

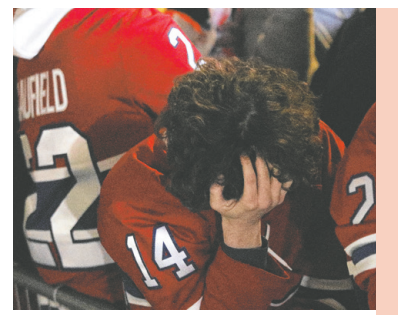
## DIGNITY 'FROM EVERY ANGLE'

New Resilience day shelter aims to offer hope **A3**



## THE PRICE OF HABS FANDOM

End of Hockey Night in Canada is likely to cost us: Kelly **NP9**



# The Gazette

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026



SINCE 1778

POSTMEDIA

## Quebec Liberals make language pitch

### Would invest in literacy, change tone at OQLF, reduce wait for francization

HARRY NORTH

Charles Milliard has made his move in Quebec's language debate.

After years in which Quebec's political conversation around French has been dominated by restrictions

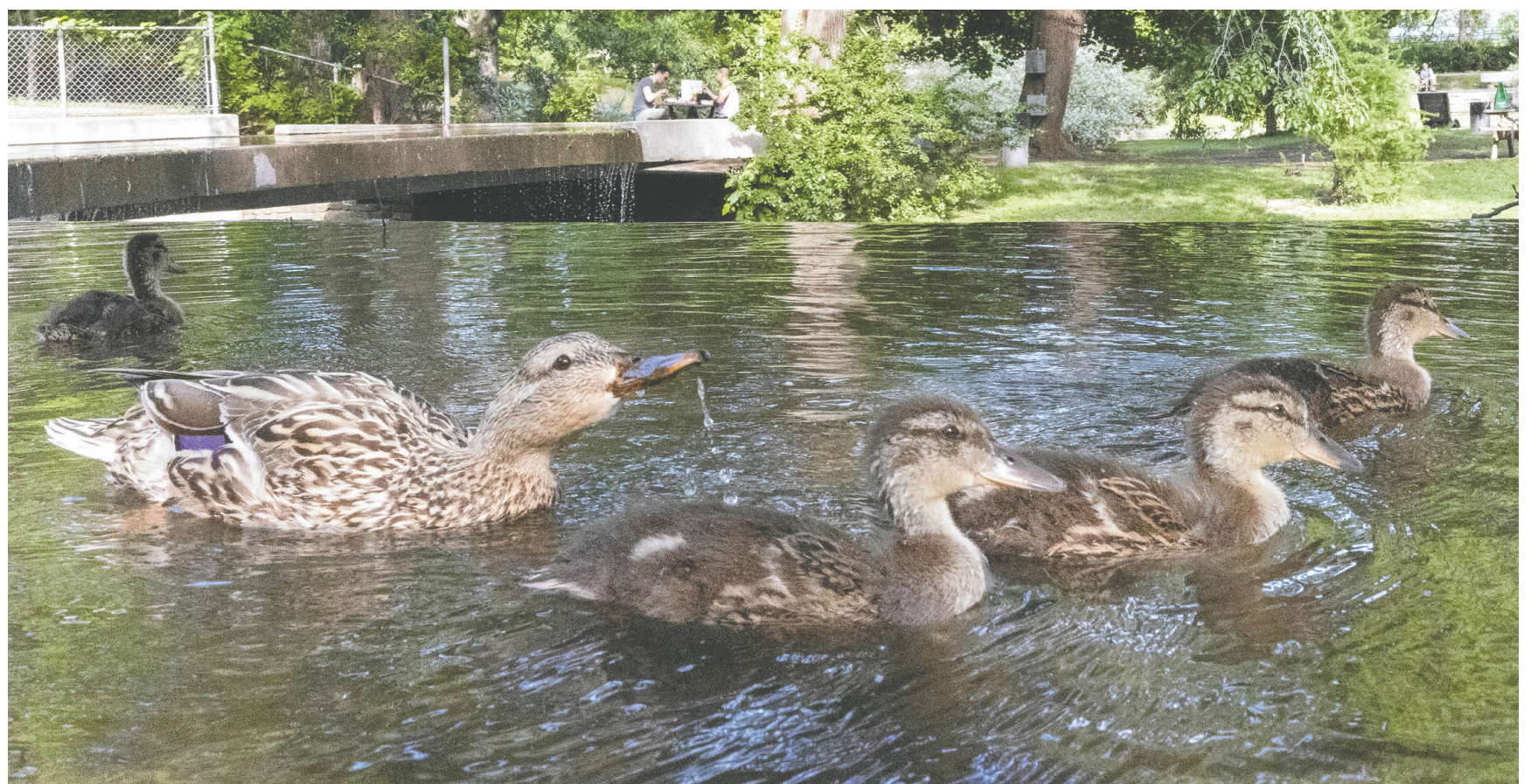
and the expanding reach of the province's language watchdog, the Quebec Liberal leader on Tuesday unveiled a \$380-million plan built around a different idea: strengthen French through schools, francization and economic opportunity.

Speaking at a Verdun bookstore, Milliard promised major investments in reading, immigration services and French-language promotion and a "change of tone" at the Office québécois de la langue française.

"I think we should all agree that a change of tone is necessary," Milliard said when asked about the OQLF, which came under renewed scrutiny last week after targeting a popular St-Henri brunch restaurant over the

use of the word "nosh" in a window sign.

The Quebec Liberals have long been accused by rivals of being weak on French and too closely tied to anglophone and minority voters. But ahead of the fall election, Milliard is trying to prove his party can defend French without adopting the more coercive nationalism of the ruling Coalition Avenir Québec or the Parti Québécois. SEE LIBERALS ON **A2**



JOHN MAHONEY

## CLEAN BILLS OF HEALTH

The ducks in Westmount Park once again have a full pond after residents expressed concerns about their welfare when the city reduced water levels. *Abby McLaughlin* reports. **A4**

## Nearly 90% of Quebecers are feeling financial anxiety: Centraide survey

SUSAN SCHWARTZ

The results of the most recent financial anxiety index survey by Centraide of Greater Montreal are grim: Nearly nine out of 10 Quebecers are experiencing some level of financial anxiety

and for nearly one in two, that level is significant.

Many indicators show Quebecers have become more financially vulnerable over the past year, according to the survey, conducted from Feb. 17 to March 11 in collaboration with the

polling firm Léger, which surveyed 2,003 adults; results were made public this month.

Twenty-five per cent of respondents said their situation had grown worse in the previous six months and 45 per cent said they have a financial buffer of less than a month to deal with a loss of income or an unexpected expense of \$500 to \$1,000. And 60 per cent of Quebecers say they are worried about the province's economic outlook and that this concern is contributing to

their sense of financial insecurity.

The findings of the survey, the sixth in four years, confirm a reality observed on the ground, said Centraide president and chief executive officer Tasha Lackman.

"It reflects what the organizations tell us. Demand is growing. Community organizations have new clients. People are suffering. More people are getting evicted. More people are being stretched," she said.

SEE CENTRAIDE ON **A3**



\$3.91 plus taxes at retail

### CAQ

Labour minister Boulet joins list of exiting MNAs **A2**

### WILDLIFE

Kangaroo safely caught after days on the loose **A4**

### G7 SUMMIT

PM touts 'many interactions' with Trump **NP1**

### ROCKET

Coach Vincent couldn't refuse Kraken offer **NP9**



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