

## Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum gets funding for interpretation enhancements

GILLES GAGNÉ

NEW RICHMOND — The Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum in New Richmond has received a \$20,000 grant from the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network through its Supporting Heritage Awareness, Recognition, and Engagement program, commonly known as SHARE.

The Echoes of service: exploring our shared military heritage project, was submitted by Tom Eden on behalf of the Baie des Chaleurs Military Museum. The project aims to enhance public access to regional military history by integrating QR code links into four outdoor historical interpretation panels located on the grounds of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum.

These QR codes will provide visitors with additional written and audio materials, offering deeper insights into our region's military past and the remarkable collaboration be-

tween francophone, anglophone, and First Nation communities throughout history.

In his project description, Tom Eden, who presides over the museum, mentions "The military history of the Baie-des-Chaleurs region is one of unity and shared service. For generations, diverse cultural groups have worked together to protect and defend their homeland, forging bonds of cooperation that continue to shape the region's identity."

This project will highlight these contributions by showcasing key historical events, personal stories, and cultural perspectives that demonstrate the strength of this cross-cultural alliance.

According to the project description, "This initiative enjoys the strong support of the Town of New Richmond, The Royal Canadian Legion, and the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag Band, reflecting a shared commitment to preserving and promoting the region's military



The Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum will feature four outdoor historical interpretation panels.

Photo: Tom Eden

heritage. Their backing underscores the significance of this project in fostering greater awareness and appreciation for the interconnected histories of these communities".

The primary goals of the project are to celebrate the longstanding collaboration between francophone, anglophone, and first Nations communities in times of con-

flict and peace, raise awareness of the region's rich military heritage and provide an interactive and educational experience that connects visitors to this shared history in a meaningful way.

By combining historical interpretation with modern digital technology, the project will create an engaging and accessible way for both residents

and visitors to explore the diverse cultural contributions that have shaped our military past. Through these digital stories, people can honour the collective efforts and sacrifices that have united the area's communities in service.

Tom Eden is currently recording some oral history capsules that will be featured as part of the project.

## Initial 2025 Murdochville drilling results extend copper deposit

GILLES GAGNÉ

MURDOCHVILLE - Osisko Metals announces initial laboratory analyses results from the 2025 drilling program at Murdochville's Gaspé Copper Project are showing satisfactory copper and silver content.

The results for five holes drilled since February indicated that there is copper at the southern margin of the mineralized deposit, as defined in the 2024 mineral resource estimate (MRE), published on November 14, 2024. In other words, the resource expected in that area is present.

Since resuming Murdochville drilling operations in March 2022, Osisko Met-

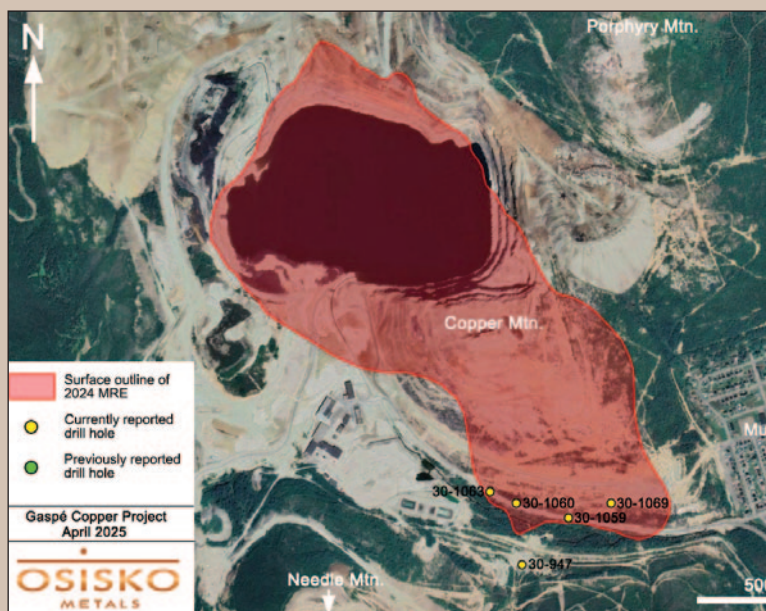


Photo: Osisko Metals

Osisko Metals' latest drillings are visible in the lower part of this aerial photo.

als management has stated repeatedly that a copper content of 0.35%, which is close to one-third of 1%, in a signifi-

cant quantity, would ideally be needed to justify the reopening of the Murdochville open pit mine.

The summary of results published by Osisko Metals shows that the targets, on average, are being met.

### Here are the details for the five holes:

- Drill hole 30-1059 intersected 300 metres, with a grade of 0.39% in copper and 3.17 grams per tonne of ore in silver, all that within the 2024 MRE (mineral resource estimate) model where there was limited historical data.
- Drill hole 30-1060 intersected 220.5 metres, with a grade of 0.29% in copper and 2.09 grams of silver. This is within the 2024 MRE model, as well as 211.0 metres grading 0.42% in copper and 2.27 grams per tonne in silver at a

depth below the 2024 MRE model, extending mineralization to a vertical depth of 598 metres.

- Drill hole 30-1063 intersected 109.5 metres with a grade of 0.32% in copper and 2.52 grams per tonne in silver, within the 2024 MRE model, as well as 61.5 metres grading 0.33% in copper and 2.60 grams per tonne of silver. Another sample shows 43.5 metres grading 0.48% in copper and 3.20 grams per tonne in silver at depth below the 2024 MRE model, extending mineralization to a vertical depth of 678 metres.
- Drill hole 30-1069 intersected 237.0 metres grading 0.32% in copper and 2.46

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# The end of Réno-Région sparks outrage from Gaspé's mayor

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - The end of the Réno-Région program and various other support measures for the adaptation of people with disabilities were quietly swept under the carpet by the Quebec government's budget cuts at the start of the budget on March 25.

These decisions have drawn strong criticism from the mayor of Gaspé. "These are penny-pinching efforts for the government. We're talking about programs that don't cost much from the government's budget, but which have a huge impact in a region like ours." "Several municipalities and MRCs have adopted resolutions to denounce these cuts," says the Mayor of Gaspé, Daniel Côté.

The Réno-Région program provided funding for lower income households to carry out essential renovations, such as replacing windows or repairing leaking roofs. In addition, funding to adapt homes for people with disabilities and to support small businesses in making their stores accessible was also eliminated.

"What will these cuts do? There may be people who will

no longer be able to stay in their homes. If these people no longer live in their homes, where will they go? In our social and affordable housing, which is saturated? I don't think it's a good idea to penalize poorer or more vulnerable people," says the mayor.

It could cost a few thousand dollars to, for example, renovate a roof. In return, housing them in new apartments would cost at least \$225,000, the average cost per door to build new housing. And that's a very conservative figure.

### Rail Monitoring Office

When the budget was tabled, Quebec quietly announced to the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie that the rehabilitation of section three of the rail between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé was returning to the feasibility study phase.

Daniel Côté expressed his deep disappointment and reminded the Ministry of Transport's monitoring office of this. While the train was scheduled to arrive at the Gaspé station in 2026 and was pushed back to 2027, Quebec no longer has a

timeline to provide for the time being.

The ministry explained to elected officials the contractual pitfalls and major cost overruns. "I told them quite clearly that we don't need a Cadillac or a Mercedes for the Gaspé railway. We have a large section that is already built in Cadillac mode, where trains can travel at very high speeds with heavy loads. We don't need the Cadillac. We need a train that works. That's been our request from the beginning," says the mayor. "Let's streamline the process and make it passable by a medium-sized train for our needs. If they want a Cadillac within 20 years, that's fine, but as long as the work is completed quickly so the train can pass," he continues.

The rehabilitation must be able to accommodate a passenger train that meets Via Rail standards. "If Via can pass, freight trains can pass," says Mr. Côté.

### Request for federal election candidates

The Bloc, Conservative, and Liberal candidates have

Cont'd on page 12

# Réno-Région could be brought back, says MNA

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER - The CAQ government is making more cuts, this time it's programs designed to support entrepreneurship that are being abolished. The cuts come not long after the cancellation of renovation-related programs like Réno-Région.

