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OTTAWA SHOULD HELP PAY FOR MORE SECURITY AT SYNAGOGUES, SAYS HOUSEFATHER

MARTIN C. BARRY

Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather is urging the federal government to support the creation of a new program to help pay the added costs of security at synagogues and other religious institutions that are feeling the impact of rising antisemitism and Islamophobia brought on by the war between Hamas and Israel.

In the aftermath of two antisemitic incidents in Montreal last week – a firebomb was thrown at the front entrance of a West Island synagogue and gunshots were fired overnight at two Jewish schools in Côte des Neiges – Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last week singled out what he described as a “terrifying” rise in antisemitism as well as Islamophobia across the country.

“We’re seeing right now a rise in antisemitism that is terrifying. Molotov cocktails thrown at synagogues,” Trudeau told journalists during a scrum in Ottawa last week, while urging the Israeli military forces to take a humanitarian pause.

Last week on his Facebook page, Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather said he joined Canada’s Jewish community “in the anger, fear and frustration that stems from the upsurge in antisemitism across the world, including in this country.”

In recent weeks, Housefather has been pushing for the government to take two major



Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather is urging the federal government to provide support for improved security at religious institutions in the light of a rise of antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attack on Israel.

actions. The first would be a new security program that would help pay the added costs for security guards and other security enhancements at religious institutions, schools and community centers.

The second demand would be to establish a task force with provincial governments (which own jurisdiction of education) and school

administrators to tackle antisemitism on college and university campuses. (The confrontation last week between pro-Israel and pro-Gaza/Hamas activists at Concordia University stands as evidence of the need.)

However, Housefather also suggested there is only so much politicians can do to deal effectively with the rising use of incendiary

language in debates and exchanges over the Israel/Gaza/Hamas issue.

“The provisions of the Criminal Code already exist, which provides police the ability to take such actions,” he said, adding that politicians cannot direct police to arrest people or prosecutors to lay charges.

“You have already had numerous politicians at all levels of government pointing out to police that they should be acting when the line is crossed.”

Housefather said that as co-chair of the InterParliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism, he would be joining with other task force members in Washington DC this week for meetings with the Biden administration.

“I will also continue to push for the tabling of online harms legislation in Canada and across the globe,” he said. “I am confident we will see a bill tabled in the House in the next couple of months.”

Résumé

Le député libéral de Mont-Royal Anthony Housefather propose que le gouvernement fédéral appuie la création d’un nouveau programme qui servirait à défrayer les coûts pour l’embauche de nouveaux agents de sécurité aux synagogues et autres institutions religieuses impactées par une hausse en Islamophobie et antisémitisme depuis le début de la guerre entre Israël et Hamas il y a plus d’un mois.

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#1-1400 rue Ouimet
Montréal, Qc, H4L 3R1
Tél.: 514-736-1133
redaction@stele-medias.com
publicite@stele-medias.com
administration@stele-medias.com

