

# CAA

- TRAVEL** Nevada beyond Las Vegas
- HOME** Preparing for natural disasters
- MOBILITY** A new car for less than \$20,000?
- INSURANCE** What you need to know before driving abroad

## QUEBEC

FALL  
WINTER  
2024

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# PORTUGAL





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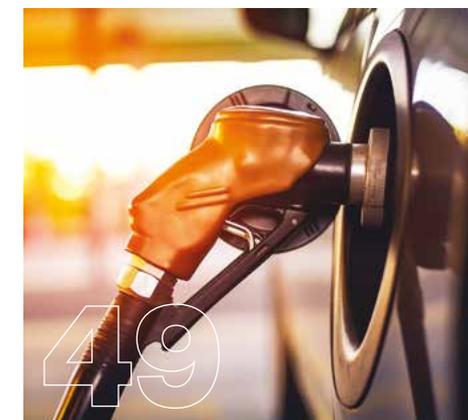


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The entire magazine is available on [CAAQUEBEC.COM](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM). Follow us on social media to ask questions, consult our tips and advice pages, and interact with our community!

We offer an up-to-date and fresh CAA-Quebec – simpler, more useful, and still just as human.

## Acting to benefit members

It's been almost a year since I took office, and I can say with complete confidence that I and our team are determined to always do our best. The same know-how applies to every need we fulfil, whether urgent (like Roadside Assistance) or low priority (like planning a trip). Our commitment is that you won't ever be disappointed when you use our services. We aim to earn your trust.

That is why we devote a lot of our energies implementing solutions aimed at improving our members' experiences, your experience. We offer an up-to-date and fresh CAA-Quebec – simpler, more useful, and still just as human. Here are some impressive examples.

### Always something new, always more advantages

Discover our new website, the foundation of a more digital and accessible CAA-Quebec. To our podcasts, expert advice and heaps of practical content, we've added a simplified purchasing experience and a connected retail space to make your transactions smoother. And scheduled for 2025 is a whole new Travel section.

You can also expect more instant discounts from our partners. With our new partner Shell, for example, you'll instantly get 3 cents off for every litre of fuel you purchase from participating Shell stations across Canada.\* In this current economic climate, every effort to make life more affordable matters.

And with the new CAA Go membership, we offer Bike Assist

assistance to cyclists travelling in urban and rural settings alike, whether on regular or e-bikes. By innovating in this way, we aim to assist and meet the needs of a growing number of people.

### A community-minded CAA-Quebec

While we work hard to deliver genuine value for every dollar that our members entrust in us, it's society as a whole that benefits from our organization. Through gestures of solidarity and sensible and responsible public stances, we believe it's important to continue to exert a positive influence.

That's why we became actively involved in the development and implementation of Canada's first all-electric tow truck. This innovation allowed us to play a leadership role by helping the towing industry to reduce its ecological footprint.

It's also why, as a way of reducing our paper consumption and the ever-growing production costs, the contents of *CAA-Quebec Magazine* will soon be only available on our renewed website. Same practical content, less paper.

### Every gesture matters

Count on me to lead the process of modernizing your CAA-Quebec in accordance with social trends and through a multitude of initiatives, great and small, always respectful of the DNA of this 120-year-old organization ... and counting.

It's this motivation that drives me.

**Marie-Soleil Tremblay**  
President and CEO

\*AT PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS. CONDITIONS APPLY.



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# Hello, Autumn!

Rejoice in this many-splendoured season and spruce up your home and car and yourself – with a little help from our partners' discounts.



### Jazz up your wardrobe

Staying warm and dry is key! **Get 10 percent off** the last price on all items at **RW&CO.**



### Prepare for the unexpected

**Get 5 percent back in CAA Dollars** when you buy our winter roadside-safety kits, winter-emergency kits and first-aid kits at the **CAA-Quebec Boutique.**



Show your CAA-Quebec card and save at nearly 3,000 points of sale. You'll get instant

discounts, accumulate CAA Dollars and enjoy the benefits of your membership.

[CAAQUEBEC.COM/DISCOUNTS](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/DISCOUNTS)



### Comfort food, you say?

**Get 5 percent off** on a range of raclette and fondue stoves in store and online at **Stokes.**



### Protect your vehicle

A professional treatment at **Metropolitan Rust Proofing** will prevent damage from salt, rocks and sand over the winter. Members **get 5 percent off** the regular price of a full rustproofing treatment.



