pollute beyond the standards, sometimes way beyond and over long periods of time.

Of the 89 plants owned by those companies, 71 were in operation in July. Two have completely ceased their activities and another, partially. Ten of them were out of production. Some plants have temporarily suspended their operations. The now-defunct Smurfit-Stone linerboard mill in New Richmond appears on the list of the two plants that ended their activities, maybe because the piece of land has not been decontaminated yet. The plant closed in August 2005.

So, the Horne smelter in Rouyn-Noranda is not the only one to benefit from a right to pollute beyond the standards. The Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change has issued “decontamination certificates” to all those industries. There are mainly paper mills, but also many mines and aluminum smelters.

We are not talking about welding shops here. A big share of the companies present in the group of tolerated polluters are multinational firms, including world giants like Rio Tinto, Arcelor Mittal, Lafarge and Tata Steel, as well as major Canadian firms like Kruger, Cascades and Resolute Forest Products.

The depollution attestation, also called ministerial authorization, establishes the environmental conditions under which the company must carry out its activities. It thus al-

lows the firm to derogate from certain standards. The agreement is reserved for a company that existed before a new anti-pollution regulation came into force. It's a sort of grandfather clause.

In principle “the depollution attestation allows a progressive tightening of environmental requirements according to the knowledge acquired, the technological and economic availability as well as the specific needs for the protection of the environment that is receiving the pollution,” indicates an unidentified spokesperson of Quebec’s Ministry of the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change.

The main problem is that the “progressive tightening of environmental requirements” seems in many, many cases to be an empty concept, as dense as clouds.

In the list obtained by Radio-Canada-CBC, certain decontamination certificates were issued for the first time more than 20 years ago. This is the case of the Kraft Nordic S.E.C. plant in Lebel-sur-Quévillon, in northern Quebec. The certificate was granted in 2001!

That type of agreement is renewable every five years. This coming November, the decontamination certificate for the Horne smelter will expire. It will be its second renewal. Glencore, the owner of the smelter, presented on August 18 a \$500 million plan to reduce from 100 to 15 nanoparticles of arsenic per cubic metre by 2027. However, 15 nanoparticles will remain five times higher than the Public Health Board’s norms.

Complacent government

So far, the agreement between Glencore and Quebec’s Ministry of the Environment allows the company to have no ceiling to respect for the release of contaminants into the air, except for arsenic, whose emissions can currently reach 33 times the standard.

In its public statements, the Legault government mentions “accompaniment” by companies towards a reduction in their polluting discharges. With each renewal, the Ministry of the Environment must ‘tighten the screw a little more’.

However, in most serious cases of contaminant releases, it takes repetitive reports like the ones that have characterized the Horne smelter over recent months to force companies and governments to tighten up the requirements. In fact, that tightening up operation should essentially be enforced and called “respecting the rules.”

We are talking about huge companies here. Last year, Glencore recorded sales of \$203.7 billion worldwide; yes, billions of dollars. An important percentage of country governments in the world operate with smaller revenues than that. The Glencore operating profits reached \$8.5 billion a year ago.

Glencore has not publicly threatened to close its Abitibi copper smelter and move its operations to countries with loose environmental regulations. It has expressed a will to reduce the contamination generated in Rouyn-Noranda. However, the norms regarding other pollutants such as cadmium, lead and mercury will likely be partially waived, unless the Quebec government and the Public Health Board decide otherwise. For now, nothing seems less certain, especially time wise..

In its public statements, the Coalition avenir Québec government mentions “accompaniment” by companies towards a reduction in their polluting discharges. With each renewal, the Ministry of the Environment must ‘tighten the screw a little more.’

Being obsessed with the need to protect well-paid jobs and increase their number, Premier François Legault seems ready to write a cheque to Glencore as soon as possible. During his last intervention in that file, he quickly put up front the fact that the 650 workers of the Rouyn-Noranda smelter earn an average of \$107,000 yearly.