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INFO FLASH



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| <p>SALON DES ARTISANS 2023</p> <p>Les 24 et 25 novembre 2023, venez découvrir des artistes et leurs créations à la salle Schofield de l'hôtel de ville (90, avenue Roosevelt).</p> <p>Entrée gratuite. 514 734-2928</p> | <p>CRAFT FAIR 2023</p> <p>November 24 and 25, 2023, come and discover artists and their creations at Town Hall (90 Roosevelt Avenue), in Schofield Hall.</p> <p>Free admission. 514 734-2928</p> |
| <p>CHANGEMENT D'HEURE</p> <p>Dans la nuit du samedi 4 novembre au dimanche 5 novembre, à 2 h du matin, l'heure a reculé pour revenir à l'heure normale. C'est l'occasion parfaite de changer la pile de votre avertisseur de fumée.</p> | <p>TIME CHANGE</p> <p>In the night of Saturday, November 4 to Sunday, November 5, at 2:00 in the morning, clocks moved back one hour to go back to standard time. It's an ideal occasion to change your smoke alarm's battery.</p> |
| <p>INTERDICTION DE NOURRIR LES ANIMAUX SAUVAGES</p> <p>Rappel : il est interdit de nourrir les animaux non domestiques tels que les goélands, pigeons, écureuils ou corneilles. Les mangeoires d'oiseaux sont permises, mais selon certaines restrictions.</p> <p>L'article 68 du Règlement n° 1380 sur la salubrité, la sécurité, la paix et l'ordre stipule que quiconque contrevient au règlement s'expose à une amende minimale de 150 \$ plus les frais, pour une première infraction.</p> <p>Renseignements : 514 734-4666 (Sécurité publique)</p> | <p>BAN ON FEEDING WILDLIFE</p> <p>We remind you that it is forbidden to feed non-domestic animals such as gulls, pigeons, squirrels and crows. Please note that bird feeders are allowed, though certain restrictions apply.</p> <p>Section 68 of By-law No. 1380 Concerning Sanitation, Safety, Peace and Order stipulates that anyone who contravenes the by-law is liable to a fine of at least \$150 plus fees for a first offence.</p> <p>Information: 514 734-4666 (Public Security)</p> |
| <p>COLLECTE DES MATIÈRES ORGANIQUES : BAC VERT OU BRUN</p> <p>Les résidents peuvent recourir au bac vert ou brun pour la collecte des matières organiques. Vous êtes tenus de déposer un seul bac en bordure de rue, au choix. Il est important de savoir que seuls les bacs homologués « Ville de Mont-Royal » seront ramassés.</p> | <p>ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION: GREEN OR BROWN BIN</p> <p>Residents can use either the green or brown bin for organic waste collection. You are required to place only one bin of your choice on the curbside. It is important to note that only the bins with "Ville de Mont-Royal" stamped on them will be picked up.</p> |
| <p>CONCERT DE NOËL (2023) CHOEUR WALTER</p> <p>Vendredi le 24 novembre prochain, c'est l'OBNL Choeur Walter qui sera en charge du concert de Noël pour l'année 2023 à la Ville de Mont-Royal. Pour plus d'informations et pour acheter vos billets :</p> <p>https://www.ville.mont-royal.qc.ca/fr/node/13010</p> | <p>CHRISTMAS CONCERT (2023) WALTER CHOIR</p> <p>On Friday November 24, the non-profit organization Choeur Walter (Walter Choir) will be in charge of the Town of Mount Royal's Christmas concert for the year 2023. For tickets and information:</p> <p>https://www.ville.mont-royal.qc.ca/en/node/13011</p> |
| <p>INSCRIPTION AUX ACTIVITÉS D'HIVER DES LOISIRS</p> <p>Les inscriptions en ligne débuteront à 9 h le mardi 5 décembre. Les inscriptions en ligne pour les activités aquatiques auront lieu du lundi 4 décembre à 18 h, au vendredi 8 décembre, à minuit.</p> <p>www.ville.mont-royal.qc.ca/fr/loisirs</p> | <p>REGISTRATION FOR WINTER RECREATION ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Online registration will start at 9:00 on Tuesday, December 5. Online registration for Aquatics Program will be held on Monday, December 4, from 18:00 to Friday, December 8 at midnight.</p> <p>www.ville.mont-royal.qc.ca/en/recreation</p> |

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 Recreation 514 734-2928
 Public Security 514 734-4666

Regular office hours
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Town Hall - 90 Roosevelt avenue H3R 1Z5

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Meals on Wheels

LA POPOTE ROULANTE



Le 18 octobre dernier, les bénévoles de la Popote roulante de Ville Mont-Royal se sont rassemblées au Country Club du Parc Connaught pour rendre hommage à Virginia St-Cyr qui cuisinera en novembre son dernier repas après 50 années de participation active au programme. Depuis 1973, Virginia a cuisiné chaque mois, 24 repas pour les clients de la Popote roulante...un impressionnant total de 14,400 repas.