### A well-tarmacked car!

From October 6 to December 18 2024, **get up to 120 CAA Dollars back** when you buy four eligible Pirelli tires. After this date, **earn 20 CAA Dollars** with any purchase of four eligible tires.

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# newlook™

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\*\*Conditions: CAA Dollars are calculated on the receipt amount after discounts are applied. The second-pair discount applies only if the first pair purchased are prescription glasses. The discount is applicable on the less expensive pair. Offer is valid for members and their family members residing at the same address. It does not apply to Oakley brand products (Oakley lenses and glasses). It does not apply to glasses purchased online. It cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Offer valid until December 31st, 2024. Jacinthe Laurendeau, optician.

# Interactions

Members, do you have something to say? The floor is yours. Share your questions, comments, testimonials, whatever makes your heart sing ... We love hearing from you!



From left: William Trudel from Louis Garneau; Danielle Roberge and Julie-Anna Grenier from CAA-Quebec Foundation; Lili-Anne Labrecque, contest winner; Roxanne Lemieux from Louis Garneau and Lou Marchand, École Guillaume-Mathieu school patrol overseer.

## Bravo to the 2023-2024 School Safety Patroller of the Year!

Pedestrian patroller Lili-Anne Labrecque, of Quebec City's École Guillaume-Mathieu, has been named CAA-Quebec School Safety Patroller of the Year. She won a bicycle and helmet from our partner Louis Garneau.

Ever present at her post, Lili-Anne has proved diligent throughout the school year in addition to effectively communicating safety rules to her peers. She is one of Quebec's 4,600 school safety patrollers who have fulfilled this important role. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Evive Smoothie, Rabais Campus and Harvey's for enabling us to reward these young patrollers and those in charge of them as part of the CAA-Quebec School Safety Patrol 2024 year-end contest.

**No School Safety Patrol at your child's or grandchild's school?** Discover details on how to set up one at [CAAQUEBEC.COM](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM), in the *Foundation* section. There are different types of school safety patrols: in schoolyards, hallways, school buses, or at street corners near the school.

By the way, CAA-Quebec urges everyone to **slow down as a precaution when driving in school zones** as thousands of children have gone back to school in the past few weeks.

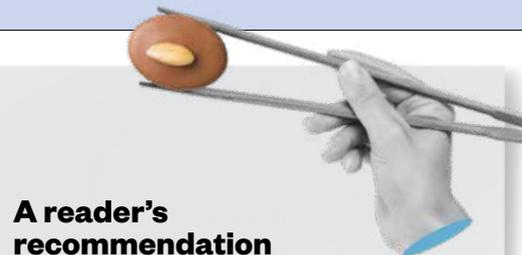


From CAA-Quebec: Marie-Pierre Savard, Advisor, Travel Marketing; Simon Bourassa, Advisor and Spokesperson, Communications; Achi-Guy Marcel Sika, Technician, Technical Support; Isabelle Godbout, Researcher-Analyst.

## Our thanks

### CAA-Quebec and Opération Enfant Soleil say thank you!

Thanks to the sale of raffle tickets for a chance to win the 2024 Maison Enfant Soleil by Bonneville among our generous members and employees, CAA-Quebec was able to raise **\$21,408** for Opération Enfant Soleil as part of the annual telethon held last June. It's worth pointing out that a number of CAA-Quebec Approved Residential Suppliers network contributed to the construction of this house, performing various jobs valued at around **\$25,000**. This collaboration, now in its third year, reflects the combined efforts by CAA-Quebec, its foundation, employees and partners with whom we share common values.



## A reader's recommendation

### Julie Vachon Chocolats, Deschambault

"It's a magical place and the chocolate is simply divine! The shop is housed in our village's former Caisse Populaire, which makes the experience still more fabulous."

GENEVIÈVE BOLDDUC DUVAL, SAINT-ALBAN



## Member Testimonial

### Worry-free motorcycling, even south of the border

Every time we change motorcycles, my husband Jean-Luc and I have a tradition: We go to Monument Valley and take a photo in front of the "Welcome to Utah" sign.

So, in August 2023, we embarked on a 16-day road trip to the American West. All had been going well. On the return trip, the sun was radiant and just when we thought nothing could ruin this glorious day, we heard a noise coming from the bike and Jean-Luc saw the tire-pressure needle dropping. We were on Interstate 40 and had just reached Albuquerque, New Mexico. We took the nearest exit.

The culprit was a large hole in the rear tire, which we could not repair with the emergency repair kit. We were worried because we had no cellphone, spoke little English and it was a Saturday. Fortunately, a really nice lady stopped and called AAA for us. The tow truck arrived 45 minutes later, and we were told we didn't have to pay anything. What a relief!