Let’s bet that a welding shop causing much less pollution than Glencore, all proportions considered, stands very little chance to save money to reduce the volume of contaminants generated by its operations.

We now have access to the list of the 89 companies benefitting from a long-term permit to pollute, as we could call it.

However, the list is not everything. For now, it is not easy to know which precise standards these companies can avoid and which are the requirements imposed by the government during the renewal. Are the agreements renewed blindly or are the rules really tightened up gradually?

To find out, journalists will have to make requests for access to documents, which must be sent to each regional branch of the Environment Department. That process is not knowned to go fast.

We realize that the Quebec government has created a special regime for major polluters, if we didn’t know it previously. We also gather that people’s right to a healthy environment can be violated without the public being informed of the situation.

The Quebec Centre for Environmental Law rightfully stresses that the new version of the Law on the quality of the environment, released in 2017, provided for a public register of ministerial authorizations of those permits to pollute. That register was supposed to be available on the ministry’s website. Five years later, people are still waiting for it.

All those factors represent a painful reminder that Quebec’s Department of the Environment is a weak ministry, with insufficient means in terms of budget and staff, and that past and present governments have failed the population in ecological matters and public health issues.

Inviting this subject to the coming Quebec electoral campaign would be a great idea.

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The river is a well-attended spot on sunny summer days.

Photo: G Gagné

## Swimming is not permitted in Emerald River

Nelson Sergerie

PERCE - Swimming is prohibited until further notice at the Emerald River Municipal Park in Percé.

Water quality tests have revealed that the level of total coliform and E. coli contamination is above the recognized limit for swimming. According to the town, the contamination was not caused by swimming activities or use of the site but came from another source upstream from the falls.

Testing is underway to determine the source of the contamination. In addition to swimming, the town suggests that people do not drink the water in the river.

## Cell coverage to be improved in some areas

Nelson Sergerie

CARLETON-SUR-MER - A decade-old request by Gaspesian elected officials has been partially met as Telus demands for improved cell phone coverage have finally been heard by Ottawa.

The Canadian telecommunications giant had submitted projects to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in 2020 via the Broadband Fund program with the aim of improving wireless coverage in Gaspésie, Matanie and La Matapédia.

Three major road segments were proposed: Route 299 in the municipality of Cascapédia-Saint-Jules and Sainte-Anne-des-Monts up to the Gîte du Mont-Albert; Route 132 between Sainte-Florence and Matapédia; and Route 195 between Matane and Amqui.

The company estimated at the time that these joint investments would cost several million dollars for an estimated coverage of more than 100 kilometres of road, in addition to covering all or part of the neighbouring communities.

The CRTC responded favourably to the request by releasing \$6.5 million in one of the 10 accepted projects across Canada.

LTE-A technology will be deployed which will provide unlimited data access, according to the CRTC.

A sum of \$2.5 million is released to cover the 35 kilome-



Photo: Murdochville Fire Department

*Victims of the crash had to drive 50 kilometres before they had access to cell service on Road 198.*

tres between Matapédia and Sainte-Florence which will serve 10 households and \$4 million will be released for the Road 195 between Matane and Amqui as well as Road 299 to serve Cap-Seize, Cascapédia-Saint-Jules and the Gîte du Mont-Albert for 60 kilometres of roads, 13 communities and 180 households.

"This is excellent news. This has been a request for several years. There are safety issues in the Matapédia Valley where we had 30 minutes of driving in a dangerous area without mobile phone coverage. To have a signal in the communities of Cascapédia-Saint-Jules and Cap-Seize is excellent news," mentions the president of the Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie, Mathieu Lapointe.

Telus was not able to give a timetable as of August 19 for the completion of the work, nor the total amount to be invested.

One battle has been won but

several other sectors are still to be covered.

Requests have been made for years in the back country of the Bonaventure MRC, such as in Saint-Elzéar and Saint-Alphonse.