Virginia est une inspiration pour tous et nous la remercions chaleureusement pour cette contribution extraordinaire envers les aîné(e)s qui ont besoin qu'on leur vienne en aide. La Popote roulante a un grand besoin de cuisiniers, serveurs, et chauffeurs. Les intéressés sont priés de s'adresser à Judith Privé, conseillère sociale au (514) 734-2937.

Sur la photo, Joan Clark, Responsable de la Popote roulante de VMR, remet une gerbe de fleurs à Virginia St-Cyr.

On October 18, Town of Mount Royal Meals on Wheels volunteers gathered at the Connaught Park Country Club to pay tribute to Virginia St-Cyr who will be cooking her last meal in November after 50 years of active participation to the programme. Since 1973, Virginia has cooked each month, 24 meals for Meals on Wheels clients... impressing total of 14,400 meals. Virginia is an inspiration to all and we warmly thank her for this extraordinary contribution to helping seniors. Meals on Wheels has a great need for cooks, cooks, servers, or drivers. If you're Interested please contact Judith Privé, Social Counsellor, (514) 734-2937.

In the photo, Joan Clark, in charge of Meals on Wheels at TMR, presents flowers to Virginia St-Cyr.

RED-HOT CAPS SNATCH SECOND-PLACE FROM SENS IN 6-3 MATCH



Capitals captain No. 19 Nicolas Gagnon-Oosterwaal (far left) celebrates after raising the score to 3-2 for his team during the second period of last Wednesday evening's match.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

MARTIN C. BARRY

The Town of Mount Royal Executive Hockey League's Capitals lived up to the fiery red-hot tint of their jerseys Wednesday evening last week when they bumped the Senators from second-place league standings down to fourth position, winning the match 6-3 following an initially slow start by the Caps.

The Capitals, who entered the game in fourth spot in the five-team standings, effectively managed to switch positions with the Senators, although the Capitals, the Predators and the Senators were locked in a three-way struggle for second-place with 15 points each earlier this week.

At the outset, things were looking good for the Senators who scored the first two goals. The first came just 45 seconds into the game when the Senators' No. 11 defenceman Chris Mandelos got the best of the Capitals' netminder Matthew Maxham, with assistance from Senators No. 17 Daniel Levasseur.

Around seven first period minutes later, the Senators' Luigi Caruso added to his team's initial streak of luck, raising the tally to 2-0 for the Senators with help from their team captain, veteran TMREH left-winger Takao Shibata and Ryan Hendy.

But that, friends, would be the end of the Senators' good fortune nearly to the end of the match. With less than two minutes left in the first period, the Capitals finally got into gear, when their No. 5 wingman Renaud Tilquin scored with the help of defensive teammate David Cloutier and No. 7 forward Vincent Bédard, for a tally of 2-1.

The second period saw the Capitals energized to make a clean sweep, shutting out the Sens over those 13 minutes of clocked play with

three goals against Caps' goaltender Maxham, while his defensive teammates seemingly were asleep or off-guard.

During this middle segment, the Caps' Tony D'Alesio scored at 05:43, assisted by teammates Paul Rivest and Arthur Wang. Then at 06:50, Capitals captain No. 19 Nicolas Gagnon-Oosterwaal got around the Senators best efforts to score while assisted by Renaud Tilquin and veteran centre Marcel Martin.

Scoring for a second time that evening, D'Alesio would end up crowning his team's second period accomplishments with a goal around a minute before the buzzer with assistance from Vincent Bédard and Daniel Lepore. The Capitals' scoring streak would spill over into the final period.

Three and a half minutes of clocktime into play, Caps captain Gagnon-Oosterwaal repeated his earlier success, lifting the score to 5-2 with help from active teammates Tilquin and Cloutier. At 05:37, Marcel Martin earned credit for single-handedly scoring against the Senators to raise the tally to 6-2.

In a twist of irony, and with less than two minutes left in the third period, the Senators got one last chance to end the game with some dignity when Chris Mandelos, who earned his team their first goal that evening, scored their last for a final 6-3 score favouring the Caps.