In the meantime, a motorcyclist stopped as well to help load our bike onto the tow truck's platform. He drove me to the repair shop while Jean-Luc rode in the truck. Once there, everyone enthusiastically pitched in so three hours later we were back on the road heading toward Amarillo, Texas.

Jean-Luc and I have travelled together for more than 45 years and have been CAA-Quebec members since 1995. We always use the online TripTik™ planner to map out our trips as well as shop at the CAA-Quebec Boutique. Nothing beats the peace of mind provided by our membership card, which remains essential for all our travels.

NICOLE LAGANIÈRE, TOWN OF DISRAELI



## Take the stage at Interactions!

This section is reserved for our devoted readers. Write to [MAGAZINECAAQUEBEC@CAAQUEBEC.COM](mailto:MAGAZINECAAQUEBEC@CAAQUEBEC.COM) to ensure the magazine will reflect your personal interests.

Members whose comments are published will receive **75 CAA Dollars**. Join the discussion!



## On the article "Is your car lease ending? What's your next step?" (Spring 2024)

"Very good article, except for one detail concerning an accommodation sale. The magazine writes 'the buyer will benefit from the dealership's legal warranty.' That's not true. In fact, the dealership cannot be held responsible for any vehicle malfunction because the vehicle in question is not part of their car fleet. When it comes to an accommodation sale, no warranty applies."

BERNARD LEGLERC, LAVAL

—> Thanks to your vigilance, our readers now have the correct information. An accommodation sale offers no legal warranty. Note, however, that the manufacturer warranty (also called a "commercial warranty") often remains valid beyond the end of a long-term car lease (for example, for 36 or 48 months).

**Q&A** —→ Ricardo Hrtschan from Montreal has questions about headlights: Do they cause more glare now than ever before? What does the law say? Should LED headlights be banned?

The goal of headlights is to allow us to see and be seen. But first things first, all materials must be legally compliant. It's a fact: Today's cars generally come standard with LED or very bright white headlights. Whether projector or reflector, LED headlights are more eye-catching than the traditional yellow halogen ones. The latter, however, are not illegal and they are no more dangerous than any other types, provided any replacement bulbs being used come from an original equipment manufacturer (OEM). In fact, the Société de l'Assurance Automobile du Québec (SAAQ) would not condone headlights that offer a risk to road users.

Under the Highway Safety Code, a driver must switch from high to low beams when they approach a vehicle within 150 metres or come upon an oncoming vehicle, or when they travel on a road that is sufficiently lit. There are also standards to be respected for headlight colour, direction and intensity. Fines for non-compliance vary between \$60 and \$100, plus costs.



**SYLVAIN LÉGARÉ**  
Analyst,  
Mobility  
Research,  
CAA-Quebec

**WHEN YOU DRIVE AT NIGHT** Once the sun sets, your vehicle will be very difficult to see if only the daytime running lights are on. Even if the dashboard is permanently illuminated, you should still turn on your headlights when it gets dark. Better still, keep them on "auto" if your vehicle is so equipped. (Automatic headlights are commonplace since the 2022 model-year.)

**BEWARE OF GLARE.** Do not look directly at the headlights of oncoming vehicles. Look to the right side of the road and slow down if the glare from oncoming headlights is too blinding.

**ENSURE GOOD VISIBILITY.** Keep your windshield clean and in good condition. Clean and polished headlights can remove lens opacity and restore the necessary transparency for quality night vision.



## Photo contest

**LAC MICHY, MAURICIE** —→ Lac Michy is my father's personal haven, where he built his hunting cabin back in the nineties. He loves admiring the tranquil view it affords while listening to the haunting calls of loons and the gentle croaking of frogs. This peaceful lake has witnessed countless fishing outings with our family and friends as well as the most glorious of sunsets. It will always remain a place where our family memories come to rest. **VANESSA SIMARD, MONTREAL**

Submit your favourite photo of a trip made with CAA-Quebec Travel (maximum 5 megabytes) to [CAAQUEBEC.COM/MAGAZINECAAQUEBEC](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/MAGAZINECAAQUEBEC) no later than November 8, 2024, along with a description of roughly 60 words. You'll have a chance to see it published in the next issue, and win **75 CAA Dollars.**



**THE DEAD SEA, JORDAN** —→ Relaxing in the waters of the Dead Sea in Jordan while reading my CAA-Quebec Magazine! This land-locked lake is some 430 metres below sea level and the world's saltiest, making floating very easy. **DIANE LAZURE, SAINT-ÉTIENNE-DE-BOLTON**



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for more details.