The Rocher-Percé MRC has passed resolutions in the past to obtain a signal on Route Lemieux, the transit road that allows people to bypass Percé, while on other parts of the Gaspé Coast, elected officials have been asking for years for mobile phone coverage on Route 198, even though no signal is available on the winding road that stretches for some 120 kilometres and is home to large wildlife such as moose and black bears.

In fact, on the evening of August 16, residents of Beloeil, in the Montérégie region, hit a moose at kilometre 92 on Highway 198, causing considerable damage to their vehicle.

The lack of mobile phone service caused the driver to cover some 50 kilometres back to Murdochville to get help after the collision.

Fortunately, the man and woman were not injured. They refused to be taken to hospital, according to the Sûreté du Québec.

"There are still communities to be served in all the MRCs in the territory. There are sectors that are not covered or are covered very little or very poorly. We will work to ensure that all Gaspésians are covered by a cellular network at home," says Mathieu Lapointe.

## COVID-19: Transmission slows and mass vaccination resumes

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The transmission of COVID-19 has slowed down in the last week in the Gaspé and Magdalen Islands.

The National Institute of Public Health reports on August 17 in its weekly report 64 preliminary cases for the week ending August 14. This is much less than the 232 cases of the week ending August 7 and the 203 cases of the week ending July 31.

It should be noted that some of the population has access to COVID-19 testing. Only four people were hospitalized during this period, and 20 patients were in the hospital on August 16, but none were in intensive care, according to the Quebec National Institute of Public Health.

"We have much less severe illness because of people who are vaccinated. Even if they are vaccinated, they may end up in the hospital. But we have fewer people in intensive care," says regional director of Public Health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger.

**The vaccine remains an ally.**

"When it's been more than five months since you were vaccinated, your immunity starts to drop a bit. If you want to be able to face a new wave of the virus without getting too sick, I think it is appropriate to get a new dose. There is a great risk in the fall to have a new wave," strongly suggests the specialist.

Moreover, the new mass vaccination campaign against COVID-19 has been launched in the Gaspé.

The injection of the vaccine never stopped because clinics were always available throughout the territory, but the CISSS de la Gaspésie (Health and Social Service Integrated Centre) has been planning this most important campaign for a few weeks now.

However, none of the large sites organized during the first and second doses, such as the rental of large spaces or arenas, are planned at this time. The population is largely vaccinated with 84% of people fully vaccinated. This rate will have an impact on the current campaign.

"What is important is to meet the needs of the population and that is how we governed ourselves over the



Photo: N. Sergerie

*Mass vaccination for the booster dose is underway in Gaspésie.*

summer. It is still possible for people to register on clicsanté. This allows us to see the needs and to adjust," said Johanne Méthot, director of vaccination.

People aged 60 and over can currently be vaccinated, and this will be extended to people aged 18 and over on August 29 in order to protect the most vulnerable people first and foremost.

The vaccination schedule is available on the CISSS de la Gaspésie website.

"The latest viruses have been quite virulent and there have been many cases in the Gaspé. When you have COVID, you can't get vaccines before three months. If there is not a big influx, people are simply not due for the vaccine. We're also still in the vacation season," adds the director, who assures us that she has the necessary manpower to manage the situation.

It is impossible to predict how many people will be vaccinated because of all these elements.

**The 0-5 year old campaign is less active.**

"There are a number of things that may be involved, including children who have had COVID-19. Several people had COVID this summer in Gaspésie," believes Ms. Méthot.

In addition, another influenza vaccination campaign will be held starting in November. It was agreed not to mix the two campaigns.

"The flu campaign is already being prepared and will be reserved for people aged 75 and over, people with chronic illnesses or sick young children. It's like last year but it will be two different operations because we can't couple the two easily," says Dr. Bonnier Viger.





# SHIGAWAKE FAIR & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Gilles Gagné

**SHIGAWAKE** – While it is a bit early to present a complete wrap up of the event, the Shigawake Agricultural Fair and Music Festival was back on its usual tracks between August 11 and 14, and everybody appreciated a return to “normalcy.” It was underlined by the attendees, musicians, contest participants, vendors and organizers.