Résumé

Les Capitals de la Ligue exécutive de hockey de Ville Mont Royal ont défait les Senators 6-3 mercredi soir dernier dans un match à l'aréna municipal de VMR. Les Capitals ont réussi à déplacer les Senators à la quatrième position dans la ligue de cinq équipes, en les remplaçant en seconde place.

ÉQUIPE IMMOBILIÈRE

ANDREA NEEFF

REAL ESTATE TEAM

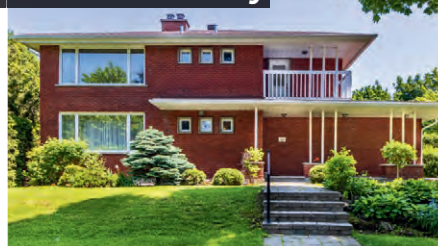
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ROYAL LEPAGE
TENDANCE



STÉPHANE RODRIGUE DEVIENT LE NOUVEAU COMMANDANT AU PDQ 26

MARTIN C. BARRY

Le maire Peter Malouf annonçait au cours de la séance du conseil municipal du mois d'octobre que le Poste de quartier 26 du SPVM accueillait récemment Stéphane Rodrigue comme nouveau commandant.

Comme le maire Malouf le signalait, Stéphane Rodrigue a longuement été associé à la communauté monteroise. Selon nos informations, il a débuté sa carrière de policier du SPVM au PDQ 24 qui était anciennement situé au 40 avenue Roosevelt.

Durant cette même séance, le maire révélait que le gouvernement provincial aurait lancé un nouveau programme de subventions pour les installations récréatives et sportives, offrant une aide financière de 66 % des frais admissibles pour des projets retenus jusqu'à un maximum de 20\$ millions de dollars.

Ainsi, le conseil adoptait ce soir même une résolution autorisant l'administration à entreprendre les démarches nécessaires pour

faire une demande de subvention pour le nouveau Centre sportif et communautaire, dont le coût estimé s'élève actuellement à 62\$ millions.

En livrant un résumé de divers travaux publics (réparations de chaussées, d'égouts et d'aqueducs) qui ont été accomplis au cours de l'été, le maire révélait que les travaux sur la plupart des rues à VMR seraient exécutés cette année, à l'exception du chemin Winton où les travaux sont reportés à 2024 en raison d'une instabilité qui a été découverte dans la chaussée.

Durant la période pour la présentation de rapports des membres du conseil, la conseillère du district 5 Julie Halde annonçait que le Chœur Walter donnerait un concert de Noël le 24 novembre à 19 h 30 à l'Église Unie de Mont-Royal au 1800 boulevard Graham.

Les billets peuvent être obtenus au coût de 25\$ par famille (2 adultes et enfants), 15\$ par adulte, et 10\$ pour les aînés et les étudiants. Il serait à noter que les billets ne seront disponibles qu'en personne au comptoir du



Dans son rapport mensuel, la conseillère pour le district 6 Caroline Decaluwe soulignait que le mois de novembre est le mois de la littératie financière.

Photo : Martin C. Barry, La Poste de VMR.

Summary

Centre Récréatif au 90, avenue Roosevelt, et aux bureaux du Centre de bénévolat de la Ville de Mont-Royal au 1800, boulevard Graham.

Dans son rapport, la conseillère pour le district 6 Caroline Decaluwe soulignait que le mois de novembre est le mois de la littératie financière. En ce sens, les membres de CPA Canada (cpaquebec.ca) présentent des webinaires gratuits les 16 et 23 novembre sur la gérance des finances à la retraite, ainsi que sur des méthodes pour déjouer les fraudeurs.

Mayor Peter Malouf announced during the October public meeting of town council that the Montreal Police Dept. had recently appointed Stéphane Rodrigue as the new commander of Station 26 which covers Côte des Neiges and TMR.

The longtime SPVM police officer may already be familiar to some town residents. Towards the beginning of his law enforcement career, one of Rodrigue's first assignments was at the former Station 24 at 40 Roosevelt Ave. in TMR.