Thanks to CAA-Quebec, Marie and Matthew have **saved \$330** on their home and car expenses.



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# Travel

Practical information and valuable advice to assist you in preparing your next trip.

### Plan your extended stay now!

Discover alternative sun getaways beyond Florida, like Spain, Portugal, Italy, Mexico, and even Uruguay. Book early to guarantee the best prices for your flights and accommodations. Contact a CAA-Quebec travel counsellor today for an appointment, at [CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL). Take advantage of their expertise in person, by telephone or video call.



### New passport-photo services for babies and children

These services are now offered at all CAA-Quebec Travel Centres. Our photos meet the international security standards specified by Passport Canada. We understand the challenges of travelling with young children, that's why our photos are guaranteed. If they're refused, we'll redo them at no charge. Also, CAA-Quebec members enjoy a rebate in CAA Dollars on passport photos. For more information, visit [CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL).

## Breathtaking This is Niagara Falls!



### We're as close as it gets...

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BY THE FALLS  
Niagara Falls, Canada [www.hinf.com](http://www.hinf.com)

\*Rates valid from October 18 to May 12, 2025, Sunday to Thursday. Holidays & weekends higher. Taxes and fees extra. Free parking. Also available, child add-ons, whirlpool suites and gift certificates available. \*Rates are per person, double occupancy.



## Insurance 101

### Will my auto insurance cover me if I drive or rent a vehicle outside Quebec?

#### If you drive in Canada or the United States with your own car

Your protection is the same as in Quebec (same options, same deductible). However, CAA-Quebec recommends that you increase your civil liability coverage to \$2 million.

#### If you rent a car in Canada or the United States

Your auto insurance could cover you but only if you have the Q.E.F. 27 endorsement (“Damage caused to vehicles of which named insured is not owner”). This endorsement covers cars, RVs, trailers, tent trailers, utility trailers, as well as certain SUVs, but not motorcycles.

#### If you rent a car in Europe, Mexico or elsewhere

Certain travel insurance policies, like CAA-Quebec Travel Insurance, offer optional coverage called “Damage to rental vehicles.” This type of insurance has no deductible and covers collision, theft, fire and vandalism, but not civil liability. Ask the car rental company how to obtain civil-liability coverage.

#### Insurance provided by your credit card

Credit cards often offer damage insurance for rental vehicles, assuming you’ve paid for the rental with your credit card. Review the scope and conditions of this insurance and don’t forget to add civil-liability coverage as it is rarely included.

— For more details, see the article  
“Vehicle rentals and insurance: What you need to know”  
at [CAAQUEBEC.COM](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM).

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## EXTENDED STAYS

# Choosing the right travel insurance

Going on a long trip? Travel insurance helps you prepare for the unexpected.

BY — LYNE BOISVERT



### What's a long-term trip?

In terms of insurance, a trip is considered long-term when you leave home for more than 30 days. It can even last several months, as is the case for remote workers, students, retirees or snowbirds.

### Why buy long-term travel insurance?

The longer the duration of a stay abroad, the greater the risk of encountering a medical problem.

In countries where health-care costs are prohibitive, like the United States, travelling without insurance is a risky bet. As a visitor, your health

—→ “Insurance offered by credit card companies no longer provides emergency medical care protection for cardholders aged 65 and over, or it is limited to just a few days. Take the time to review the warranties and protections, as well as the restrictions and exclusions, before your departure.”

— SUZANNE MICHAUD  
Vice-President, Insurance, CAA-Quebec

care is not covered when you travel there. You will be responsible for the entire cost of care if you become ill or are in an accident.

Emergency medical care insurance will cover you for incidents unrelated to pre-existing conditions. If the pre-existing conditions are stable, however, your insurer could include them in the coverage. Additional options are often available for extending coverage to include

pre-existing conditions not covered by default. Choosing travel insurance for long-term trips ensures peace of mind.

### What are the protection options?

Emergency medical care coverage is the most important. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is highly recommended if your trip or travel plans (including plane, ship, train, accommodations and excursions) are pre-paid, non-refundable or subject to cancellation rules. If you keep essential items in your suitcases, then protection against lost, vandalized, or damaged baggage could be very useful.

