



# Neighbours Newsletter

October 2019

NEIGHBOURS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROUYN-NORANDA

## Neighbours Annual General Meeting 2019



September 30th, Rouyn-Noranda— Le Noranda played host to Neighbours Association of Rouyn-Noranda's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2019. On this year's agenda were numerous reports detailing Neighbours activities for our financial year April 2018-March 2019, the election of new members of our Board of Directors, and the election of a new Chairperson.

Neighbours would like to congratulate and welcome back Darlene Constantini and Glenn Furlong who were acclaimed to our Board of Directors for a second two year term.

Neighbours would also like to congratulate and welcome Ricard Nolet as our newly elected Chair.

Neighbours also thanks our outgoing chairperson Lori Duerinskx Marion, for her years of service to Neighbours. Lori has been an active and vital presence to the English-speaking community of Rouyn-Noranda as both Neighbours Chair for four years and with her job at Noranda School as a teacher's aid. Neighbours thanks Lori for her services to our organization and community, and we wish her and her family well in all their future endeavours.

Here follows an brief overview of the topics covered during our AGM 2019.

**Membership:** Membership grew by 18 for a total of 359 members. All but 28 members are located in our region of Abitibi-Témiscamingue

**Department of Canadian Heritage:** Remained one of Neighbours' core funders for the past financial year. Canadian Heritage funding allowed Neighbours to advocate for English language rights, and host numerous cultural events including: Board of Directors meetings; meetings with MNA's and MLA's; genealogy sessions; holiday socials; cheese factory tours; Campfire Club; Laugh Attack; McGill bursary for health and retention; and helped ensure a presence at many of the boards and tables for health and social services in our region.

**Health:** Neighbours was very active this past year in increasing our networking and visibility within the community. Neighbours served on numerous health field boards including: CAAP (complaints centre); Table SIPPE (Youth and Families); Table des Aines (Seniors Table); and the User's Committee to name a few. Neighbours also hosted many health related activities including: 8 tele-video health conferences (CHEP); Healthy Living Sessions; Cooking for Teens class; Yoga on a chair; and an information session on elder abuse.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and especially our members — without you there would be no Neighbours!

*Visit Neighbours' website and Facebook page for daily updates*

[www.neighbours-rouyn-noranda.ca](http://www.neighbours-rouyn-noranda.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/neighbours.rouynnoranda>

# Neighbours Welcomes New Staff Members

This September Neighbours made three new hires as part of our Val d'Or expansion and Bright Beginnings program made in partnership with one of our core funders, the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN). Neighbours is pleased to welcome Laurie Ann Boast, Kathryn Constantini and Nick Deliyannakis as part of our team!

**Laurie –Ann Boast:** Laurie was hired as our Bright Beginnings Activity Co-ordinator and will be working with families and children of the English-speaking community in Rouyn-Noranda to provide families with young children activities in English. Laurie is a third generation Rouyn-Norandienne whose parents, Ken Boast and Betty McCormick, are part of the generation of English-speaking Canadiens who moved here to help settle the region and begin new lives for themselves in a new city; her great-grandfather was even Noranda's first fire chief! Laurie has worked previously in various offices before settling down to raise her six children over the last 20 years. Three of her eldest children have graduated from Noranda School, while her three youngest children are currently enrolled in Noranda School at the elementary level. Laurie loves meeting new people and working with children, she is delighted to be a part of the Neighbours team and is happy to serve the English-speaking community through our Bright Beginnings project. Members may reach Laurie at: [neighbourseyouth@outlook.com](mailto:neighbourseyouth@outlook.com)



**Kathryn Constantini:** Kathryn was hired as our Bright Beginnings Project Researcher here at Neighbours. Kathryn has been tasked with managing projects in our Bright Beginnings portfolio and developing community relations and advocacy for the English-speaking population of our city and region. Kathryn will be collecting and analyzing data concerning activities for youth in the English-speaking population of Rouyn-Noranda; researching potential activities; and promoting health care fields of employment (ie. Neighbours' McGill Bursary). Kathryn was born in Val d'Or, and raised in Rouyn-Noranda as the youngest of Dave Constantini and Diane Salvail's four children. As a graduate of Sudbury's Cambrian College's horticultural program, and Northern College Haileybury veterinary program, Kathryn has done work in both fields. While living in Ontario, Kathryn worked as a veterinary technician until taking maternity leave in 2010. Kathryn and her husband Roger (from Mattawa, ON) moved back to Rouyn-Noranda in 2012 to raise their two children. They bought some land and constructed their home in Cloutier where they raise chickens and sell eggs, soap, and cleaning products from their self-sufficient home. Kathryn's two children now attend Noranda School where she herself graduated from. Our members can reach Kathryn at the following email address: [neighboursbprojects@outlook.com](mailto:neighboursbprojects@outlook.com)