ARTTRAM

Odile Loulou

ARTISTE DE LA SEMAINE - THIS WEEK'S ARTIST



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DE GRANDS CHANGEMENTS AU TMR POSTE POUR NOVEMBRE 2023

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Les nouveaux formats papiers et dates de tombées sont effectifs dès le 27 Octobre 2023 pour notre première parution au nouveau format, qui est prévue au 1er Novembre 2023.

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La date de tombée pour les articles et matériels visuels est Vendredi avant 12h00pm (midi).

GREAT CHANGES AT THE TMR POSTE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

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The deadline for all articles and advertising visuals is on Friday before 12h00pm (noon).

Bonjour à tous nos citoyens, visiteurs et lecteurs occasionnels; ci-bas est la liste courante des points de dépôts publics ou vous pouvez trouver La Poste de VMR.

Hello to all our citizens, visitors and occasional readers; here beneath is the current list of public deposit points where you can find The TMR Poste.

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THE MILITARISATION OF LANGUAGE

Dr. Romana Rogoshevska, TMR

Premier Francois Legault "Captain Quebec-rural" has seemingly scribbled his latest "survival of French" salvo on a cocktail napkin between refills. Toxic echo of early PQ armchair-socialism and resurgence of a fundamentally racist Quebec sovereigntist blueprint. If his agenda was to suck-up media attention in a flash, he got it last week.

My parents were Ukrainian freedom fighters and refugees after WW2. I was raised multilingual in Montreal, hold degrees from (English) Loyal, (French) U de M and (international) U de Geneva, worked with UN as linguist, travelled extensively, etc. I've seen a few things.

I don't consider myself "anglophone" or "any-phone" but a Montrealer.

Legault's quick-fix "final solution" to substantially hike tuition for non-Quebec students who study in English is shameful and won't stop the decline of French just perpetuate stereotypes of an inbred clan.

Soviets tried it with Ukraine after WW2, and Putin ran with it. Efforts to limit the use of Ukrainian in place of Russian have proved politically explosive and have come to symbolize independent Ukraine's post-Soviet identity crisis.

Similar prescription:

1) isolate;

2) censor freedom of language and education;
3) limit contact with outside world and immigration.

Result: today Ukrainians speak mainly Russian or russified patois version of Ukrainian. They know little of Ukrainian history except Russian propaganda and can't relocate due to language except now as refugees who can't speak proper Ukrainian, English or French.

Inadvertently Putin initiated a linguistic revolution that is redefining the Ukrainian identity he tried to massacre. Ukrainians are striking back not only with tanks but language. They want Ukrainian!

Fast-forward: there's a barbaric war ragging in Israel and Ukraine. Unfinished business. I'm not comparing our pampered Quebec with its makeshift language "war" to Russia but the following playbook sounds familiar and reason why we can't remain silent.

Russia has a long history of suppressing non-Russian languages by forcing Russian on minorities as the sole language to advance education and career. Thousands of Russians were relocated to Ukraine for this purpose.

In Putin's unhinged mind, the assertion of a non-Russian identity is a personal assault on his narcissistic drive for power. He's a one-trick pony who built on the authoritarian plan of Hitler and Mussolini, perpetuating the same defamatory lies against Ukraine by now claiming that President

Volodymyr Zelensky-- Jewish and speaks Russian-- is a fascist and neo-Nazi. The attack is desperate and obscene.

Putin's attempts are backfiring. Cornered, his rats are jumping ship.

Jewish-Ukrainian Zelensky ends every speech with the nationalist anthem: "Glory to Ukraine and glory to its heroes!"

Hope you're listening Premier Legault and minions: we won't be silenced. Glory to Quebec and glory to all who contribute with their cultural diversity for future generations but not blindfolded in a repressive linguistic ghetto with ugly overtones.

Otherwise, perhaps Montreal should seriously consider separating from Quebec and either remain in Canada or become a global financial hub and full-fledged independent democracy like Hong Kong. Toronto is salivating to open its gates to escapees from our English world-class universities and hospital teaching programs followed by the mass exit of business as during Levesque PQ era. Forget Montreal 's potential to become an international capital on all levels.