This is another measure that went unnoticed in Finance Minister Éric Girard's March 25 budget, which was unveiled by the Gaspésie Prefects' Table.

"These are cuts to organizations that are present in the region and that aim to support businesses and entrepreneurs, and we are disappointed," says Mathieu Lapointe, president of the Gaspésie Prefects' Table.

Nevertheless, Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly Catherine Blouin is confident that the program could return quickly. "For Réno-Région, we know that it's a program that is greatly appreciated by our regions and that it works well, and that's what an MNA is for: to be the voice of the region,"



Photo: N. Sergerie

Bonaventure MNA Catherine Blouin is confident that a solution will be found for the Réno-Région program.

states Ms. Blouin. She notes that it's a program that must continue. "We must find a solution, and we're working on it. A path forward is emerging, and we'll soon have good news to announce," adds Ms. Blouin.

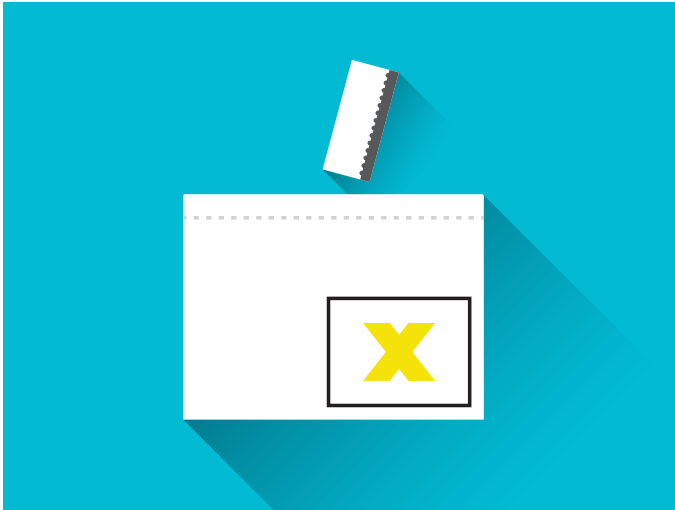
"I argued that it costs less to repair a roof than to build social housing. The math makes perfect sense, and we're working on it," continues Ms. Blouin.

Cont'd on page 14

FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28

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Elections Canada

# Chandler Councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout accused of violent crimes

NELSON SERGERIE

CHANDLER - Chandler town councillor Bruno-Pierre Godbout was arrested by the Sûreté du Québec on April 15 in connection with a series of violent crimes. He was remanded into custody and held at the New Carlisle Detention Centre, pending a bail hearing scheduled for April 17.

The 36-year-old man appeared late in the afternoon of April 15 via videoconference at the Percé Courthouse.

On April 17, the bail hearing of Bruno-Pierre Godbout was postponed until April 23, as his attorney, Ariane Cayer, was not available. He was represented by Claudie Gallant-Bergeron. He was therefore remanded in custody for at least six additional days.

Investigators arrested Bruno-Pierre Godbout in connection with sexual assault, assault with a weapon, assault, forcible confinement, and criminal harassment following an arrest warrant. The man faces 12 charges for incidents that allegedly occurred between 2010 and 2025 in Bonaventure, Gaspé, Newport, Saint-Nérée-de-Bellechasse, near Lévis, and Montreal.

At the time of his arrest, authorities had identified at least three adult female victims, though investigators believe



Bruno-Pierre Godbout.

Photo: N. Sergerie

there may be others.

A publication ban was issued to protect the identity of the victims. It is alleged that Mr. Godbout used his notoriety to contact the victims.

Given the potential number of victims and the nature of the alleged crimes, the Serial Crime Investigation Management Structure, coordinated by the Sûreté du Québec, was deployed.

This organization is a unified command structure within which Quebec police services work in partnership to quickly identify crimes committed by predators and arrest them. In addition to being a municipal councillor, Godbout is em-

ployed as a physical rehabilitation therapist at the Gaspé Peninsula Integrated Health and Social Services Centre (CISSS).

This is a new setback for the man, who is already facing charges of fraud, forgery, and use, possession, and trafficking of falsified documents. Those charges were filed following an investigation by UPAC (Quebec's anti-corruption unit) while the councillor was pro-mayor of Chandler during the suspension of former mayor Louisette Langlois in 2021.

UPAC, Quebec's Anti-Corruption Permanent Unit, estimated the fraud at approximately \$10,000.

## Gaspé has a new fire chief

NELSON SERGERIE

GASPÉ: - Gaspé will have a new chief as of April 28. Marc Grenier was appointed to the role on April 10. Mr. Grenier succeeds Carl Sinnett, who stepped down under controversial circumstances in November.

The new chief brings with him nearly 25 years of experience in firefighting and is currently serving as a lieutenant with the Grande-Rivière Fire Department. Recognized for his leadership, rigour and professionalism, his training and certifications, he is also an examining instructor at the École nationale des pompiers du Québec.

Mr. Grenier will take over from Éric Fugère, Chief of the Percé Fire Department, who has been acting as interim Director since Mr. Sinnett's departure.

According to an internal memo obtained, the town states that Mr. Grenier will continue to implement the recommendations arising from the organizational diagnosis of the work environment and the department's ongoing efforts to optimize and modernize its operations.

It's important to note that last year, the fire department was rocked by allegations of a toxic environment, leading to the suspension and eventual departure of director Carl Sinnett. Reports revealed that on June 7, 2024, a request for intervention was made to the CNESST concerning harassment and physical violence allegedly involving a member of the Gaspé Fire Protection Service.

The organizational diagnosis commissioned to address the issues made 15 recommendations, ranging from set-



Photo: Facebook

Gaspé's newly appointed fire chief, Marc Grenier.

ting up expectation management processes, optimizing operating guidelines, reactivating the labour relations committee, and creating an employee consultation committee.

## Police report

### Former SQ spokesperson to stand trial in September

The trial of Claude Doiron, the former spokesperson for the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) police force who faces a charge of sexual assault, will officially begin in September. The former police officer's case returned to the Percé Courthouse on April 7. The 61-year-old man faces charges of sexual assault, sexual interference, and invitation to sexual touching of a person under age 14. The identity of the alleged victim is protected by a publication ban. The alleged offences occurred between May 1 and September 30, 1988 in Cloridorme, in the Northern Gaspé region. At the time, the accused was not employed by the Sûreté du Québec.

The case was postponed several times in recent months. However, dates have now been set for the hearing of preliminary motions related to the trial. While the nature of these motions has not yet been specified, they will be heard by the court on September 23 and 24, before the testimonies of witnesses. The motions are generally related to technical points of law.

The former sergeant Claude Doiron has elected for a trial in front of a judge alone. She or he remains to be appointed. He was suspended with half-pay following his June 15, 2023 arrest, following an internal investigation. The arrest took place just days prior to his retirement, while he was attending retirement-related workshops in Quebec City. The accused was in charge of communications in the Gaspé Peninsula, Magdalen Islands and Lower Saint Lawrence regions for close to 12 years at the time.

### Pascal Bergeron's court case postponed until June

Charged with sexual assault since February 19, Pascal Bergeron, 43, from Bonaventure, appeared at the New Carlisle Courthouse on March 31, represented by Legal Aid attorney Sonia Pinel. The case was postponed until June 9. Until his arrest, Pascal Bergeron had become well-known for his environmental causes advocacy in the regional media for a tad over a decade. The activist surrendered to the police forces after the Criminal and Penal Directorate issued an arrest warrant on February 5. The alleged victim filed a complaint against him in December. The alleged incidents occurred between September 1, 2022, and September 1, 2023, in Nouvelle or elsewhere in Quebec. A publication ban prohibits the release of information that could identify the alleged victim.