**Nick Deliyannakis:** Nick was hired to fulfill the Network Partnership Initiative (NPI) for Neighbours' expansion to Val d'Or; he will be working on establishing various partnerships for the English-speaking community of Val d'Or in the fields of health and social care, and education. Nick has lead a varied career before moving to and working in Rouyn-Noranda. Raised in Montreal, Nick began his career as an underwater construction worker and inspector specializing in non-destructive testing in the maritime petroleum industry. He worked principally in the Persian Gulf, West Africa, the North Sea, Great Britain, Holland, the U.S. and in Quebec. After leaving the petroleum industry in the mid-1990's, Nick worked in the corporate world as the Director of Sales and then Director General and Vice President of Sales for Les Équipements Stephens Inc. in Saint-Laurent, Quebec. When not working Nick's pastimes include: diving, nautical sports, golf, squash, reading, and camping. Our members in Rouyn-Noranda or Val d'Or can reach Nick via email at: [neighboursehsvaldor@outlook.com](mailto:neighboursehsvaldor@outlook.com) or by phone at: 819-355-9496.



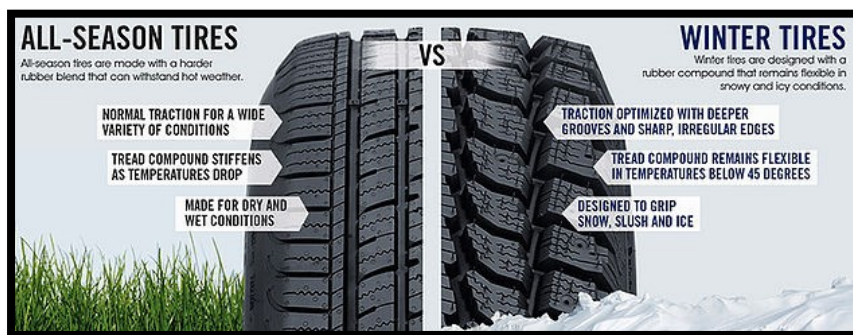


# Winter is Coming: A Guide to Tires, Tempos, and Parking

While it may feel that summer has barely departed, and autumn has yet to fully begin, we all know that seasons here in Abitibi-Témiscamingue can pivot on a dime. As such, it is important to remember that winter will soon be upon us and with that comes the additional rules and responsibility for winter tires, temporary shelters, and night parking during the winter months. Here is a small guideline for tires, tempos, and parking that have been set forth by the City of Rouyn-Noranda.

## Winter Tires

— The City of Rouyn-Noranda allows citizens to begin placing winter tires on their cars starting October 15th 2019, but winter tires may not be installed on cars before this date. All vehicles must have winter tires installed on their vehicles by December 1st 2019. The obligation to install and drive with winter tires and the enforcement of this by-law will be in effect until March 15th 2020, according to Transportation Quebec. Please keep an eye on Neighbours newsletter and social media presence on Facebook for further information if the City of Rouyn-Noranda extends this duration in the case of a longer winter.



**Tempos** — Citizens of Rouyn-Noranda are permitted to begin installing their temporary car shelters (or “tempo” as we often say in both languages) starting on October 15th 2019 and they may remain installed until May 1st 2020. Weather permitting the City of Rouyn-Noranda may permit shelters to remain up longer; Neighbours will update its members if this date changes (as it did for the winter of 2018-19). Citizens are entitled up to two tempos for cars, and two tempos for entrances. Tempos must not exceed 60 square meters for vehicles or entrances, while the maximum permitted height may not exceed 6.1 meters. The roof and walls of tempos must be made from a single canvas material that is designed for

the purpose of repelling wind and snow. For more information on rules, and regulations, you may visit the City of Rouyn-Noranda’s website outlining municipal laws on tempos at: [www.ville.rouyn-noranda.qc.ca/intranet/modules/documents/get\\_ficher.php?id=2287](http://www.ville.rouyn-noranda.qc.ca/intranet/modules/documents/get_ficher.php?id=2287). Thus far this document is only available in French, but if you require assistance in understanding the document provided by the City, please feel free to call us at 819-762-0882.

## Winter Parking

— In order to allow for snow removal, all public parking in all regional parking spots is banned from 2am until 7am beginning November 1st 2019 until April 1st. In order to accommodate citizens who do not have access to night parking during the winter the following spaces are exempted: Avenue du Lac / rue Gambol, 8 spaces; Citizen’s Park, 16 alternating spaces; Mgr Tessier East, 5 spaces from Thursday until Sunday; and 7th and 8th streets, 16 alternating spaces. Failure to abide by the winter parking by-laws may result in vehicles being towed at the owner’s expense. If you have guests during the winter and are unsure as to where they may park without fear of being towed, the City of Rouyn-Noranda invites citizens to call 819-797-7111 for further inquiries.



