RESPONSIBILITY VS. POPULARITY

Martinez Ferrada's tax increase will be hard sell: Hanes **A2**



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Supreme Court's decision could have major effects **A4**



The Gazette

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026 SINCE 1778 POSTMEDIA

Property taxes to go up 9.8% next year

Mayor defends spike in residential rate, to be presented today in 2027 budget

JESSE FEITH

Montreal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada says she takes full responsibility for the steepest tax increase residents have faced in more than two decades.

City documents show property taxes for homeowners will rise by an average of 9.8 per cent in Montreal's 2027 budget, which will be presented Tuesday.

Martinez Ferrada stood by the increase Monday, describing it as an "extremely difficult" decision.

"Not making the decision we made today would jeopardize all our other commitments, including making housing and homelessness a priority, ensuring we have infrastructure worthy of a metropolis like Montreal and providing services to citizens," she said.

The increase is more than double last year's 3.8 per cent hike.

A large part of the increase is because of the introduction of a new tax for infrastructure maintenance, which adds 5.1 per cent to residential bills. The general property tax increase will be 2.6 per cent, in addition to a 1.5 per cent water tax hike. Combined with borough taxes, the average residential increase sits just below 10 per cent.

The average commercial tax bill, meanwhile, will rise by 6.2 per cent.

Overall, the $8-billion budget — the second from Martinez Ferrada's administration — represents an increase in expenses of about 4.3 per cent.

"An assessment of the City of Montreal's assets reveals a significant investment deficit in the maintenance of our infrastructure," the document says.

SEE **TAXES** ON ***A2***



EVAN BUHLER

NEW FACE ON THE HABS

Dylan Larkin, acquired by Montreal in a blockbuster trade with the Detroit Red Wings Sunday night, suited up for his new club at the Bell Centre last night vs. the L.A. Kings. ***Herb Zurkowsky, Jack Todd*** and ***Stu Cowan*** have full coverage on the ramifications of the trade. ***NP9, NP11***

MNAs must swear oath to the King before legislature can sit, judge rules

KALINA LAFRAMBOISE

MNAs will have to swear allegiance to the King if they want to sit in the province's legislature, a Quebec Superior Court judge ruled Monday.

Judge Ian Demers granted the request for an interim stay on the 2022 law that gives MNAs the option to refrain from taking an oath to the King when elected. His ruling comes after a hearing at the Montreal courthouse last month.

In his decision to suspend the law, Demers writes that the Canadian Constitution "is not an à la carte menu from which an individual may choose to follow only what suits them."

He also notes that all MNAs have chosen to pledge allegiance to the office, but not to King Charles III.

"The 127 members of the current legislature, who have only sworn the oath to the National Assembly, would also be required to swear an oath to the King before assuming their duties. Were a stay not granted, all laws passed by the National Assembly would be contrary to the Constitution and would have to be re-enacted," he writes.

Premier Paul St-Pierre Plamondon didn't mince words about the ruling, saying his government will look at possible legal recourses, including an appeal. He also said he would not take an oath to the King.

"I find it both enigmatic and problematic that there is an attempt to force elected officials to swear an oath to the King of England — through a judge who is exercising judicial authority over 127 elected representatives from all parties, all of whom agree that this practice must end," St-Pierre Plamondon told reporters in Montreal.

SEE **OATH** ON ***A3***

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$3.91 plus taxes at retail

TAX HIKE
Property owner wants city under trusteeship ***A3***

POLICE
2 officers arrested in misconduct investigation ***A4***

MAID
Proposed changes 'regressive,' says psychiatrist ***NP1***

COMMENT
Surging U.S. dollar may be biggest risk to markets ***NP7***