Instead, it will morph into a quaint quasi-Paris for tour buses from Disneyland in quest of poutine. Quebec's national dish of fries-cheese curd-drowning in salty brown gravy. Lard optional...

La militarisation du langage

Je ne me considère pas comme «anglophone,» «allophone,» ou «téléphone»... mais comme Montréalais. Mes parents étaient des aristocrates ukrainiens, des combattants de la liberté et des réfugiés après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. J'ai grandi multilingue à Montréal, diplômé de (anglais) Loyal, (français) de l'UdM et (international) de l'U de Genève. J'ai travaillé avec l'ONU comme linguiste et beaucoup voyagé.

Le premier ministre François Legault, « Capitaine Québec-rural », a apparemment griffonné sa dernière salve de « survie du français » sur une serviette à cocktail entre deux recharges. Echo toxique du socialisme-de-fauteuil du début du PQ et de la résurgence d'un projet souverainiste québécois fondamentalement raciste. Si son objectif était d'attirer l'attention des médias en un clin d'œil, il l'a eu la semaine dernière.

La « solution finale » de Legault consistant à augmenter considérablement les frais de scolarité des étudiants non québécois qui étudient en anglais, est honteuse et n'arrêtera pas le déclin du français mais perpétuera simplement les stéréotypes d'un clan consanguin.

Les Soviétiques l'ont essayé avec l'Ukraine après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, et Putin a suivi. Les efforts visant à limiter l'usage de l'ukrainien à la place du russe se sont révélés politiquement explosifs et sont devenus le symbole de la crise d'identité post-soviétique de l'Ukraine indépendante.

Prescription similaire :

1) isoler;
2) censurer la liberté de langue et d'éducation;

3) limiter les contacts avec l'extérieur et l'immigration.

Résultat : aujourd'hui les Ukrainiens parlent principalement le russe ou la version patois russifiée de l'ukrainien. Ils connaissent peu l'histoire de l'Ukraine, à l'exception de la propagande russe et ne peuvent pas déménager à cause de la langue, sauf maintenant en tant que réfugiés qui ne parlent pas correctement l'ukrainien, l'anglais ou le français.

Mais Putin a initié une révolution linguistique qui redéfinit l'identité ukrainienne qu'il a tenté de massacrer. Les Ukrainiens ripostent non seulement avec des armes mais aussi avec la langue. Ils veulent de l'ukrainien !

Une guerre barbare fait rage en Israël et en Ukraine. Je ne compare pas notre Québec choyé avec ca «guerre» improvisé à la Russie, mais le manuel de jeu suivant semble familier et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous ne pouvons pas rester silencieux.

La Russie a une longue histoire de suppression des langues non russes en imposant le russe aux minorités comme seule langue pour faire progresser l'éducation et la carrière. Des milliers de Russes ont été transférés en Ukraine à cette fin.

Dans l'esprit déséquilibré de Putin, l'affirmation d'une identité non russe est une attaque personnelle contre sa quête narcissique de pouvoir. C'est un homme à tout faire qui s'est appuyé sur le plan autoritaire d'Hitler et de Mussolini, perpétuant les mêmes mensonges diffamatoires contre l'Ukraine en affirmant désormais que le président Volodymyr Zelensky – juif et parlant russe – est un fasciste et un néo-nazi. L'attaque est désespérée et obscène.

Les tentatives de Putin se retournent contre eux. Ses rats quittent le navire.

Le juif ukrainien Zelensky termine chaque discours avec l'hymne nationaliste : « Gloire à l'Ukraine et gloire à ses héros ! »

J'espère que vous écoutez, M. Legault : nous ne serons pas réduits au silence. Gloire au Québec et gloire à tous ceux qui contribuent par leur diversité culturelle aux générations futures mais sans avoir les yeux bandés dans un ghetto linguistique répressif.