The 2020 event was cancelled due to the pandemic and the 2021 version was considerably limited because of the sanitary constraints. This year, the weather was fine during the first three days. Sunday’s rain affected the attendance for sure, particularly the Double horse haul and the shows under the big top, both held in the afternoon.

However, overall, the smiles on people’s faces didn’t lie. The attendees went to the lawn tractor race in what looked like a record number and about all musicians and band members, whether they were from the Gaspé Peninsula or from away, expressed their happiness to be back in this annual event.



Photo: G. Gagné

*The three competitions of the lawn tractor races were very competitive.*



Photo: G. Gagné

Li'l Andy and friends took care of Gospel music at noon on Sunday.



Photo: G. Gagné

The Triculturals have had a busy summer. Their participation in Shigawake was greeted warmly.



Photo: G. Gagné

Thanya Iyer, flanked here by Shaina Hayes and Emilie Kahn, was very glad to be back in Shigawake. She didn’t miss an occasion to say it.



Photo: Shannon Day

Friday’s Single horse haul was held under much better conditions than the Double horse held on Sunday.



# Listuguj Powwow draws remarkable crowds



Gilles Gagné

LISTUGUJ – The 30th Listuguj Powwow attracted what could be considered one of the highest number of attendees in its three decades of history. The cancellation of the event in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic mobilized people from the community and enticed visitors to either come to an event they had missed or to discover it.

Powwow coordinator, Lita Isaac, provides some facts about the 2022 event.

“We had about 5000 people, with dancers and spectators coming from as far as Newfoundland, Ontario and Massachusetts. We had a sacred fire for four days. We had nine First Nation drums, about 400 First Nation dancers and 50 First Nation vendors. We held a traditional feast of moose meat, salmon, fiddleheads and molasses cake,” she describes.

Lita Isaac points out that the event would not have been the same without the generosity of its sponsors. She also explains that a return of the event was a need for the community.



“The Listuguj Powwow Committee is so grateful to all the support from the good-hearted people who donated. It was the most anticipated cultural event for Listuguj because we suffered so much loss in the last couple of years. I hope this powwow brought the gift of medicine to all who needed it,” she concludes.

Listuguj moviemaker and photographer, Felix Atencio-Gonzales, also noticed how the powwow was missed by the community.

“The Pow Wow was wonderful this year, with lots of people. On Saturday, quite a few non-Natives were there for the salmon and moose meat supper. That’s one of the event’s goals, sharing with our neighbours. There was so much food that people left with a plate for home. Three years later...we celebrated in Listuguj,” remarks Mr. Atencio-Gonzales.

Photos: Courtesy of Felix Atencio-Gonzales



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Quebec’s new language law, Bill 96, has hit a bump. Even though the notwithstanding clause was invoked to prevent challenges to the law, last week a Quebec judge suspended two articles that deal with legal translations.

## Quebec’s Bill 96 challenged

Diane Skinner

Quebec’s new language law, Bill 96 faced a small, but noteworthy, defeat this week in court. It relates to the translation of legal documents. Lawyers argued in court before Quebec Superior Court Judge Chantal Corriveau that translations of legal documents by certified translators could prevent some English-speaking organizations from having ac-

cess to justice in a timely manner. One of the provisions of the Bill required legal documents to be translated into French. The lawyers arguing the case referred to the 1867 Constitution Act that guarantees access to the courts in both official languages. The requirements of Bill 96 could delay access to the courts for some English-speaking individuals. There could be a shortage of certified transla-

tors, especially in more remote locations, such as the Gaspé. Translation is costly: between 20 and 40 cents per word. A government spokesperson responded by stating that French is the “official and common” language in Quebec. Judge Corriveau stated that the requirement could be a “barrier to justice.” The case will be argued further some time in November.

