

LOCAL NEWS

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Boys and Girls Group end of year party was a blast!



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) weekly Boys and Girls group program animated by Sarah

Jersey (CABMN) and volunteer, Deborah Dimitruk is about to break for the summer but not before having a blast of a party on Friday, June 14 at the youth centre located at 282 Principale in Mansenville.

Despite the temperamental weather, close to 30 youth ranging in ages from 5-12 came together for the afternoon that included activities like: Water balloon toss, water balloon fight, relay races, healthy snacks, bingo as well as an art show hosted by the youth who welcomed their parents.

The art show featured projects created by the youth throughout the year including: driftwood sculptures, hand-

made paper, woven wall hangings, clay sculptures and paintings with many of these projects initiated and animated by Deborah Dimitruk who volunteered two days per week helping with the two groups.

Volunteers assisting with the party included: Rachele Lachance, Linda Jersey, Savannah Jersey and Sheila Samborsky. While the youth left full of energy after a face paced party, the volunteers were exhausted and ready for a well deserved rest.

“Without the volunteers, holding an event like this one with 30 youth would be challenging,” said Jersey. “I am very lucky to have such devoted helpers who

all enjoy being with this age group of kids so much.”

The Boys Group meets on Thursdays after school and the Girls Group on Fridays. The programs run from September to June. Anyone wishing to have more information in hopes of signing up their son/daughter for the 2019/2020 program can contact Sarah Jersey at the CABMN at 450-292-3114 or the Youth Centre at 450-292-4886.

“The CABMN offers these and other programs for youth at a minimal registration fee,” explains Jersey. “The goal is for all youth to be able to take part in a regular program where they can exchange and have fun with their peers.”



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Controversial bills

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“If a government wants to make changes, it will have to adopt bills under closure. We want to make big changes,” Legault said over the weekend during the parliamentary review. “I think Quebec was due for big changes for at least 15 years.”

With the adoption of Bill 9, the some 16,000 immigrants with residency applications pending will now have to reapply using with the new system, with acceptance conditional upon their French integration into the province and ability and willingness to meet the needs of Quebec’s labour shortage.

Along with Deputy Premier Geneviève Guilbault and House leader Simon Jolin-Barrette, Legault emphasized Quebecers’ desire for change as proven by the CAQ’s election on October 1, 2018. At the parliamentary review they highlighted their prioritization of education with the addition of hundreds of professional resources in the education system, establishing four-year-old kindergarten classes, and early screenings for learning disabilities. Legault also boasted the speed at which a special commission for children’s rights and youth protection was created

under the presidency of Régine Laurent after the Granby tragedy.

Members of the CAQ wanted to point out the 14 bills tabled for June 14. Jolin-Barrette said that these projects were important because they will allow the changes that Quebecers have long wished for. “With 30 tabled bills, 14 out of which were adopted, we have an excellent record. The previous government had only managed to adopt 13 total bills throughout a parliamentary session,” he exclaimed.

“After a few months of the CAQ government, there is a lot of pride when we speak to Quebecers. It’s the pride of having a nation that is advancing; that succeeds and recovers. What we’ve seen in the last few months is a province that is changing. We have made education our government’s number one priority,” affirmed Legault. “We are implementing conditions so that each child is able to reach its maximum potential. We want to improve Quebecers’ access to primary care. On the economic aspect, it had been a while that we had seen such an active and ambitious government.”

“I share our prime minister’s pride with what our government has accomplished. Our actions throughout the last

few months made a lot of dossiers progress and our results prove it. I think, for example, of the quick creation of the commission after the tragedy in Granby, our government’s excellent management during flooding and the help that was announced to parents of handicapped children. Throughout the months I discovered and appreciated the great quality of our team,” added Guilbault, who is also the Minister of Public Safety.

This satisfaction, however, was not unanimous. Ruba Ghazal, Québec Solidaire MNA in Mercier, expressed her discontent during Saturday’s extraordinary session. “Is this supposed popular will enough to suspend rights enshrined in the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms? What if a survey demonstrated that most Quebecers were against gay marriage, against abortion, for the death penalty, or what have you? Would the government vote for such reprehensible laws under the pretext that it’s what the majority supposedly wants? The answer is self-evident,” she posited. “With Bills 9 and 21 being adopted under closure, what image is the government giving on the way we treat minorities? The time is long past when

Quebec acted as a strong nation that was confident in its identity and rallied with its minorities.”

Manon Massé, Québec Solidaire’s leader, also denounced the CAQ’s lack of efforts on the environmental aspect of their government. “Legault’s party felt obliged to quickly call his troops together to outline a so-called environmental plan. But the CAQ failed all the tests. With them, Quebec is heading right into a wall, even faster than with the Liberals,” she commented in a recent press release. “The government’s passivity regarding the climate is putting our future and our children’s futures in danger.”

Québec Solidaire’s House leader Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois added onto the list of the CAQ’s failures. “All throughout his electoral campaign, the prime minister kept promising for high paying jobs. He presented himself as the champion for the middle-class. This turnaround is quite spectacular,” he expressed, involving taxi drivers, locked-out ABI employees, and Vélain jobs offshored in India. “We have never seen a prime minister so shamelessly take the side of multinationals against the middle class.”