### Isaac Moffat Swasson still looking for a lawyer

Isaac Moffat Swasson, 34, from Listuguj notably found guilty of assault causing bodily harm, uttering death threats and mischief following a June 2024 trial, will come back to court in Quebec City on June 2, to inform the tribunal about the results of his efforts to find a lawyer. He last appeared in front of the Quebec Court on April 4, as he was supposed to have found an attorney, since he had fired the lawyer representing him in 2024. He had not recruited one by April 4 though.

Isaac Moffat Swasson has a criminal record going back to the beginning of the 2010s. In February 2019, after serving a jail sentence, he assaulted two men in Listuguj. He was arrested and charged with three counts of uttering threats, kidnapping, aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and robbery.

While incarcerated at the New Carlisle detention centre, on April 30, 2019, he caused major damage to the prison, by breaking furniture, electronics and plumbing items. The incident led to the prison's temporary closure, and 16 cells were closed for various periods of time. Inmates had to be transferred to other prisons because he was arrested with pepper spray that spread to the rest of the prison, the courthouse and the adjacent Sûreté du Québec police station.

Quebec Court Judge Annie Trudel rendered her decision on November 4, 2024, and found Moffat Swasson guilty of the charges laid after the February 2019 altercation and the April 2019 prison rampage. The two trials were held consecutively. His sentence will likely take several additional months before being rendered because nothing will move until he finds a lawyer.

Half of the cells damaged in April 2019 were cleaned and reopened. Thorough work is required for the eight other cells, and that work is underway. In connection to the April 19 incident, Isaac Moffat Swasson faced charges of mischief, assault on peace officers and obstruction in the work of peace officers.

During the 2024 trials, the Listuguj man was defended by lawyer Peter George-Louis, who followed Allan Guttman. Other cases related to Isaac Moffat Swasson will eventually be heard in court, but this time around in Montreal. Once incident is related to acts, including a hostage taking incident, that were committed in a cell at the Bordeaux prison.



Gilles Gagné

Commentary

An election held in a unique context

Who will win Canada’s election? Most survey analysts agree on one point: Mark Carney’s Liberal Party will likely defeat Pierre Poilievre’s Conservative Party. Whether the next government will be a majority one remains to be determined.

That was the verdict of 19 out of 20 polling firms, just 10 days before voting day. A statistical compilation of all the polls made by expert Philippe J. Fournier, founder of the Canada 338 and Québec 125 websites, indicated that the Liberal Party would have garnered 43% of voters’ ballots in mid-April, compared to 38% for the Conservative Party.

Mr. Fournier aggregated all the polls to get those numbers. He also broke down the numbers of each poll in order to draw a riding-by-riding chart. The Liberal Party would have garnered 190 seats, followed by the Conservative Party’s 124 constituencies. The Bloc Québécois would have won in 20 ridings and the New Democratic Party (NDP) in only 7. The Green Party could keep two seats.

Only one polling firm, Mainstreet Research, published a report that gave the Conservative Party a lead, by 2%. Mainstreet’s polls are updated every second or third day, which is rare among other polling firms. However, Mainstreet doesn’t often run riding-by-riding results.

In that context, Philippe J. Fournier broke down Mainstreet numbers and he states that the firm’s relative equality in its polling results, as a 2% difference comes within the margin of error, is insufficient to conclude that the Conservative Party was leading around mid-April.

Mainstreet did not take into account the fact that Pierre Poilievre’s party’s lead is overly heavy, statistically, in Alberta and Saskatchewan, which would not provide the Conservative party with enough seats to win, country-wide.

The same day, two other renowned firms, Nanos Research and Pallas Data, gave the edge to the Liberal Party, with winning margin of 7% and 8% respectively.

Polls are characterized by error margins and also by a confidence interval, which usually translate into the following warning: the results are reliable 19 times out of 20. Could Mainstreet numbers outside Alberta and Saskatchewan fall into that once out of 20 data? They could, as it happens.

However, there is little doubt that under Mark Carney, the Liberal Party leads in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario, the latter being the province

with the highest numbers of seats. The Liberal Party is also strong in certain parts of British Columbia. A nuance must be brought in the case of Quebec, since the Conservative Party has a strong base in about 10 ridings in and around Quebec City.

Demographics are not at a standstill

Some Conservative Party contest the results of recent polls. They argue that some of Pierre Poilievre’s rallies gathered record numbers of people, like one in Edmonton shortly after the beginning of the campaign. They affirm that people shouldn’t believe in polls.

They are right when they say that Pierre Poilievre has attracted record crowds to some of his rallies, more people than Brian Mulroney attracted in his good years.

If the Conservative Party wins 38% or 39% of the electorate support, they will have collected more votes than at any period in history.

The thing is that Canada had a population of 25.8 million people 41 years ago, the year Brian Mulroney won by a landslide, and 34.3 million inhabitants when Stephen Harper won a majority in 2011. Canada’s population reaches 40 million people now. We are not talking about the same demographics.

As for the validity of polling results, Conservative Party fans did not contest Pierre Poilievre’s 20% lead, before Christmas. At the time, the polls were reliable. Are they in denial now? Why would polls be wrong four months later? Denial looks possible.

Too late to correct perceptions?

Pierre Poilievre’s problems are multifold. Since winning his party’s leadership race in September 2022, he has adopted a bully style and political positions that are the backbone of the Republican Party in the United States. He has won strong political support in Alberta and Saskatchewan, where those staples of American politics are popular.

In Central Canada and in the Maritimes, some people were willing to vote for him because Justin Trudeau was worn out. A lot of electors would have chosen Mr. Poilievre out of spite, not conviction.

Then Donald Trump entered the scene, and woke up Canadians and Justin Trudeau. Pierre Poilievre’s style reminded them of Donald Trump, who personifies the biggest crisis of Canada’s lifetime.

Justin Trudeau can be good in crises, and he suddenly showed that there was a bit of statesmanship left in him in order to fight Trump. Also entered Mark Carney, a man whose resume outmatches that of Pierre Poilievre, who has never done anything but

politics since his studies. His failure to adjust to a new situation speaks volumes about what could happen with him at the helm of the country.

Canadians now have more than a barking option. They might opt for that on April 28.

Moreover, the April 17-18 debates probably didn’t erode Mark Carney’s shield much. His hesitant French was mostly perceived as a serious attempt to improve his skills, and in English, Pierre Poilievre was unable to knock down Mr. Carney.

The crisis created by Trump’s attempt to break Canada has transformed a race pitting Canada’s five major parties into a two-man contest. That election’s polarization of the vote could also spell devastation for the NDP and send it below an official party status.

A tight race in the region

In the riding of Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine-Listuguj, marked by new boundaries, people can expect a tight race. Outgoing Member of Parliament and former minister Diane Lebouthillier is trying to win a fourth consecutive term, a rare occurrence in politics. Her record is not stellar, though, as she has failed to support vigorously the request made by 20,000 petition signatories to regain VIA Rail’s train as soon as the line is ready in New Carlisle. Her lack of common sense as minister of Fisheries and Oceans will likely work against her, especially amongst lobster, shrimp, redfish and pelagic fishermen.

Her main opponent, Alexis Deschênes, of the Bloc québécois, possesses a sharp knowledge of the region’s realities. He is a fierce debater who outmatched Ms. Lebouthillier at the April 15 Sainte-Anne-des-Monts debate. He is a Legal Aid lawyer by trade, which gives him good comprehension of the reality of low-income families. His main obstacle towards a potential road to victory is the Mark Carney effect, the fact that a lot of people consider negotiations against the United States like the ballot question this year. In that regard, the Bloc québécois cannot play a big role.

Represented for the fourth time by Jean-Pierre Pigeon, the Conservative Party has no chance of being elected in the riding. The party drags a heavy liability, the poor regional development policies of Stephen Harper’s years. Mr. Pigeon will be lucky to get a 10% rate of support this year.

It is odd to see that the New Democratic Party candidate is not even campaigning this year. Ten years ago, prior to the 2015 election, the riding was still represented by an NDP Member of Parliament, Philip Toone, who benefitted from the Orange Wave of the late leader Jack Layton.