Depending on your chosen insurer, coverage may include repatriation and subsistence costs, the presence of caregiver in the event of hospitalization, the return of your car or RV to your home, the insurance deductible or taking care of a pet. Carefully check the exclusions, especially due to your age or health condition and pre-existing conditions (such as cancer). You also have the option to add a deductible, which can lower your premium.

Note: Insurance companies generally don't offer emergency medical care protection for more than 183 days outside Quebec, thus complying with the conditions imposed by the Régie de l'Assurance Maladie du Québec (RAMQ). But some insurers allow the possibility of getting or extending a policy up to 365 days. You can request an exemption from the RAMQ in order to extend the protection.

### How much does long-term travel insurance cost?

“Insurance rates vary according to factors such as the age of the insured, the presence of pre-existing medical conditions – assessed through a medical questionnaire – and trip duration,” says Suzanne Michaud, Vice-President, Insurance at CAA-Quebec. In fact, these factors represent an increased risk for the insurer, which affects the amount of the premium.”

Finally, shop and compare the coverage offered by different insurers to find the right insurance for you at the best price. For example, if your long-term trip is interrupted by a brief return home, an annual insurance plan with multiple choices of maximum duration for your stays could be more financially advantageous than two separate contracts each with a different trip duration. A word of advice: Buy insurance a few months before departure to avoid an annual premium increase or an increase associated with when your age changes.