Source: City of Rouyn-Noranda

# Action Plan Concerning Arsenic Levels in Noranda

Following the presentation of the bio-surveillance results for arsenic levels in the Notre Dame district of Noranda, the integrated health and social services centre of Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CISSS AT) released their action plan for further testing and consultation by the Public Health Administration (Direction de santé publique, DSPu). Director of Public Health, Dr. Lyse Landry, commented that this action plan was made “in response to the concerns of citizens and in an effort to be as transparent as possible we feel that it is important to make known the actions we intend to take over the course of the next twelve months.”

When the results of the bio-surveillance campaign conducted in the Fall of 2018 were presented to the Public Health Administration (DSPu) they expressed concern about the process and confirmed its intention to better understand the arsenic exposure of residents in the Notre Dame district. To further this goal the DSPu will be initiating a new bio-surveillance study for the Fall of 2019. The criteria for persons interested in participating for the study are that they are aged 9 months or older, and that they have been living in the Notre Dame district for more than 6 months. As in the previous study, arsenic levels in participants will be measured from an analyses of nail samples. In the weeks leading up to the study, residents in the Notre Dame district will receive a pamphlet with all the necessary information on how to participate in the study, important dates, and a timeline for when the results of the study will be released.

After residents of the Notre Dame area have been tested, children who frequent the area but who do not reside in Notre Dame will be tested in June of 2020. These are children who attend a school or CPE in the Notre Dame district.

In tandem to better understand the dynamics of arsenic exposure to residents in the Notre Dame district, the DSPu will continue to monitor arsenic levels in the soil with the Ministry of Environment and Fight Against Climate Change (MELCC). Based on the results of the Fall 2018 study, the DSPu has requested that the Glencore Fonderie Horne set an arsenic threshold of 100 parts per million (ppm) for restored soil, up from 30 ppm.

## Soil Sample Process

In accordance with the soil sampling protocol that was established between the Glencore Fonderie Horne and the DSPu, additional soil samples were collected this summer from representative lots in the Notre Dame district. Additionally, the DSPu chose to take samples from the alleys in the same area. Doctor Ombola Sobanjo, an advisor to the project, explained that these soil samples were “necessary because most of the alleys in the Notre Dame district are unpaved, and serve a play areas for many of the children in the area.” The DSPu also sampled the soils around all the schools, parks, and perimeters of Rouyn-Noranda with the objective of establishing the quality of the soil in places frequented by children.

Arsenic is a known carcinogen. The probability of developing cancer, notably lung cancer, increases when a person is exposed to elevated levels of arsenic over long periods of time. Therefore, the DSPu intends to pursue their work in collaboration with business and partners that are implicated in the continued assessment of within the district.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Stage of Survey</u>
October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samples taken from Notre Dame district</li> </ul>
Spring 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present results to survey participants</li> <li>• Presentation of result to consulting committee</li> <li>• Communicate results to citizens of Rouyn-Noranda</li> </ul>
June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Samples to be taken from children who frequent Notre Dame, but do not live there</li> </ul>
Fall 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present results to participants</li> <li>• Presentation of results to consulting committee</li> <li>• Communicate results to the citizens of Rouyn-Noranda</li> </ul>
	<u>Stage of Sampling</u>
Summer 2019 and 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil samples to be taken from: Notre Dame district, schools and parks in Rouyn-Noranda, and the urban perimeters of the city.</li> </ul>

Source: CISSS-AT press release

# Léger Poll: English-speaking Quebecers Distrust CAQ Government

Montreal, Sept 20th 2019— Coming up on the one year anniversary of Premier François Legault and the CAQ’s election victory, a recent poll conducted by Léger Marketing and the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) has found that there are high levels of distrust among English-speaking Quebecers toward the governing CAQ party. In general the English-speakers surveyed had higher levels of trust in their institutions than they do in the government to address the concerns of the provinces English-speaking population.

The poll was conducted via an interactive web panel between August 29th and September 4th and sampled a total of 1, 936 Quebecers, of which 1, 019 spoke English as their first language, 773 with French as a first language, and the remaining 144 had neither English or French as a first language. The survey has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

According to the survey the vast majority of English-speakers in Quebec trust institutions such as English-language school boards and English-language media at 81 and 82 per cent respectively. Three out of four people surveyed said that they trust English-language advocacy groups. These advocacy groups include the QCGN, of which Neighbours is a member, whose mandate is to lobby government on behalf of the English-speaking community to access health, social services, community, and cultural events.

