

FRIDAY ON MY MIND

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HABS JUST NEED A .900 GOALIE

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The Gazette

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026



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Quebec's budget 'disappointing'

No funding for major renovation at dilapidated Montreal hospital

JACOB SEREBRIN

As staff at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital dealt with a computer outage Wednesday that forced them to turn away ambulances, there were hopes that the province's 2026 budget would include funding for the long-delayed rebuilding and expansion of the facility in Montreal's east end.

While Finance Minister Eric Girard touted his budget as one

that would increase infrastructure spending, including for hospitals and public transit, it includes no money to begin work at Maisonneuve-Rosemont, and a range of critics say it doesn't include enough for Montreal métro maintenance.

Dr. François Marquis, the head of intensive care at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital, said he had been hopeful the budget would include money to begin major work at the aging health-care

facility, which had been scheduled to begin in 2024.

"It's a disappointment on so many levels," he said in an interview. "The whole population of Quebec knows and recognizes that Maisonneuve-Rosemont is a big problem that needs to be fixed, not only for the people in the eastern part of Montreal, but also for the whole province. It's a national issue."

The computer outage on Wednesday shut down all internal networks, meaning doctors couldn't access lab results, page people, or update patient files at the facility, which serves around 10 per cent of Quebec's population,

Marquis said.

The outage is part of a larger problem where funding for things like new computers and emergency repairs hasn't been provided because those systems and infrastructure are supposed to be replaced when the facility is rebuilt, he said. That has also led to windows blowing open during a storm and issues with rodents.

If Maisonneuve-Rosemont were forced to close, Marquis said there isn't enough capacity in the province's entire hospital system to care for its patients, many of whom are seriously ill.

SEE BUDGET ON **A2**



JOHN MAHONEY

BEARLY AWAKE

Black bear Genie grabs a box of fruits and vegetables after coming out of hibernation at the Ecomuseum in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue yesterday. 'We consider this to be the start of springtime,' the zoo's director of education tells **Jason Magder**. **A3**

Laws must be fixed to prevent deaths foretold



ALLISON HANES

In the aftermath of violent crimes, grieving families and shocked communities often wonder whether there were warning signs that could have foretold the tragedy.

In the case of Chong Woo Kim, who was stabbed to death last week inside the dépanneur he owned near the Laurier métro in the Plateau-Mont Royal borough, the answer is a chilling yes.

The suspect arrested and charged with Kim's homicide, Xavier Gellatly, has a long and

violent criminal past.

He was sentenced to seven years in prison for stabbing Chelsea Holden to death during a knife fight with another man in B.C. in 2012.

Parole Board documents noted that Gellatly attacked another inmate with a razor in 2013 and later punched a prison guard, expressing hope that the stitches would remind the corrections officer of the assault.

"Police have indicated you are prone to violent outbursts that result in stabbing the people you fight with and you are known to carry knives," a 2016 decision denying Gellatly's parole stated. "They also believe that, if released, you will reoffend and kill someone else."

Ominous words in light of recent events.

Once liberated, Gellatly killed a bunny and injured a cat during a fight with his then girlfriend in 2021, according to La Presse. He was sentenced to eight months.

Last year, he was stopped and fined for carrying a knife on the streets of Montreal.

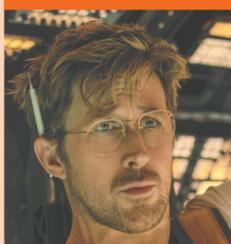
And now he is alleged to have stabbed Kim, who attempted to thwart a theft.

This sinister history begs the bigger question: if such violence was predictable, could it have been prevented? The answer, which lies somewhere between possibly and probably, is as heartbreaking as it is enraging.

La Presse reported this week that there were missed opportunities to get a handle on Gellatly as his conduct grew increasingly alarming.

SEE HANES ON **A3**

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MOVIES

Gosling tries to save the world in Project Hail Mary **A8**