### CAA-Quebec Members

Get a 10-percent discount on your long-term travel insurance with CAA-Quebec. Visit [caaquebec.com/insurance](http://caaquebec.com/insurance) to get an instant quote. If you prefer speaking to a representative, call 1-855-440-4402, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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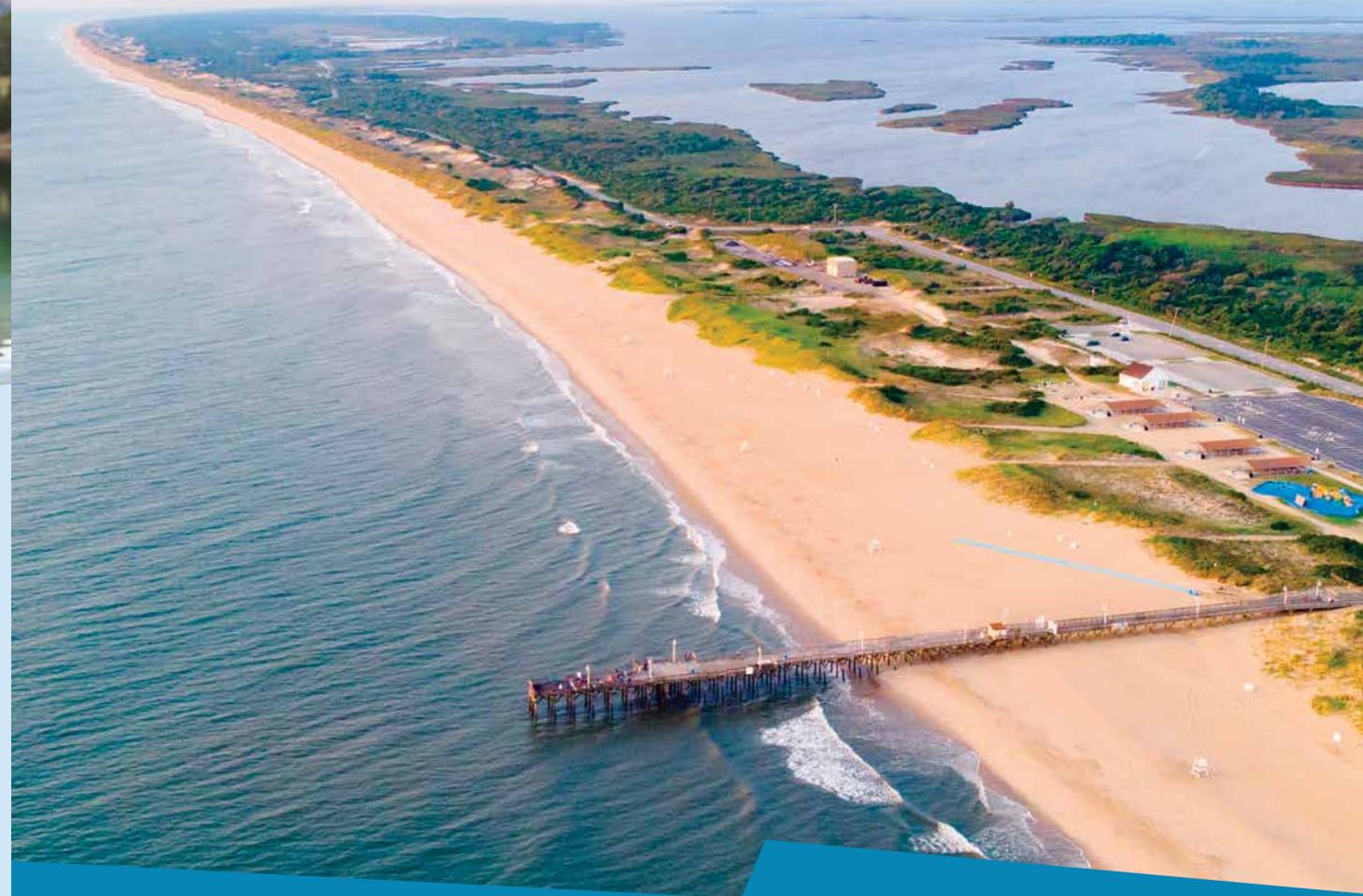
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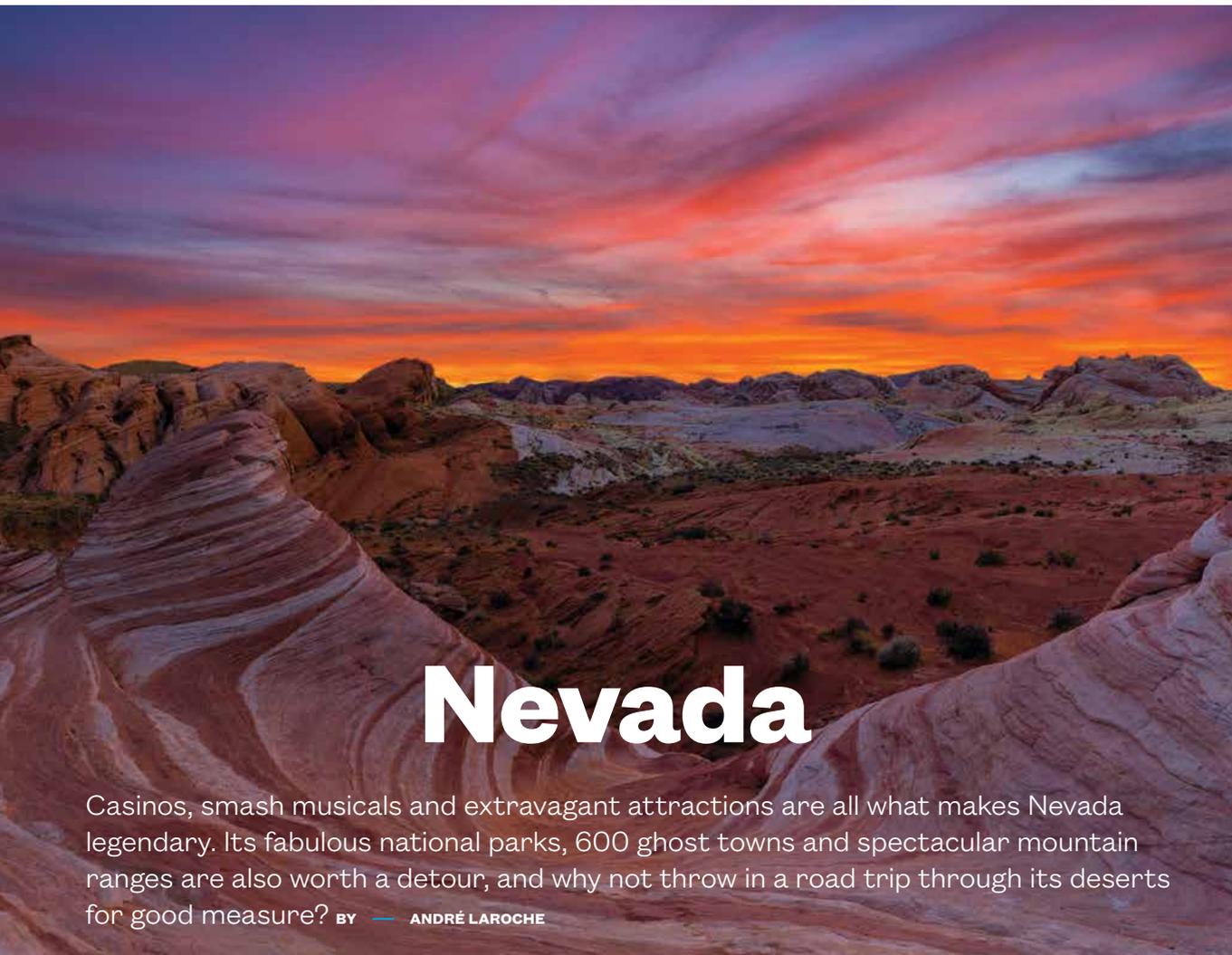
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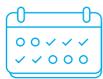
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# Nevada