The concerns of English-speaking Quebecers are well understood by the Coalition Avenir Quebec				
	Total	French	English	Other
<b>NET AGREE</b>	41%	46%	25%	26%
Strongly Agree	6%	7%	6%	4%
Somewhat agree	35%	39%	18%	22%
<b>NET DISAGREE</b>	36%	29%	66%	56%
Somewhat Disagree	23%	22%	26%	26%
Strongly Disagree	13%	7%	40%	30%
I prefer not to answer	23%	25%	10%	18%

English-speaking Quebecers have problems getting services in English from the/in...				
	Federal Government	Provincial Government	Health care services	Retail and hospitality services
<b>NET OFTEN/SOMETIMES</b>	25%	59%	51%	60%
Often	8%	24%	17%	18%
Sometimes	18%	36%	34%	42%
<b>NET RARELY/NEVER</b>	72%	38%	45%	37%
Rarely	25%	23%	26%	25%
Never	46%	15%	20%	12%
I prefer not to answer	3%	3%	3%	3%

Though not indicated by the survey, trust in English language media could possibly be accounted for in the tone and editorial content of French language media. Pierre Karl Péladeau’s Quebecor (owners of TVA, Journal de Montréal, etc.) have in recent months published several scathing editorials by Denise Bombardier and Mathieu Bock Côté about English-speaking Quebecers and their concerns.

Conversely, two thirds of the English-speakers surveyed said that they do not believe that the Legault CAQ government understand the concerns of the English-speaking community at large. In a press release responding to the survey results, QCGN President Geoffrey

Chambers stated that, clearly many people “believe that the government is undermining the English community and that it only defends the interest of French-speaking Quebecers”. Policy decision made by the CAQ that can account for these perceptions include: the move to cancel school board elections; the moving of three English language schools in the English Montreal School Board to the French board; the removal of English language signs at a hospital in Lachute; and a recent proposal by the CAQ to extend Bill 101 to include federal institutions within Quebec. Some respondents made statements amounting to that the CAQ are little more than “separatists in disguise”.

The survey results also indicate that a large portion of English-speaking Quebecers sometimes or often have difficulty obtaining services in English from the provincial government (59 per cent); in health care fields (51 per cent); and in retail settings and hospitality services (60 per cent). These results stand in marked contrast to the one quarter of English-speaking respondents who claimed that they had difficulty in receiving services in English from the federal government within Quebec.

Source: Léger Marketing and QCGN survey, press release



**Beware, it's a Ghostly Affair.**

**Attend if you DARE!**

**Join us for our 15th Anniversary Halloween  
Monster Mash!**

**Saturday, October 26th, 2019**

**Starting at 7 p.m.**

**At the Union Hall (where the old post office used to be)  
243, avenue Murdoch, Rouyn-Noranda**

**Entry Fee: Halloween Dish!!!**

**\*\*Bring your own Alcohol!\*\***

We have a bunch of games for you to enjoy,  
**AMAZING** prizes (door prizes, costume contest,  
etc), a Card Reader, and much more!!!



## 2020 Photo Calendar Competition

Photographers are encouraged to submit their photos which reflect different seasons, wildlife, landscapes, buildings, or any subject that represents our city and region. Take pictures, rummage through old photographs and find the perfect one!

**Winning photographs will appear in Neighbours 2020 calendar.**

Entries must be received by Friday, November 22 at 5:00 pm. Entries must be digital photographs.

Winners may be required to submit original material (high resolution files) for reproduction purposes. Digital entries can be uploaded electronically as jpeg, png or gif at [neighbours@cablevision.qc.ca](mailto:neighbours@cablevision.qc.ca)

By submitting photos, the photographer grants Neighbours the right to publish the photographer's winning entry and name in the calendar.

If a person is depicted in the photo, photographer must receive authorization from said person in order to submit the pictures for the contest.



**Be Creative and Submit Your Photos Today! Good Luck Everyone!**

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### **Weekly Senior Afternoons**

October will be all about getting back into a routine. Neighbours will be hosting weekly Seniors Afternoons . Yes, that right! Every Wednesday starting October 2nd at 1:30 pm an activity will be held in ARC (Neighbours Activity and Resource Center).

Activities will vary from :





- Videoconferences
- Guest presenters
- Workshops
- Or just tea and coffee and some socializing

So nip the winter blues and join us each Wednesday for some social time.

For more information, please contact the office at 819-762-0882



# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3	4	5 Teen Game Night @6:30
6	7	8 	9 Seniors Afternoon	10	11	12
13	14	15 No CFC	16 CHEP VC "Organ & tissue donation in QC"	17	18	19
20	21	22 	23 Seniors Afternoon	24	25	26 Halloween Party @ 7pm
27	28	29 	30 Seniors Afternoon	31		



*Our Health*  
IS IN OUR HANDS



Campfire Club  
Every Tuesday 4pm to 5pm

*In partnership with*



Patrimoine  
canadien

Canadian  
Heritage