## CAQ still looking for a candidate in Gaspé

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - The Coalition Avenir Québec still does not have a candidate in the riding of Gaspé, despite efforts to find what is now becoming the rare pearl. One of the most recent serious prospects, Joel Berthelot, will not be the headliner for the Caquiste party in the October 3 election. Admitting that the interest was there, however, personal reasons led him to withdraw. "I had been approached by the CAQ to be a candidate in the riding of Gaspé," says Mr. Berthelot who was until June the president of the Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du Sud de la Gaspésie. "I thought about it. I analyzed the proposal. For personal reasons, I decided to decline the offer. It is not a lack of interest," adds Mr. Berthelot. The decision was made a few days ago. The CAQ is, therefore, actively seeking a

candidate. According to our information, other people have been solicited especially in Haute-Gaspésie, but the last in line refused the invitation on August 15. Two candidates are on the line for the moment for the election that should be called at the end of the month. The outgoing Parti Québécois Member of National Assembly, Méganne Perry Mélançon, announced her colours a few weeks ago while the Conservative Party candidate Pier-Luc Bouchard was introduced last week by his leader Éric Duhaime during an event broadcast via Facebook. The regional director of public health, Dr. Yv Bonnier Viger, is expected to carry the colours for Québec solidaire in Gaspé. Mr. Bonnier Viger said he was surprised to see the daily newspaper, Le Soleil, confirm his candidacy on August 17 for the October 3 election. The newspaper showed a

table of confirmed candidates in the ridings of Eastern Quebec and the name of Dr. Bonnier Viger appeared as a candidate for Québec Solidaire. The doctor is still discreet about his intentions, even if he confirmed in July that he is considering a possible candidacy. The specialist will only make his decision known by the end of the month once he is on vacation, as he considers that his position is not compatible with a political announcement.



## Reflections

by

Diane Skinner Flowers



Credit: American Society for Biochemistry  
*Thought to be a disease of the past, polio has re-emerged after being virtually eradicated thirty years ago.*

### The return of polio? Why, oh, why?

Recent news articles report that polio is back and apparently on the rise. New York City is seeing hundreds of cases and this is alarming, as it is in the U.K. and Israel. Vast numbers of Canadians are vaccinated against polio but a few recent factors have caused polio to re-emerge as a health threat. These include children missing their immunizations due to COVID-19. On top of that, misinformation and fearmongering about vaccinations have meant that children are not protected from this disease, and that’s not a good thing at all. What has occurred could be tragic. Polio was a disease of the past, it was considered eradicated over 30 years ago, and now, needlessly, some children are contracting polio.

#### What is polio?

Polio is a life-threatening or disabling disease caused by the poliovirus. (Yes. Another virus, but don’t discount the harm it can do.) The virus spreads from person-to-person and can cause an infection in the spinal cord. Some people will develop flu-like symptoms, such as fever, sore throat, nausea, tiredness, headache and stomach pain. Others will experience paralysis and weakness in the legs, arms or both. The paralysis can cause permanent disability and even death. Death is caused when muscles which help us breathe are affected. Scary fact: Children who get polio and seem to have recovered can be affected 15 to 40 years later! Polio is very contagious and it enters the body through the mouth and it attacks the throat and intestines. It can be transmitted through feces or droplets from sneezes or coughs. Good hygiene is important. Washing hands with soap and water as a hand sanitizer does not kill the polio virus. People can be asymptomatic (no symptoms at all) but still spread the virus.

#### Preventing polio

Polio is prevented by taking the vaccine. The statistics support this. More than 99% of children who get all the recommended doses of the vaccine are protected from polio. There is no cure for polio that has caused paralysis. The anti-vaccine rhetoric is now pervasive and what began as an anti-COVID vaccine belief has crept into the attitudes and beliefs about all vaccines, and that is terrifying. The disruption of COVID and the recent anti-vaxxing reluctance are not the only causes for the lower rate of vaccines. Vaccination rates in Canada are not the same across the country. In 2017, almost 90% of toddlers had received their three or four polio shots but the rate varies depending on the region. Both Manitoba and British Columbia are below the 90% rate and Nunavut is closer to 80%. Check your child’s immunizations today and ensure that they are protected. What about adults? If you plan to travel outside of Canada, particularly to an area with polio cases and low vaccine rates, you should speak to your doctor about a vaccine.