Casinos, smash musicals and extravagant attractions are all what makes Nevada legendary. Its fabulous national parks, 600 ghost towns and spectacular mountain ranges are also worth a detour, and why not throw in a road trip through its deserts for good measure? BY — **ANDRÉ LAROCHE**



## When to go

- Springtime is best. It's the perfect time to explore a stunning nature that has suddenly awoken, from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park.
- In winter, ski resorts are much sought after for their abundant snow pack. After all, Nevada means "covered in snow" in Spanish!



## Where to stay

- In Las Vegas on the Strip, to be within walking distance of the main attractions.
- In one of the "Uncommon Overnights" – lodgings that are as unique as they are weird, like a haunted hotel or an ancient train caboose – to experience Nevada's wild-west past.
- In Reno at The Jesse Hotel & Bar, a historic building splendidly renovated in 2023, located downtown.



## What to eat

- Nevada's typical cuisine is a gift of Basque immigrants who had been lured there by the 19th-century gold rush. They brought with them chorizo, garlic steak, lamb chops, sweetbreads and oxtail soup.
- The best restaurants are located in the so-called Cowboy Corridor, a 650-kilometre stretch of Interstate 80 between Reno and Elko that's totally worth the road trip.



## Getting around

- On foot. To experience everything on the Las Vegas Strip.
- Taxi. For greater distances in Las Vegas.
- Car. Ideal for travelling through the desert, to the sound of Elvis singing, of course!
- RV. So you can wake up among the flamboyant colours of many national parks.



## ♥ We love these locations

### The Star Hotel

Nevada's most famous Basque establishment, known for its garlic-saturated steaks, lamb shanks with mint jelly, crunchy fries, cabbage soup and pinto beans.

246 W SILVER STREET, ELKO

### The Depot Craft Brewery & Distillery

This microbrewery and distillery offers gastro pub fare, accompanied by a fine selection of craft beers and cocktails. Try the Depot Fries covered in beef gravy with feta cheese and green onions; Spanish garlic shrimp; or mac-and-cheese bites.

325 E 4TH STREET, RENO

### Eggslut

This restaurant is known for its egg sandwich. We recommend the Gaucho, made with slices of tender Wagyu steak and dressed with chimichurri, red onions, arugula and, of course, a soft-boiled egg cooked to perfection.

THE COSMOPOLITAN, 3708 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD S, LAS VEGAS

### Best Friend

Korean barbecue with an eclectic ambiance, complete with DJ. Plates are shared among the guests. A popular dessert is a decadent sundae topped with marshmallow and cotton candy and served in a bathtub!

PARK MGM, 3770 S LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS



**CHLÉO TREMBLAY-ST-JACQUES**  
Technical agent  
CAA-Quebec Travel

### CHLÉO'S FAVOURITE SPOT

"The Valley of Fire State Park is a must-visit, for its myriad colours and the variety of its landscapes, each one as breathtaking as the next. It has hiking trails with different levels of difficulty, and most lookouts are easy to get to. And if you stay in Las Vegas, the park can be explored in half a day."

## TOP FIVE must-dos

- **Experience historic Virginia City.** Stroll the streets with the original wooden sidewalks, explore the haunted hotels and sip a beer in an Old West saloon.
- **Stargaze at the Massacre Rim Dark Sky Sanctuary.** Here, night is considered as among the darkest on Earth.
- **Attend a spectacular stage show.** Las Vegas is as always bursting with headline acts, the challenge is to choose the right one for you.
- **Hike in the Valley of Fire or in Red Rock Canyon.** Located less than a half-hour from Las Vegas, these parks command breathtaking landscapes.
- **Visit the world-famous Hoover Dam.** This formidably impressive structure is considered one of the seven modern engineering feats.



## Bring a piece of Nevada home

- A kaleidoscopic-coloured gemstone – bought, for example, during a visit to a mine.
- A selfie in front of the famous "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada" sign.
- A piece of turquoise jewellery made by a Native American artisan.
- Poker chips or a deck of playing cards from a Las Vegas casino.