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# FEDERAL ELECTIONS: Regional politicians hand make a list of their priorities

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

CARLETON-SUR-MER: - The Regroupement des MRC de la Gaspésie and the Rocher-Percé MRC are sending their requests to the federal electoral candidate, in hopes that their needs will be addressed.

"Sustainable demographics is still an issue... welcoming newcomers to help revitalize our communities, and here we are struggling with the lack of housing. That's why we're asking for support for businesses with their labour needs with measures that will encourage the arrival of foreign workers, but also any measure that will facilitate and add housing to the area; that's what we want most and to give a breath of fresh air to the region," says president of the Regroupement, Mathieu Lapointe. "The



Photo: G. Gagné

President of the Regroupement, Mathieu Lapointe.

idea is to ensure that the concerns and issues we face in the Gaspé are well represented and brought back to Ottawa for the benefit of all our citizens," notes Mr. Lapointe.

The requests are grouped into four main themes: Infrastructure and Transportation, Demographics, Environment, and Economy. The group asserts that the federal government must support the development of federal infrastructure, including wharves and those managed by Parks Canada.

Ottawa must also increase the subsidies allocated to Quebec municipalities for their infrastructure under the Gas Tax and Quebec Contribution Program (TECQ), and must create new funding envelopes dedicated to recreational and sports infrastructure. It is also essential that the federal government supports the refurbishment of the railway to Gaspé.

At the economic level, support for the use of wood in construction or by enabling efforts to diversify markets

and foster innovation in the region are requested. Other measures include compensation for communities and businesses that will be affected by new caribou protection policies.

Furthermore, Ottawa must implement solutions tailored to the region, including expanded cell phone coverage across the territory and a reformed employment insurance system that reflects the realities of seasonal workers.

The Rocher-Percé MRC Council of Mayors is focusing on seven areas and hopes for a response from the candidates before the election, either in a public statement or direct replies to elected officials.

"In the best of all possible worlds, we would like answers to all of our concerns. I

would like commitments and potential solutions from the candidates. We won't be able to resolve everything overnight, but I want to feel that people understand these issues and will be our voice in Ottawa," says prefect Samuel Parisé.

The seven priorities include Employment insurance, wharf management by port authorities and funding of port infrastructure, services to citizens, the allocation of exploratory lobster fishing permits, the admission of temporary foreign workers in the fisheries sector and the challenges associated with their reception, the situation of seniors, access to food banks, and the median income of the MRC.

While the candidates have not made a public statement on the MRC's demands, the prefect promises that he will make public a summary of any responses.



Diane Lebouthillier wears her cap on all her campaign outings.

Photo: Diane Lebouthillier's Facebook page

## Diane Lebouthillier's cap is made in Quebec

NELSON SERGERIE

GRANDE-RIVIÈRE - Unlike American President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" cap, which is made in China, the one worn by federal Liberal candidate Diane Lebouthillier (Maîtres chez nous) was designed in the region and made in Montreal. When questioned by the Gaspé SPEC about the cap, the Liberal candidate's team responded that the concept was entrusted to Imprimerie des Anses in Chandler.

The design, which says Maitres chez nous (Masters of our home) was entirely created by a local graphic designer, and the caps were manufactured by Montreal-based AJM International.

## Another elected official resigns in Gespeg

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ: - Less than a year after being elected, Alcide Boulay resigned from his position as councillor for the Gespeg Mi'kmaq Nation on March 31.

Contacted by SPEC, Mr. Boulay emphasized that by serving on the council, he wanted to share his 50 years of experience in commercial fishing with the Nation and improve relations between members.

Mr. Boulay deplores the lack of communication with non-Native fishermen who have been fishing lobster for 30 years in the area where the Nation recently received two exploratory permits. Expressing disappointment with the council's approach and the lack of consideration shown for his proposals, Mr. Boulay has chosen to leave his position.

nificant step forward for the community, and discussions were held with non-Native fishermen, some of whom expressed concerns.

The council attempted to reassure them (non-Natives) while emphasizing that this is a historic occasion.

The council also stated that it acted democratically in the collective interest of the community, not in favour of individual interests. In the statement the council also expressed regrets that Mr. Boulay chose to voice his disagreement publicly instead of using internal forums designated for such discussions.

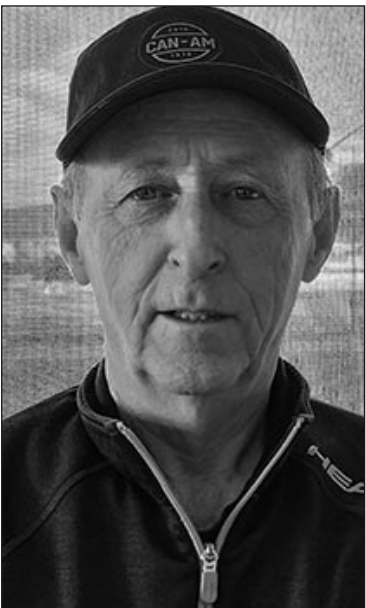


Photo: N. Sergerie

Alcide Boulay resigned from his position on March 31.





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# Oceana Canada requests rebuilding capelin and cod to revive Atlantic fisheries

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - Oceana Canada, an independent charity that is part of the largest international advocacy group dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Urges the federal government to pause the capelin fishery and reduce the northern cod quota to protect ocean ecosystems and coastal communities.

Over the first week of April, Fisheries and Oceans Canada met with representatives from the fishing industry, Indigenous rights holders, scientists, and environmental groups, including Oceana Canada, to discuss upcoming management measures for two important stocks, historically overfished and depleted capelin and struggling, iconic northern cod, like that evolving in area 2J3KL, located east of Newfoundland and Labrador coasts.

For years, fisheries mismanagement has overlooked a critical fact: neither capelin nor cod has experienced significant growth to healthy levels since 2017. Oceana Canada is urging the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to bring back healthy fisheries by following science, law, and policy. This must start with this year's management decisions. Below, Oceana Canada outlines what is needed to rebuild these vital populations.

Capelin remains depleted at just 16% of its pre-collapse biomass and must be rebuilt to support ocean health, marine life, and coastal communities. The 2024 biomass index, which tracks age-two capelin, showed stock growth, coinciding with the absence of a fishery in 2022 due to a lack of market demand. This marked the first break from fishing since 1994, as the roe fishery targeting egg-bearing females did not take place. However, fishing resumed in 2023 and 2024, and the stock is now at risk of dropping dangerously close to its limit reference point — the threshold below which serious harm occurs.

Northern cod, a main predator of capelin, remains depleted in a cautious state, and is struggling to rebuild. While there are uncertainties in the new assessment model, the trend is clear: cod stocks continue to stagnate

and decline, partly due to the lack of their primary food, capelin. Northern cod can't recover without capelin, yet current management ignores this fundamental link, according to Oceana Canada.

Canada has the tools to rebuild both stocks and manage them together — if they are applied. For example, two other cod stocks (southern Newfoundland and northern Gulf of St. Lawrence) are on a recovery path with new rebuilding plans that set management objectives. In contrast, northern cod remains in crisis, with no targets or harvest decision rules. Managing decline is not a recovery plan, it's a slow-motion economic failure. A smart, resilient seafood future starts with managing growth, adds Oceana Canada.

## Recommendations

The organization recommends to pause the capelin fishery and reduce the northern cod quota by half until rebuilding measures are put in place, establish healthy thresholds and biomass targets, in line with the Fisheries Act.

Oceana Canada also recommends to set annual harvest rules to enable predictable fishing that supports rebuilding, immediately add capelin to the Fish Stock Provisions of the Fisheries Act and implement modern fisheries monitoring protocols for both stocks, consistent with DFO's Fishery Monitoring Policy.

"Capelin are too important to continue to be managed by quota rollovers and the outdated assumption that the population cannot recover. Capelin hold cultural significance as food for people during the annual capelin roll, draw in humpback whales that support ecotourism operators, and provide sustenance to the bird colonies that dot the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. Capelin is everyone's fish — and therefore everyone's responsibility," says Jack Daly, marine scientist at Oceana Canada.