# Announcements



## Obituary



**BROWN: Betty**

Betty Brown passed away peacefully on July 9, 2022 at the age of 99. She was predeceased in 1983 by her husband Grant Brown of New Carlisle. In 2008, her daughter Janice passed away.

She is survived by her son Rod, as well as five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Betty was born and raised in St. Lambert, Quebec, where she met Grant who had been a pilot in WWII. They married in 1947 and for Betty, this was the beginning of many summer visits to the family home in New Carlisle. Grant was the third child of Hut and Ethel Brown. His siblings were Harold, Garry, Betty, Hazel, Bob and Jen. They have all passed away.

The Brown children and grandchildren went down home for yearly summer visits. All had moved away except for Grant's sister Betty, who married Ivan Flowers. Grant and Betty's son Rod, as well as several nieces and nephews, still keep in touch with friends they made during their summer visits. New Carlisle holds special memories for all the Brown family.

Betty was a wonderful person and will be missed by her many friends and relatives.



## In Memory

**HOWATSON: Everett John Dumeresque**

March 18, 1924 to August 20, 2016

*Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow.*

*I am the diamond glints on snow.*

*I am the sunlight on ripened grain.*

*I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the morning's hush*

*I am the swift uplifting rush*

*Of quiet birds in circled flight.*

*I am the soft stars that shine at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry;*

*I am not there. I did not die.*

In loving memory, gone but never forgotten  
Ferne, Joanne, Janet and Ray.



**MAJOR: Cindy (Ross)**

In loving memory of our mother who passed away August 25, 2004. It's hard to believe eighteen years have gone by.

*God saw you getting tired*

*And a cure was not to be.*

*So, He put his arms around you*

*And whispered, "Come with Me".*

*With tearful eyes we watched you suffer*

*And saw you fade away.*

*Although we loved you dearly,*

*We could not make you stay.*

*I clasped your hand so warm in mine,*

*Soon we would be out of time.*

*A golden heart stopped beating*

*Hard working hands at rest.*

*God broke our hearts to prove to us,*

*He only takes the best.*

Always loved and never forgotten, Your husband: Earl; and children: Michael (Cindy), Rosalee (Michel), and Roxanne (Yves); and grandchildren: Rebecca, Nicholas and Shyanne.



## Funeral and Burial

**FREEMAN: David**

A funeral service for David Freeman, late husband of Betty Le Maistre, will be held at Zion United Church, New Carlisle, on Saturday August 27, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Momberg officiating.

Burial of ashes in the United Church Cemetery, New Carlisle to follow. Everyone welcome.

**PHOTO QUALITY**

When submitting a photo for this page, please send in a digital photo (jpg) to specs@globetrotter.net. You can also send your photo by mail.

**It is essential that the photo is not a copy printed at home or by the funeral home.**

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## 60th Wedding Anniversary



The family of Bob and Sharon Cotnam (nee Chicoyne) are proud to announce that they are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary

Bob and Sharon were married on August 25, 1962, in St. Paul's Anglican Church in Barachois West in Gaspé, Québec. They have made Miravista Farm in Greenwood (Pembroke) their home for their entire married life, where they raised their four children, Charlotte, Jackie, Rob and Hallie.

