

Vocational training centre giving male-dominated professions a makeover

Record Staff

The Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre (LVTC) of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) is launching a new project to diversify the educational choices in vocational training for young girls and women in two traditionally male trades offered at the centre. This project, called The Traditional Feminine Makeover! Will offer a free week (April 26 to 30, 2021) of immersion in the machinist and welder trades. The goal is to increase the number of women studying at LVTC in the Machining and Welding and Fitting programs.

According to the training centre, a tailor-made formula has been developed to improve the study conditions for women in programs leading to traditionally male occupations. The one-of-a-kind immersion week will be totally personalized for a group of up to ten candidates. The LVTC hopes to continue offering the immersion

program on an annual basis.

Through the collaboration of local companies in the metallurgy field, the project will allow participants to explore the labour market. A company located in Lennoxville participating in the project has offered testimonials from female employees working in machining and welding.

All interested girls / women are invited to visit the LVTC website to register: <https://www.lvtc.ca/traditional-feminine-makeover/> or by phone: 819-563-5627. Participants will be welcomed at the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre located at 1700 rue College, Sherbrooke.

The week-long immersion program is completely free of charge and will take place between April 26 and 30, 2021. The project is offered in English in a bilingual environment, an asset for participants and future workers. Space is limited to ensure the safety of workshop participants and to abide by the health rules in force.

The incomparable Mable Hastings!



COURTESY

As far as the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) is concerned, it's been a remarkable year. Certainly, COVID-19 has been a factor. But so has its leader, Mable Hastings, an executive director who by any standards has been exceptional. Ask anyone on the CAB board, and each will describe an outstanding leader who keeps surpassing her own goals.

So at a regular meeting of the board, Hastings was honoured; it was a little

complicated given it was a virtual meeting, but the message that she had been awarded a bonus was finally relayed to her.

Unfortunately, an accompanying pot of lilies she was supposed to receive as a surprise at the same time couldn't be delivered.

Luckily the lilies were waiting for her the next morning.

Submitted by the CABMN board

Quebec's seniors minister tables new policy to revitalize long-term care facilities

Record Staff

Seniors Minister Marguerite Blais tabled the province's first-ever policy on long-term care facilities Thursday, as part of the government's efforts to create better living conditions and ensure quality of life for residents.

"We want the services and care provided in these facilities to be of high quality and to correspond to the needs, preferences, lifestyles, values

and culture of the people who live there," said Blais.

The seniors minister added the work that led to the development of the new policy is part of an overall effort from the government to provide all residents in long-term care facilities with superior care and services catered to their age.

According to a press release, no government has ever provided general and inclusive guidelines to be applied

in all types of long-term care facilities. The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS), however, reiterated that home care is the preferred option.

But when a person's physical or cognitive health begins to impact their home life, leading them to a long-term care facility, they need to be assured that they will receive support to help in recovery or develop independence, the press release continued.

Health Minister Christian Dubé

said this is a major priority for the Coalition Avenir Québec government. The end goal is to provide a safe and stimulating environment for different clientele, he explained, every resident has the right to a quality living environment.

"Long-term care facilities must become places of which we are collectively proud and, above all, where people feel at home, in security," said Dubé.

Financial assistance available to livestock producers affected by slaughterhouse delays

Record Staff

The federal and provincial governments have created the Canada-Quebec Livestock Assistance Initiative, \$21.8 million in financial assistance intended to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 in 2020-2021. Compton-Stanstead MP and Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau, and Quebec's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, André Lamontagne, announced the new program in a joint press release on Thursday.

"The health crisis caused by COVID-19 continues to put stress on food producers and processors and

affect their operations. We are aware of the challenges they face and we are working with the government of Quebec to financially support Quebec's cattle, pig and large game producers. This initiative will help, among other things, to offset the costs generated by the temporary closure of certain slaughterhouses, to ensure animal welfare, and to preserve the food security of the people of Quebec and Canada," commented Bibeau.

In the spring of 2020, the rate of livestock slaughter slowed considerably, forcing producers to keep animals longer and resulting in significant additional costs. The delays also posed risks to the health

and welfare of the animals.

The slowing of slaughter was the result of sanitary measures and the absence of some workers affected by the coronavirus, as well as a substantial drop in demand for large game meat caused by the suspension and reduced capacity of hotels and restaurants.

"The pandemic has reminded us of how crucial the bio-food sector is to maintaining the Quebec population's access to a variety of quality foods," said Centre-du-Québec MNA and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food André Lamontagne. "Our government, which is particularly sensitive to issues affecting the

food supply chain, recognizes its leadership role. The situation of livestock producers who have to keep their animals on the farm longer than expected has generated considerable costs. Financial assistance to support them was necessary, and I am very happy that our two governments are supporting those who are working to feed our world," the MNA said.

The assistance aims to offset part of the costs borne by livestock producers to keep animals awaiting slaughter on farms until normalcy is restored. La Financière agricole du Québec will manage applications for the Initiative until the assistance is paid.