"The future of Canada's northern cod fishery and its place in the global seafood market hinges on rebuilding capelin. DFO's own science confirms that a lack of capelin

is the biggest barrier to northern cod recovery. If we want abundant cod and a resilient seafood industry, we must break from failed management practices and commit to rebuilding capelin and cod populations. The choice is clear: restore capelin, or risk losing cod for good," said Rebecca Schijns, fishery scientist, Oceana Canada.

## More reference information needed

Capelin and northern cod lack upper stock reference points to define a healthy population size, as well as biomass targets, harvest decision rules, and other science-based indicators essential for informed decision-making and rebuilding efforts.

Without these tools, DFO continues to manage capelin in the dark for more than three decades. Previous decisions about cod harvests did not follow scientific advice or meet policy and regulatory requirements, leaving the fishing industry without a clear path forward.

According to Oceana Canada, the capelin stock has been depleted for the last 30 years, as its biomass is at just 16% of its historical abundance.

Moreover, 84% of Newfoundland and Labrador residents support pausing the commercial capelin fishery to



Photos: Courtesy of Robert Nicolas

let the population grow and 82% of that population agree that the federal government should be doing more to protect and manage fish populations like capelin that feed large ocean ecosystems. That survey was carried out in April 2023.

In 2024, a 32-year commercial moratorium on northern cod was lifted, and the Canadian fishing quota was increased by 38.5% to 18,000 tonnes. This coincided with a new cod assessment method and lowering the limit reference point.

Cod experienced a small population boost around 2017 but has since stalled at insufficient levels, with spawning stock biomass hovering between 300,000 and 600,000 tonnes — roughly one-third of what it was in the early 1960s, with no improvement in sight. Research suggests northern cod

could recover in 11 years, generating 16 times more jobs and \$233 million in economic activity.

Established in 2015, Oceana Canada has successfully campaigned to ban single-use plastics, end the shark fin trade, make rebuilding depleted fish populations the law, improve the way fisheries are managed and protect marine habitat.

The organization works with civil society, academics, fishermen, Indigenous Peoples and governments to return Canada's formerly vibrant oceans to health and abundance. By restoring Canada's oceans, Oceana is of the view that the country can strengthen its communities, reap greater economic and nutritional benefits, and protect the future. More information can be obtained at Oceana.ca.

## Let's Talk About Lobster

PENNY MACWHIRTER

It is that time of the year, when Gaspeians mouth's are watering, in anticipation of the first lobster catches of the season.

There's a sense of excitement as the region's fishermen start stacking their lobster traps on the wharves and boats go into the water. In celebration of official start of the lobster season, which as of April 17 is scheduled for April 26, let's test how much you really know about your favourite crustacean?

1. How many walking legs do lobster have?
2. True or false, due to genetic mutations, wild lobsters can be found in colours other than green.

3. What colour blood do lobsters have?
4. True or false, the pincher claw is used to break up hard food such as clams?
5. True or false, lobster can regenerate certain body parts?
6. Is it true that lobster have teeth?
7. What parts of the body does a lobster smell food with?
8. This happens when a lobster outgrows its shell?
9. Quebec lobster fishermen use a variety of conservation methods, ensuring a \_\_\_\_\_ of the fishery.
10. Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ fishermen earn their living from lobster fishing in Quebec.
11. True or false, after mating a female lobster can carry around sperm in her body for up to a year?

12. How long does a female lobster carry her eggs for?
13. The largest recorded lobster was caught in what Canadian province?
14. Nutritionally, lobster is high in \_\_\_\_\_ and low in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. True or false, most lobster only travel about a mile or so?
16. In what direction does a lobster walk when it feels threatened?

Answers on page 10.





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# Popular wine varieties and the foods that go with them

Penny MacWhirter

Ingredients and culinary skills are not the only components that can bring out the flavour in a delicious meal. Wine can serve as the perfect complement to a meal, particularly when individuals identify which varieties go well with certain foods.

The following are popular wine styles, their flavour profiles and foods that go well with them.

**Pinot Noir**, with its light to medium body and soft tannins, pairs well with a variety of seafood including salmon, tuna, crab, and oysters. It also complements delicate white fish and shellfish like lobster, crab, mussels, and shrimp. The wine's red fruit flavours and earthy undertones can create a nice balance with the natural sweetness and richness of many seafood dishes.

**Cabernet Sauvignon**, especially when young and full-bodied, generally pairs well with richer, meatier seafood like salmon and tuna. The wine complement the fish's natural fat and enhance its flavour profile.

**Chardonnay** is widely considered the most popular white wine in the world. Wine Folly indicates Chardonnay boasts a yellow citrus fruit taste that can be akin to banana or pineapple and often features a touch of butterscotch, vanilla or toasted caramel. Chardonnay pairs well with seafood like lobster, crab and shrimp and white flaky fish like haddock, cod, redfish and bass.

**Sauvignon Blanc** is another white wine that boasts a fruity flavour profile. The profile of Sauvignon Blanc calls to mind exotic fruits like honeydew melon and kiwi. Sauvignon Blanc is considered a light- to medium-bodied white wine, with its high acidity, sauvignon blanc cuts fattier fish, so you may want to try options, like mackerel and white flakey fish such as sea bass, flounder and sole. In addition, Sauvignon Blanc pairs well with various French dishes.

*When paired with the right dish, wine can take your meal to the next level and make an evening much more memorable.*

# Let's Talk About Lobster

You **cracked** your **claws** and buttered your brain, now it's time to see how you did, here's the answers to our lobster quiz.

Answers

1. Lobster have 8 walking legs.
2. True. Lobsters can be several colours other than dark green. Blue, yellow, grey, calico, multi-colored and albino are the result of a genetic mutation that causes a missing pigmentation. When a lobster is cooked, only the red pigments in the shell can withstand the heat, resulting in the bright red shell most people are familiar with.
3. Their blood is clear and when cooked it turns white and thick, which you can often see oozing out of their shells.
4. False. It is the crusher claw that is used to break up food. The pincher is used to tear apart soft prey such as worms.
5. True. Lobster can regenerate their claws, legs and antennae. The process can take up to 5 years.
6. Lobster do not have teeth. They have a gastic mill in their digestive track that helps them grind down their food.
7. The chemosensory hairs on their legs and feet help lobster identify their food that is nearby, they use their antennae to smell food that is further away.
8. Lobster shells do not grow, so when the lobster grows it must molt their shell and grow a new one.
9. Quebec fishermen are known for their commitment to sustainable fishing practices, including advanced conservation measures.
10. According to the most recent data from MAPAQ approximately 1,500 fishermen earn their living from lobster fishing in Quebec.
11. True. A female lobster can carry the sperm around for up to a year.
12. A female lobster carries approximately 8000 eggs, in her swimmerets until they hatch between the 9th and 12th month.
13. The largest lobster was caught in Nova Scotia in 1977. It weighed over 44 pounds and measured 3.5 feet in length.
14. Lobster is good for you. It is high in protein and low in fat.
15. While some larger lobster that live in deeper water are known to migrate closer to shore in the summer, most lobster do not travel more than a mile.
16. If threatened a lobster can walk backward using its tail.



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# Diane Lebouthillier receives a hand from Dominic Leblanc

GILLES GAGNÉ

CARLETON - The outgoing Minister of International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs, Dominic Leblanc, spent the morning of April 17 to take part in a meeting on economic diversification, with regional stakeholders concerned about the tariffs imposed by American president Donald Trump.

Dominic Leblanc, who is also the Liberal candidate in the constituency of Beauséjour, located in south-eastern New Brunswick, came 11 days before voting day, at a time when economic uncertainty related to the trade crisis with the United States is a key issue in the Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj riding.

When asked if the recent economic diversification efforts come a bit late, considering that the vulnerable trade position of Canada against the United States has been identi-



Photo: G. Gagné

fied for at least 40 years, Mr. Leblanc replied that “there is never a bad moment to do the right thing.”