Sinon, Montréal devrait peut-être envisager de se séparer du Québec et soit rester au Canada, soit devenir un centre financier mondial et une démocratie indépendante à part entière comme Hong Kong. Toronto salive à l'idée d'ouvrir ses portes aux évadés de nos universités anglaises et de nos programmes d'enseignement hospitalier, suivi d'une sortie massive des affaires comme à l'époque de Lévesque PQ. Oubliez le potentiel de Montréal à devenir une capitale internationale à tous les niveaux.

Il se transformera en poutine-ville, un quasi-Paris pittoresque pour les bus touristiques de Disneyland.

Les articles publiés expriment l'opinion de leurs auteurs, mais pas nécessairement celle de La Poste de VMR. - The texts published represent the opinions of their authors, not necessarily that of The TMR Poste.

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RESPONDING TO FOUAD SAHYOUN

Tamar Levy

It is outrageous that the TMR Post would print Fouad Sahyoun's article justifying the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7. He says, "Don't blame me." I'm not sure what he is asking to be absolved of, but I do blame him for justifying the barbaric actions of Hamas terrorists with his disingenuous explanation that Palestinians said, "Ça Suffit" – they'd had enough. This is how Sahyoun excuses the planned execution-style murders and dismemberment of innocent civilians, the raping of women, the parading of naked bodies, and the hostage-taking of babies – BABIES! – the elderly, and the disabled. I indeed blame him, for lacking a moral compass.

His piece is one-sided and contains myths. First, if one wants to consider the history of Israel, Jews were present before Arabs, but were expelled by the Roman emperor Hadrian. Nonetheless, they maintained an uninterrupted presence in the land of Israel and continued

their enduring emotional link to their ancestral homeland. They have a right to be there. When Sahyoun refers to the "creation" of the State of Israel, he fails to realize that Israel was not created in 1947 but re-established, re-established because Israel is the expression of self-determination of an indigenous people, the Jews.

Sahyoun falsely claims that the nascent Jewish state ignored the Palestinian people and that they were treated unfairly. On the contrary, at multiple times Jewish leaders urged Arabs to remain and become citizens of Israel. For example, an appeal was issued to them on October 2, 1947 by the Assembly of Palestine Jewry. Furthermore, had the Arabs accepted the 1947 UN resolution, there would not have been any Palestinian refugees, and an independent state would now exist beside Israel. The first Arabs to leave were approximately 30,000 wealthy Arabs who fled to neighbouring countries to avoid an anticipated war. Modern Israel was legitimately created by

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181. However, on the eve of declaring its independence, Arabs launched an air attack on Tel Aviv followed by the invasion by Arab armies from Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt.

There is abundant evidence that Arab leaders themselves urged Palestinians to leave, including the memoirs of the 1948-49 Syrian Prime Minister Khaled al-Azm, who wrote, "We ourselves are the ones who encouraged them to leave." Others fled of their own accord, thinking they would return after the victorious Arab invasion. They did not anticipate that Israel would emerge victorious. Hence, they became Palestinian refugees.

After the war of independence, Israel consistently sought solutions to the refugee problem, but Arabs rejected all Israeli compromises. Unsurprisingly, Sahyoun fails to mention that from 1948 to 1972 approximately 820,000 Jews themselves became refugees from their Arab homelands. And while the

newly created United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) gave 50 million dollars to Palestinian refugees in 1948, there was no United Nations agency created to aid Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

Furthermore, he claims that all religions lived in peace prior to the creation of the state of Israel. That is patently false. One only has to look to the Hebron Massacre of Jews in 1929 for a clear example of the "peace" that existed prior to the reestablishment of Israel.

"Ce monde injuste?" Sahyoun asks. Yes, unjust indeed. But unjust for whom?

When Sahyoun asks, "Why have we arrived here," perhaps he could answer his own question by regaining and then utilising his moral compass, to reread history and no longer oversimplify the history of the region and its people.

Faith

GOD DOESN'T KNOW "HARD"

Bruce Wilkinson recently met with a large group of university students from twelve nations. It happened during the last week of an intense month long initiative in Swaziland, where these young people had spent a full week visiting every single high school in the nation to teach sexual responsibility in the struggle against HIV/AIDS prevention. The students shared stories of what had happened during that week.

