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LEAVES CABINET  
*Resigns as minister  
to take position as  
Ukraine envoy* **NP1**



GALLAGHER  
IS OLDER, WISER  
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for 14th season with  
the Canadiens* **NP9**



# The Gazette

NP



OBITUARY  
Redford was  
champion of  
indie films **NP1**

## ‘Don’t give in,’ ex-MNAs tell anglos

Lincoln and French say principles they defended are under dire threat

ANDY RIGA

They walked away from power in Robert Bourassa’s government in 1988 rather than support a language law that swept aside constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.  
Today, Richard French and Clifford Lincoln say the principles that drove their resignations are under even greater assault by Premier François Legault.

French, 78, Lincoln, 97, and the late Herbert Marx walked out of Bourassa’s Liberal cabinet after he used the notwithstanding clause to shield Bill 178. The law banned most commercial signs from displaying languages other than French.  
Their defiance cemented their reputations as defenders of minority rights, a legacy honoured this week with their induction into Côte-St-Luc’s Human Rights

Walkway in Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park.  
As the Supreme Court prepares to review Quebec’s use of the notwithstanding clause in Bill 21, Legault’s religious symbols ban, French and Lincoln warn that rights are under a far more insidious attack today than when they resigned 37 years ago.  
“Whether you agreed with Premier Bourassa or not, he genuinely felt there would be unrest in the streets,” Lincoln said in an interview.  
“Today they use (the notwithstanding clause) pre-emptively, blatantly and knowingly to suspend our rights — to stop us from having any redress before the courts. So there’s no parallel. It’s much worse.”  
When the Constitution was patriated in 1982, the notwithstanding clause was included at the insistence of provincial premiers concerned that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms would put too much power in judges’ hands.  
The clause allows governments to override some fundamental rights in the charter.  
But what was meant as a temporary shield has become routine, Lincoln said.  
SEE NOTWITHSTANDING ON **A3**



JOHN MAHONEY

## SLAMDUNK IN MILE END

Players eye a rebound during a pickup game last week on the new basketball court under the Van Horne overpass. The state-of-the-art installation is the best in Montreal, some say, and is attracting players from all over the city, *T’Cha Dunlevy* reports. **A4**

## A perfect storm of labour strife threatens to rain on mayoral race



ALLISON HANES

Montrealers may be in for a bit of déjà vu — and not only because public transit could grind to a halt outside peak hours again next Monday as maintenance workers strike for the second time since June.  
Back in 2013, the municipal election campaign unfolded in a climate of labour strife. Several contracts had expired or were about to, and multiple unions had strike mandates, including those for Montreal’s 10,000

white-collar workers. On top of that were huge deficits in pension funds for municipal employees like police and blue-collar workers.  
Although things didn’t come to a head until after Denis Coderre was elected mayor of Montreal, he was forced to confront the unions once in power to dig the city out of a financial hole. While it was a provincewide issue, furious firefighters stormed city council chambers in 2014 at a meeting to discuss how the shortfall would be back-filled.  
Montreal’s 2025 municipal election officially kicks off Friday under eerily similar circumstances.  
A perfect labour storm is brewing that threatens to rain

on the campaign. Société de transport de Montréal maintenance workers are set to launch their second round of strike action starting next Monday, STM bus drivers are poised to follow suit, and the city’s 6,600 blue-collar workers recently voted 98 per cent in favour of job action.  
In the run-up to the Nov. 2 vote, unions seem eager to use the electoral spotlight to highlight their demands — and send a message to the next occupant of the mayor’s office.  
The disruption of public transit service for another 14 days, overlapping with the first two weeks of the campaign, will not make for a smooth start to the mayoral race.  
SEE HANES ON **A2**

### NEWS

ELECTION

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