Also asked whether he was there to discuss with the speakers or rather to support his Liberal colleague, Gaspé candidate Diane Lebouthillier, the main person concerned responded immediately. “Good news, I can do both at the same time,” he said.

In total, about twenty guests accepted the Liberals' invitation, either in person at the Gaspésie Convention Centre or virtually. Two hours were devoted to this meeting, which not surprisingly focused primarily on U.S. tariffs and Canadian counter tariffs.

“What stands out is people's desire to be economically competitive across Canada, to recognize the threat posed by Mr. Trump's tariffs, but at the same time, to work together in solidarity to protect jobs, workers, and entrepreneurs' investments,” added Dominic Leblanc.

Participants were able to suggest ideas for measures or policies to reduce the impact of the economic war between Canada and the United States. For Diane Lebouthillier, the meeting was intended to be a logical continuation of the many she has been holding

on the ground since the start of the election campaign. For her, these discussions aren't all negative.

“It was to also see the full potential of our businesses, and that, too, is important to me: the hope our businesses have to continue to grow. For the participants, it was above all an opportunity to share their concerns with a politician well-versed in Canada-U.S. relations,” she pointed out.

GIMXPORT director general Gino Cyr pointed out that the fishing industry is as important in the region as the automobile manufacturing industry elsewhere.

“Since Donald Trump will be in office for nearly four more years, he appreciated the opportunity to better understand the ins and outs of the current situation,” first stated Mr. Cyr.

Asked if the meeting was rather a political tool to help the Liberal Party as the electoral campaign is engaged in its last stretch, Gino Cyr replied that “today was a fine opportunity to talk to Mr. Leblanc, who is directly involved (in trade talks with the United States). We have pre-occupations.”

Valentine Palma, director general of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also participated in the consultation process. While she understands that Dominic Leblanc is coming to take the

pulse of regional stakeholders working in various fields, she also hopes that the information provided will be taken into account going forward.

“I hope that, afterward, we'll come out of this with some insight, and that we'll really make use of all this very useful advice,” she said. Ms. Palma also stressed that some companies are disadvantaged by the counter tariffs imposed by the Canadian government.

“As Mr. Bélanger (Gabriel) of Rail GD remarked, he orders parts from the United States to make some repairs. If they are hit by counter-tariffs, it hampers his capacity to be competitive. Counter-tariffs have to be imposed with care,” she pointed out.

Ms. Palma believes that the presence of members of the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and the forestry industry added valuable perspective to the discussion.



Valentine Palma.



GIMXport director general Gino Cyr.

## Another demonstration by daycare educators

NELSON SERGERIE  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

GASPÉ - Unionized educators affiliated with the CSN demonstrated once again on April 16 throughout the Gaspé Peninsula to demonstrate that they are still mobilized against the Quebec government in the negotiations for the renewal of collective agreements.

Approximately 300 workers at 12 early childhood centres (CPEs) in the Gaspé Peninsula and Magdalen Island concluded a new three-day strike from April 14 to 16, bringing the total number of strike days to 13 days since January. In Gaspé, about sixty people demonstrated at Yvette-Bossé Park downtown, while some 50 others were

present in front of the offices of Bonaventure Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Catherine Blouin.

“We're demonstrating not only for the educators, but also for the network because we no longer have any replacements. The conditions are so poor that we no longer have any replacements,” said Karine Boulay, president of the union for the Voyage de mon enfance daycare centre in Gaspé.

The result is that there are no longer any staff to replace educators when they are absent, and the workers are exhausted.

“For Quebec (the government), we're babysitters. It doesn't understand the importance of our role, raising children. We're here to plug holes,” says Ms. Boulay, who

maintains that the network has not changed in recent years.

Wages remain the main issue in these negotiations. The Quebec government is offering the same salary as other public sector workers, namely 17.4% over five years.

“We're starting with a step back. The 17.4% doesn't equate to what others will receive as a raise. A trained educator with a technical qualification starts at \$21 an hour. Even with the 17.4%, we still can't get a salary equivalent to what educators in school daycares are paid,” says Ms. Boulay.

The latest reports from the Quebec government indicate that there are still many things that are holding things up.

After 13 days of strike action, no decision has been made as of (April 17) regard-

ing what's next.

“They'll see how things progress. If things don't change, I imagine we'll continue with more strike days,” says the president, who maintains that the mobilization remains strong. The participants were scheduled to meet at the offices of Gaspé MNA Stéphane Sainte-Croix to deliver their message, but the plan changed at the last minute.

“It's legitimate in terms of concern. This is an important aspect for our children. I'm concerned about the situation. I hope we can find a solution as quickly as possible,” says the MNA, who trusts both parties to find a way out.

The difficulty of attracting new workers is a problem. “There's a loss of interest among our young people in a

potential career in child-care. The CAQ (Coalition Avenir Québec) has significantly improved the working conditions of our employees. We must continue to move forward and make the sector more attractive,” said the elected official.

In addition to wages, the workers are demanding a lighter workload; better compensation to ensure attraction and retention; regional disparity bonuses for employees in certain remote regions; measures to improve the quality of services for children, including through clearly defined and respected ratios between the number of educators and children, as well as better support for children with special needs.

## MURDOCHVILLE:

### ▶ Cont'd from cover

grams per tonne in silver within the 2024 MRE model, as well as 148.8 metres grading 0.63% in copper and 4.40 grams per tonne in silver at depth below the 2024 MRE model, extending mineralization to a vertical depth of 528 metres.

- Drill hole 30-947, an un-assayed historical hole located 110 metres south of the 2024 MRE model, was stockpiled on site and the core recovered and assayed, yielding five significant intersections, including 82.0 metres grading 0.31% in copper and 2.55 grams per tonne in silver. These results indicate that the deposit is open to the south.

### Room for optimism, according to company president

Robert Wares, chief executive officer of Osisko Metals and a trained geologist, expresses enthusiasm when he looks at recent mineral assessments.

"We are very pleased with these new drill results at Gaspé, which have exceeded our expectations. All holes intersected significant disseminated mineralization within the volume of the 2024 MRE model, and new mineralization has been added at depth well below the base of the 2024 MRE model, which was constrained

to the lower contact of the C Zone skarn horizon," he first reacts.

Skarn is a Danish word used in geology to define a lime-bearing siliceous rock produced by the metamorphic alteration of limestone or dolomite. The term metamorphic often refers to rock that has been subjected to very high temperatures, generally millions of years ago.

"Drill core from historical hole 30-947 was also recovered and assayed, yielding positive results and indicating that the deposit extends laterally 110 metres south of the 2024 MRE model and remains open in that direction. This is an excellent start to the 2025 drill program, and we look forward to a regular flow of results from our 110,000-metre program as we confirm our large existing copper resource, and aim to expand it at depth, to the south and to the west towards Needle Mountain," adds Robert Wares. Needle Mountain was exploited as an open pit mine until the beginning of the 1980s, when a recession caused copper prices to plummet, and make low-grade deposits of copper unprofitable.

Molybdenum, a metal notably used in steel alloys, was located in some of the drillings made by Osisko Metals's sub-contractors, but not everywhere, according to documents issued by the company. In two areas, the molybdenum content reached 0.4%, which is consid-

ered high grade by Osisko Metals.

### Drillings moved from Copper to Needle mountains since 2022

The 2022 to 2024 Osisko Metals drill programs were focused on defining open-pit resources within the Copper Mountain stockwork mineralization, leading to the May 2024 mineral resource estimate. Extending the resource model south of Copper Mountain into the poorly-drilled primary skarn/porcellanite portion of the system subsequently led to a significantly increased resource, mostly in the inferred category.

The 2025 drill program is primarily designed to convert the November 2024 MRE to measured and indicated categories, as well as test the expansion of the system deeper into the stratigraphy and laterally to the south and southwest towards Needle East and Needle Mountain respectively.

Osisko Metals acquired a 100% interest in the past-producing Gaspé Copper mine from Glencore Canada Corporation in July 2023, roughly four months after reaching an agreement to start a drilling campaign.