When it was Wilkinson's turn to speak he shared a major concern facing his faith-based humanitarian organization. They had set their goal of recruiting ten thousand American volunteers to come to Africa during the next year, but were told by the airlines that travel arrangements on this scale would be problematic. So he asked the students to join with them and pray that God would provide the organization with a 747 jet. Laughter erupted across the room as the students shook their heads in disbelief.

He then posed this question to the audience: "Let's say you had run out of money and needed funds to buy food to eat. So you prayed to God and asked Him to supply as He had promised. Or, let's say that you had run out of seats and needed a 747 jet to carry thousands of volunteers to Africa. So you prayed and

asked God to supply as He had promised.

"Which would be more difficult for God to provide, the food or the 747? Would He say, 'The food is no problem and maybe I can find you a four-seater. But a 747, you've got to be joking!'

The silence in the room shouted that the students had seen the root of their unbelief.

GOD DOESN'T KNOW THE WORD "HARD"!

Two nights later, at midnight, the pastor's phone rang. It was a friend from the States. He said that a corporation that wished to remain anonymous had decided to purchase a 747 for the organization.

The truth is, the Hand of God is always available to us. Yet few people believe that the power of God is available to us today. The challenge for us is to move out of our "comfort zones" and security and take the risk of faith and give God the chance to demonstrate His power. As we step out in expectant faith, He will show up! The walk of faith insists that we are expected to attempt something large enough that failure is guaranteed ... unless God steps in! When we stand firm in faith, holding on praying expectantly, God is then able to release His power and accomplish His will. God is watching and waiting for us to ask

for the power He offers.

A pastor was leading fifty leaders who supervised the work of thousands of Christian workers around the globe. They were grouped around seven tables and asked to brainstorm the three biggest reasons why we are not seeing God's power released. After ten minutes, the pastor asked the first table, "What's your number one reason?" The answer: "Unbelief." When he asked them to explain they replied, "We may pray, but we don't really believe that God is going to intervene; that He wants to intervene, or that He even has the power."

He asked the second table the same question. They answered "Unbelief". The room became quiet. This was shocking because they hadn't been discussing unbelief. Table three: "Unbelief". Table four: "Unbelief." And on it went. Table six listed unbelief as the second reason. Every other group had placed it at the top of their list.

THE HAND OF GOD IS BLOCKED BY OUR UNBELIEF!

We may believe in some form that God is active in our world and in the lives of some people. But when it comes to our own lives there is no passionate conviction because our experience does not manifest that power.

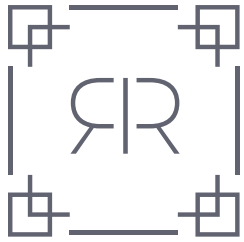
WHY?

Yes, there is unbelief, but it's more. It's the easy decision to quit on our faith when God doesn't act immediately! This is where we need the passion of patience! Patience and quitting are incompatible!

If we are to develop real passion in our faith we need both a proper understanding and a personal application of "patience". In our age of "instant gratification" and advanced technology where success is measured in "nano seconds", patience is not one of the most prized virtues. When we want something, we want it NOW! We also misunderstand the real meaning of "patience". We think of it as being little more than the ability to tolerate a bad situation without complaint. It's a kind of spiritual consolation prize we ask God for when we can't seem to get what we really want.

Patience DOES NOT mean settling sweetly for the second best. It DOES NOT mean standing by meekly while trouble tramples our lives. "PATIENCE" is a power word. It means to be CONSISTENTLY CONSTANT, believing in the power and promises of God.

Dr. Brian M. Gazzard
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514-573-2663

redding.anne@gmail.com

Gabrielle Rouleau

Courtier immobilier résidentiel

514-690-8965

gabriellerouleau.gr@gmail.com

Caroline Rouleau

Courtier immobilier résidentiel

514-814-8965

caroline@redding-rouleau.com

Redding-Rouleau.com



263, Boul. Graham
Mont-Royal (QC) H3P 2C7
514-735-2281