Summer and autumn stays in Barachois every year keep them connected to Sharon's roots. Bob and Sharon's hard work, loyalty, fun-loving spirit, cherished and long-lasting friendships, generosity, but most of all their love, continue to be a model to their family, which now includes eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

*Congratulations, Mom and Dad!*



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COAST ROUND-UP

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Gaspé County Women’s Institute is pleased to announce that the annual fair will again take place on **September 10**, in York Hall. We will be following the same program that was organized for Fall 2020. The judges will be advised that the exhibits may have been started in the fall of 2019. To register or for information, contact Bonita Annett at 418-368-3453 or email gaspe22@gmail.com

**PORT DANIEL:**  
**Three Star Golden Age Club**  
**Tuesdays:** Pétanque from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Tuesday evening. Cost is \$3.

**SHIGAWAKE:**  
**Community Centre**  
**September 5:** Hunting Bingo

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Bible Chapel Meetings**  
**Sundays:** 9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread for believers. Drive-In Gospel Meetings will be held at Fair Haven Bible Camp in New Carlisle Sundays at 2 p.m. In case of rain, meetings will be held at the Bible Chapel. All are welcome – invite a friend! Sponsored by the New Carlisle Bible Chapel.  
**Thursdays:** 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Royal Canadian Legion Branch #64**  
**Saturdays:** Open at 1 p.m. Everyone welcome.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Farmers Market**  
**Saturdays:** Farmers market will now be held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the park next to the municipal hall. For more in-

formation about booking a table, visit our facebook page: Marché Local Market - New Carlisle or contact 581-233-0658. Hope to see you there.

**NEW CARLISLE:**  
**Funeral Association**  
**September 3:** Pot Luck Supper at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall. \$15 per adult and \$7 for children 10 years old and under. Anyone wishing to donate a casserole or any other food items, please contact Mary Woods or Betty Ann Crozier.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**Book Room**  
The book room will be closed until **September**. Anyone who needs assistance this summer can contact Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

**CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:**  
**50 Plus Club**  
**August 26:** Jam session, open to all musicians and spectators. Doors open at

7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 7:30 p.m.  
**September 17:** Harvest Bingo beginning at 1 p.m. Cost: \$10 for 3 cards and \$1 for each additional card.  
**October 7-9:** Fall Fest.

**ROTARY CLUB WINNERS:**  
**The winners for the week of August 7 are:** Claire-Hélène Rivière, Francois Brousseau, Yves Arsenault, Eric Cormier, Bill Dow, Claudette Bourdages and Cyrille Leblanc.  
**The winners for the week of August 14 are:** Gloria Harrison, Annie Boudreau, Manon Messier, Marguerite Breton, Philippe Melanson, Eloise St-Pierre and Doris Poirier.

**UNITED CHURCH**  
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**UNITED CHURCH**  
**HOPE TOWN**  
**Sunday, August 28**  
No Service

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**Sunday, August 28**  
**NEW CARLISLE**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
**SHIGAWAKE**  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**PARISH OF GASPÉ**  
**Sunday, August 28**  
**St. Jame’s - Wakeham**  
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer with Tom Matthews


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**ARIES** – Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, take a step back and allow people some room to figure things out. Your offers to help are appreciated and will be accepted in due time.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, others appreciate your authenticity. Stay true to yourself and you will have no regrets. Encourage others to do the same when they seek your input.

**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21  
Gemini, this week is a good opportunity for some serious introspection. Put yourself in other people’s shoes before

you render an opinion.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22  
An important decision is looming, Cancer. Take some time to look inward as your try to decide the best path to take. Don’t hesitate to seek input from people you trust.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23  
It is alright to have some doubts when you are trying something new, Leo. Just don’t let those doubts get the better of you and derail your plans.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 22  
Virgo, a public gathering in the near future may attract several people, including some you are interested in meeting. Take the first step

and introduce yourself.

**LIBRA** – Sept 23/Oct 23  
Libra, this week you are likely to feel refreshed and energized. This may pave the way to some new ideas, including a change of scenery or even a new job.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, at this point in your life, it is important to go with the flow and learn from others with an easygoing approach. Take time to exhale and unwind.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, you have long been practical and sensible with your finances. But this week you may be lured by a

flashy purchase. If it is in the budget, then let loose.