The company is presently focused on resource expansion of the Gaspé Copper system, with current indicated mineral resources of 824 million tonnes grading 0.34% in copper

equivalent. The equivalence derives from the inclusion of silver and molybdenum contents in some samples.

Osisko Metals has also determined that the inferred mineral resources of the same Murdochville zone could amount to 670 million tonnes grading 0.38% in copper equivalent. Further tests and drillings are conducted to bring that inferred content to indicated content.

The Gaspé Copper deposit hosts arguably the largest undeveloped copper resource in eastern North America, and is strategically located near existing infrastructure.

Osisko Metals is a Canadian exploration and development company evolving in the critical metals sector, with a focus on copper and zinc.

### The Murdochville project

- Estimated cost of opening the mine and an ore concentrator: \$2 billion
- Estimated copper weight to be produced out of new deposits, considering current re-

source: 4.91 billion pounds, or 2,230,000 metric tonnes.

- Size of 2025 drilling: 100,000 metres, which is 100 kilometres of rock carrots.
- Osisko Metals needs a price of \$US4.50 per pound of copper, once out of the smelter, in order to invest in the Murdochville mine.
- The preliminary economic study should be published in 2026
- The feasibility study should be ready by the end of 2027.
- The decision to invest or not should be made in 2029.
- The first copper mine in Murdochville was opened in 1954, like the smelter.
- The underground mine closed in October 1999.
- The smelter closed in April 2002. After relying solely on imported ore.
- Osisko Metals could hire about 700 people, maybe a bit more, if the Murdochville mine reopens. It will be an open pit mine in its phase one.
- The copper concentrate will be sent to Glencore's smelter in Rouyn-Noranda and/or other smelters in Europe.

## GASPÉ:

### ▶ Cont'd from page 2

visited Daniel Côté since the beginning of the campaign to listen to the needs of the Town of Gaspé. He talks to them about federal infrastructure that requires maintenance, municipal infrastructure, air, maritime, and rail transportation, and economic corridors, particularly in the context of threats from the United States. "I hope our next MP (Member of Parliament) will listen and have the freedom to advance our priorities in Ottawa. Everyone has their heart in the right place and everyone wants to work for the region," the elected official hopes.

The mayor notes that it's difficult to isolate a single issue as a top priority, as many of the town's challenges are interconnected.

Return to the Alliance of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities

Absent from the Alliance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence towns for a decade,

Gaspé is returning to this association after leaving it, in part due to the cuts imposed during Philippe Couillard's Liberal reign between 2014 and 2018. Tariff threats from the United States have played a role in the Town of Gaspé reconsidering its position with the Alliance.

The shift toward the town's shipbuilding industry as a development axis is also another factor that tipped the scales. "All the other shipbuilding towns seem to be members of the association. It's a great forum to share our expertise and showcase our shipbuilding industry. It's a great forum for fisheries, navigable waters, drinking water, riverbank erosion—in short, the alliance wasn't as well structured."

"It was a very important issue when we left it around 2014-2015 during the Couillard government's austerity measures. But it grew, and I brought up the option of having us become members again, and the council said yes," argues Mayor Côté.

### Participatory Budget 2025

After the success of the first edition in 2024, Gaspé is relaunching the participatory budget in 2025, doubling the amount to \$100,000.

"There were several interesting projects in 2024. Some needed additional support. People can resubmit their proposals. I hope for as many projects as possible. I hope to see key projects emerge with the help of the town's funding envelope. It would be even more magnificent. If we put in \$100,000, it would be great to see a \$300,000, \$400,000, or \$500,000 project created," dreams Mr. Côté.

In 2024, 17 projects were submitted, and five were selected from a popular vote. Citizens have until May 31 to submit their proposals. A maximum of ten projects will be submitted to a vote between August 5 and September 10, with the town council aiming to select the winning project before the municipal election campaign begins.

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# Announcements



## Obituary



### BOYLE: William (Billy) Robert

With deep sadness, the family announces the passing of William Robert Boyle, affectionately known as Billy, on March 7, 2025, at his home in Mississauga, Ontario. He passed away at the young age of 86, just two weeks shy of his 87th birthday. He was born on March 20, 1938, to the late Neil and Elsie Boyle.

Family was most important to Billy as well as his relationships with his cousins and friends. He was ready to lend a helping hand with his knowledge and generosity to most that needed it. He was loved by all who had the privilege of knowing him and will be missed dearly.

Billy is survived by his twin brother Watson (Myrna); sisters Betty (Donny, deceased), Ella, Fay

(Gordon, deceased), Sharon (George), Ginnie and Debbie (Bob, deceased); many nieces and nephews; and his stepsons Van and Dennis.

He was predeceased by brothers Anson (Eileen), Dickie (Pauline, deceased), Floyd (Grace), Wesley (Arlene, deceased) and John (Shirley); sisters Emily (Jane), Marjorie (Earle, deceased), Jean and Ruby; and sister-in-law Sara (Watson's first wife).

A visitation will be held July 31, 2025, at St. James Church, Wakeham at 1:30 p.m. The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. followed by the burial at Wakeham Cemetery (north end).

### Prayer for a Safe Season

*Creator of the sea and sky,  
We come with grateful hearts,  
for the bounty of the ocean,  
and the strength of those,  
who work upon its waves.*

*As the season begins,  
We ask for steady hands,  
sharp eyes, and calm waters.  
Watch over every boat and every crew,  
Guide them safely to and from the shore.*

*Bless the traps we lay with a generous harvest,  
But more than anything,  
bring each person home safe.  
Let the sea be a partner, not a peril.  
May there be respect between all who fish,  
And care for the ocean that sustains us.  
We give thanks for tradition, for hard work,  
And for the families who wait  
on land with love and hope.*

### Obituary

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### YORK:

#### FADOQ

**May 10:** FADOQ York River Senior Citizens Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting beginning at 4 p.m. at the Gaspé Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59, 197 Jacques Cartier St. The AGM will be followed by a buffet supper and live entertainment with Coco and Dodo. The price of tickets are \$25 with a \$15 rebate for members who attend the AGM. For more information and to purchase tickets contact Ron Mundle 418-355-4732, Tony Patterson 418-368-3276, Debbie Sams 418-868-2977, Clothilda Adams 418-361-5619. Deadline for purchase of tickets is May 8.

### SHIGAWAKE:

#### Shigawake Community Centre

**May 17:** Shigawake Community Centre will be hosting a Mother's Day tea from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Cost:

adults \$12, 6-12 \$6 and children under 6 will be free.

### HOPE:

#### Hope Baptist Church

**Sundays:** Sunday School starting at 10 a.m. Worship service beginning at 11 a.m.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### Bible Chapel Meetings

**Sundays:** Breaking of Bread for believers - 9:30 a.m., Gospel meeting and Sunday School - 2 p.m.  
**Thursdays:** Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! For more information: 418-752-3372 or 418-752-6011.

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### New Carlisle Legion

**Mondays:** Mini bingo beginning at 7 p.m. for the months of April and May.  
**Wednesdays:** Shuffle board beginning at 4 p.m. Line Dancing beginning at

7:30 p.m. for \$7.

**Thursdays:** Darts beginning at 7 p.m. for \$10.

**Saturdays:** Pool beginning at 8 p.m. \$1 per game.

**May 6:** General meeting at 6 p.m. at 1 Mount Sorrel, New Carlisle

### NEW CARLISLE:

#### New Carlisle

#### Funeral Association

**May 10:** The New Carlisle Funeral Association will be having a Mother's Day tea at the New Carlisle town hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: adults \$12 and children under 10 is \$7.

### CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

#### 50+ Club

**Tuesdays:** Weekly bingo every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. \$10 for three cards. Extra

cards are \$1 each.

**May 11:** A Mother's Day brunch will be held between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10 and 0-6 is free.

**May 19:** Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**June:** No meeting.

**June 15:** A Father's Day brunch will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cost: 13+ \$20, 7-12 \$10, and 0-6 is free.