**CAPRICORN** – Dec 22/Jan 20  
Clear your mind of cobwebs and any other errant thoughts, Capricorn. Right now you need to relax and unwind for a bit, and you’ll feel better after a few days of recharging.

**AQUARIUS** – Jan 21/Feb 18  
Aquarius, after many months of asking yourself where you want your life to go, this week you finally have a plan of action to put in motion. Enjoy the ride.

**PISCES** – Feb 19/Mar 20  
Be extra patient and affectionate towards all of your

loved ones this week, Pisces. Someone close to you will need your help.

**FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS**  
**AUGUST 21**  
**Usain Bolt, Runner (36)**  
**AUGUST 22**  
**Dua Lipa, Singer (27)**  
**AUGUST 23**  
**Seth Curry, Athlete (32)**  
**AUGUST 24**  
**Rupert Grint, Actor (34)**  
**AUGUST 25**  
**Tim Burton, Director (64)**  
**AUGUST 26**  
**John Mulaney, Comic (40)**  
**AUGUST 27**  
**Tom Ford, Designer (61)**



# Large crowds attend the 18th festival

Nelson Sergerie

GASPÉ - More than 17,000 people attended the shows presented during the 18th Festival musique du bout du monde (FMBM) between August 11 and 14 in Gaspé.

It was a more normal event with a program that was spread out in the greater Gaspé area after two years of a pandemic that limited the possibilities of welcoming festival-goers.

"It was a relief to return to full capacity on all our sites. Last year, we had to restrict access and it was counter-intuitive for an event that organizes events, but it was pleasant to get back to full capacity on our sites," says co-director Steve Pontbriand, who was interviewed on August 15 to give a first assessment of the event.

The evening of August 13 with Lido Pimienta and Ghetto Kumbé caught his attention. "The atmosphere in the tent was overexcited. It was a highlight," says Mr. Pontbriand when asked about the festival's main event.

In addition to the 17,000 spectators, the organization's finances are more comfortable.

"We are in the process of making financial statements, particularly at the box office, but preliminary data show that we have had a record year in this regard," says the co-director.

Already, when the show



Photo: Ricochet Design

*Festival-goers were out in force after two years of restricted festivities due to the pandemic.*

went on sale last spring, 700 tickets for Vieux Farka Touré were sold out in less than 24 hours for this sunrise show at Cap-Bon-Ami in Forillon Park, which was a first for the FMBM. From the very first hours of the festival on Rue de la

Reine in downtown Gaspé, crowds turned out in great numbers. In spite of the unfortunate events that have occurred at other festivals in recent weeks, the FMBM made sure to offer safe events.

"We deployed a new security team. We reviewed our processes. We established collaborations with partners. Every time there was an event in the crowd, there were plenty of pairs of kind eyes looking out for potential situations. There were none that were reported to us. The atmosphere was festive and good-natured," says Mr. Pontbriand.

More than 250 volunteers were mobilized to ensure the festival's success, bringing together more than 200 artists on 16 sites this year.

Preparations for the 19th edition are already underway.

## Gaspé Truckers Association members return to work

Gilles Gagné

GASPÉ – The members of the Gaspé Truckers Association went back to work on August 15, following many weeks of pressure in order to get a 25% pay adjustment from Quebec's Department of Transport and the Town of Gaspé. "We didn't get 25%. We will receive 15% for now. It is not ideal but the truck owners needed to go back to work.

The Gaspé Truckers Association will sit at the negotiation table before the next season's discussions. We were not sitting at the table last year," explains Travis Henry, who owns three trucks in Gaspé.

He denounces the fact that the truckers' rates are negotiated for very large areas, which doesn't take into account the geographical particularities, like the mountains in an area

like Gaspé, compared to relatively flat areas like Matane and Rimouski. The cost of fuel and

truck parts explained the pressure means implemented by the Gaspé truckers since the spring.



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