**July:** No meeting.

**September 20:** A Harvest Bingo will begin at 1 p.m. - until finished, doors open at 12 p.m.

**September 21:** Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**October 19:** Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**November 16:** Meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### UNITED CHURCH HOPE TOWN

**April 27**

10 a.m. Service

### UNITED CHURCH NEW RICHMOND

**April 27**

10 a.m. Service

### ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

**Sunday, April 27**

**New Carlisle**

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Hope Town**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Shigawake**

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

### PARISH OF GASPÉ

**Sunday, April 27**

**St. Paul's, Gaspé**

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**RENO-VILLAGE:**  
▶ *Cont'd from page 2*

In addition to the cancellation of Réno-Region, the Quebec government has also made the decision to abolish the mentoring program, *Défi Ose entreprendre*, which is designed to support emerging entrepreneurs.

"The challenges are great

for businesses, and this is a time when they'll need a helping hand, need support, and it's hard to understand why we're deciding to cut these organizations at this time," questions Mr. Lapointe.

"Regarding the *Ose entreprendre* program, the youth component to stimulate entrepreneurship will continue. Entrepreneurs still have access to

several services through more than a hundred regional support organizations and networks," says Ms. Blouin, assuring that the services remain available.

"There are also various measures with funding where support will go directly to our entrepreneurs. This is the choice we're making in the current context," Ms. Blouin

maintains.

In the coming weeks, the Quebec government is expected to unveil the "SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) Plan

In light of the information being quietly revealed, the panel notes that the Coalition Avenir Québec government's regionalist narrative no longer holds water. "We can't explain

these decisions. Indeed, these are programs that affect the regions and aren't aimed at large urban centres. This will hurt small municipalities. We want to be heard and, as the government has long said, it is a government of the regions, it wants it to listen to our needs and concerns, and that is a major priority," Mathieu Lapointe says.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Spending time with new friends and those you've know for years can be a satisfying way to pass the week, Aries. Try to plan some activities that you can enjoy together.

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, this week you may choose to tackle some necessary, albeit time-consuming, chores. They may take a few hours, but then you'll have time to unwind.

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, certain information that you have been looking for may finally come to the surface. Once you have your answers, you might be able to move on to other tasks.



**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, emotional matters that emerged over the previous few days might soon be settled with all parties feeling satisfied with the results.

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, confusion with loved ones can be easily cleared up

with a little, honest communication between you and the other people involved. Embrace this chance to be open and honest.

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, you may be especially motivated this week and feel a need to get as much done as

possible. Try not to race through tasks without focusing on doing things right.

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, you are operating at peak efficiency and ready to handle many of the less exciting tasks on your to-do list. Tackle the grunt work and the fun will follow.

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
You have the stamina and energy to get a lot of chores taken care of this week, Scorpio. But you may be short on time. Enlist other people to help if an opportunity presents itself.

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Don't be surprised if you spend a lot of your time on the phone this week, Sagittarius. There are many things on your to-do list and tackling them one by

one is essential.

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Financial paperwork and money matters fill the docket for you the next few days, Capricorn. Paying bills, balancing a checkbook and building your nest egg are your top priorities.

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
This week you could be feeling industrious and on the lookout for a new project, Aquarius. You will be an asset to anyone who needs extra assistance.

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Particularly vivid dreams could have you wondering what your mind is trying to tell you, Pisces. You might come up with some interesting interpretations, but the answers remain unknown.



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# Valuable information for all ages at Career and Education fair

PENNY MACWHIRTER  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

PASPEBIAC: - On April 3, 2025, the Committee for Anglophone Social Action and the Eastern Shores School Board hosted a Career and Education Fair at the Centre Culturel in Paspebiac.

Eighty-seven students from ESSB schools and 63 adults braved the snowy weather to attend the fair and visit the 35 employers from a wide range of industries. “Employers shared valuable information about available career opportunities and attendees had the chance to ask questions, learn more about potential career paths, and even submit their resumes for consideration,” says Cindy Carney, CASA Employability and Activity Agent.

As attendees entered the Career and Education Fair, they were greeted by ESSB’s education section of the event. The kiosks exhibiting several of the trades offered at the Anchor were interactive, participants could get their blood pressure taken at the health care kiosk, or try their hand at operating heavy equipment using a simulator.

SPEC spoke with carpentry student Calli Gallon, who was manning one of the booths. You will not find a better salesperson for the carpentry program than 18-year-old Calli. She says her favourite part of the course is learning to use all the tools and equipment. Despite having almost no prior experience, she has since gained a great deal of skill and confidence.

Emilie Woods is an Academic and Vocational Information Counsellor (AVIC) with ESSB, “My job falls under the SARCA mandate which is the reception, referral, counselling and support services, I offer support during the undertakings associated with an academic, career or personal education path. I work to promote adult and vocational education, explore new

programming and support the current and future students of the department of adult ed.”

While watching Ms. Woods encourage attendees to try out the interactive aspects of the kiosks, it is obvious that she is proud of the newer programs offered by ESSB. She tells SPEC, “ESSB has put a lot of effort into obtaining and offering new programs that are of interest to the community. We obtained the permanent authorization for Construction Equipment Operation. Carpentry is also available. We have also worked on Skills Training Certificates (STCs) which are shorter training programs that specialize in a specific area such as barbering and pet grooming, which will be offered soon!”

Participants were able to register for certain programs on site at the fair. For anyone wanting more information about upcoming programs, the best way to find out more information is by visiting the ESSB facebook page or calling the Anchor.

As far as trends go, ESSB has noticed that evening and weekend courses are quite popular. It provides students of all ages, even those already working an opportunity to upgrade their skills. As a result, “We have started offering STC trainings in the evenings and on weekends and this is a great way to obtain a certification while still working. We also offer Academic Upgrading online for those wanting to obtain high school credits by distance,” notes Ms. Woods. In addition, students can do Academic Upgrading, at their own pace and on a schedule that works for them.

Ms. Woods encourages potential students who are thinking of returning to school as an adult or after a break, not to be discouraged.

“While it can be both exciting and challenging and is a big decision, it can open up new opportunities and help you reach your goals!” she says.

As visitors finished in



Chris Flowers, Heavy Equipment Operator teacher shows onlookers how to operate the simulator.

Photos: P. MacWhirter

the education section and moved along to the career section of the fair, they were greeted by many friendly faces from a variety of sectors, hospitality, healthcare, community organizations, mining, and small business owners. At some of the kiosks businesses were actively seeking candidates, accepting resumes on site. While not all the businesses were hiring, they provided valuable information about career paths and how to stay informed about future employment opportunities.

As SPEC visited the various booths, many of the same questions were asked: Are you hiring? What experience or education do candidates need? Etc. While the answers varied, one answer stood out. At the Bonaventure River Camp booth, SPEC asked if candidates interested in being a salmon fishing guide needed a special course, guide Robert Benwell responded that no specific education was needed. He said “It’s more about personality. You must have the right attitude.” He went on to explain that the ideal guide needs to be a good host, have an easy temperament and be accommodating. He summed it up by saying, “You have to be able to make a rainy day feel like a sunny day.”

Another interesting booth was the Rietel, with employees Brenda Manning and Ethel Ward. The ladies explained that while Rietel Bonaventure already filled most of its seasonal positions, the Rietel in Percé is still accepting candidates for reception, dishwashing and cleaning. Most intriguing was



Robert Benwell, Haley Gallon and Steven Cayouette were the friendly faces greeting participants at the Camp Bonaventure booth.

the fact that Rietel Percé offers housing for its workers.

“The fair proved to be more than just an opportunity to meet employers – it was a chance for valuable interactions that could shape the future of attendees. The event was an important stepping stone in their academic and career journey, offering them

direct access to professionals in their chosen fields,” explains Ms. Carney. “The overwhelming success of this year’s event, despite the weather, signals that the fair will hopefully continue to be a cornerstone event for the community in the years to come,” concludes Ms. Carney.

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Calli Gallon hopes to find a career in carpentry now that she’s completed the carpentry course.



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