## CAA-Quebec Members

Nevada beckons? Explore the region with the new "Grand Tour of the American West" (in 2025) or plan your stay online at [CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/TRAVEL). You'll also save 10 percent with CAA-Quebec Travel Insurance.



The Comptonales food festival in the Eastern Townships

© JESSICA GARNEAU

## Local flavours

Fall activities are in full swing. Here are a few suggested ideas to tempt you.

BY — JULIE PERREAULT

### Enjoy fall colours in a different way

If it's autumn, you must be in the Eastern Townships where the foliage is at its most majestic. From October 12 to 14, head for the town of Compton to sample ciders, cheeses, breads, fresh vegetables and other local delights on offer at the Comptonales food festival. Visit [COMPTONALES.COM](http://COMPTONALES.COM) to find more details.

If you plan to remain awhile in the region, consider a cycling trip between Montreal and Sherbrooke to admire the foliage and discover orchards, vineyards, distilleries and other attractions along the way. The 235-kilometre **Véloroute gourmande** will let you do just that. Combining the Route Verte and the Trans Canada Trail, it criss-crosses the Montérégie region and the Townships. Consult [VELOROUTEGOURMANDE.COM/EN](http://VELOROUTEGOURMANDE.COM/EN) to create your own itinerary.

### Savour autumn's bounty

The North Shore, too, boasts venues for sampling Quebec's autumnal delights, like the Centre d'Interprétation de la Courge in Saint-Joseph-du-Lac. Here, you can pick your own pumpkins and other squashes, or buy them at the Marché de la Courge, located on the premises. To learn more: [CENTREDELACOURGE.COM](http://CENTREDELACOURGE.COM). Feeling peckish? The Petit Bistro du Vignoble Les Vents d'Ange is a fine place to stop. Try their squash chips. Divine!

But not only fields are productive, so are forests! Stop at the Maison des Forestibles de l'Abbaye in Saint-Jean-de-Matha to discover and sample forest products. You can also learn about herbalism, mushroom picking or cooking with forest products through conferences, visits and activities. The enterprise also offers bird-watching workshops. Find out at [MAISONDESFORESTIBLESABBAYE.COM](http://MAISONDESFORESTIBLESABBAYE.COM).



Pumpkin picking at the Centre d'Interprétation de la Courge

© YANICK L'ESPERANCE



Chicken of the woods mushrooms at the Maison des Forestibles de l'Abbaye

© FRANÇOIS PATRIAUDE



Cidrerie Milton

### Spotlight on cider

Apple season is the perfect time to taste Quebec ciders, and there are many distilleries throughout the province. For example, if you find yourself in Montérégie, Cidrerie Milton ([CIDRERIEMILTON.COM](http://CIDRERIEMILTON.COM)) is worth a visit. On offer are an array of products – flavoured, sparkling or non-alcoholic – along with various orchard activities.

The Chaudière-Appalaches region boasts Cidrerie Le Somnambule in St-Henri ([LESOMNAMBULE.COM](http://LESOMNAMBULE.COM)), where you can stock up on apples while savouring a glass of Cybèle, Céleste or Sauvage.

Finally, if the road leads you to the Laurentians, check out the famous Cidrerie Lacroix in Saint-Joseph-du-Lac ([CIDRERIELACROIX.COM/EN](http://CIDRERIELACROIX.COM/EN)). Have a bite to eat at its bistro, washed down with a glass of a flat cider called Élisabeth or something stronger from the house's Série Nature.

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# TRAVEL

**explore**  
by CAA-Quebec



## 3 trends to watch in 2025

according to the *explore* by CAA-Quebec team

### Where, why, and how will people travel in 2025?

What are today's travellers looking for, besides appealing destinations? Travel experts weigh in.

Immersive experiences | Foodie trips | Long stays

## Trend: Seeking authenticity

Why just skim the surface when you can take a deep dive into a destination?

Today's travellers want to be truly immersed in the culture and traditions of the places they visit. To capture the essence of a country, go and meet the locals and keep an eye out for authentic experiences along the way.

Learn to cook Peruvian specialties by watching a chef at work; celebrate the Holi festival with an Indian family; awaken your senses with the colours, chaos, and spice-laden aromas of Moroccan souks; discover Thailand's many temples and traditions, and more.

Some trips are simply unforgettable.



explore tours for travellers seeking authenticity




**Southern India – Warmth and Spice Tour**  
March 2 to 18, 2025

STARTING AT **\$4,999**



**Peru – History and Rituals of the Incas Tour**  
May 2 to 17, 2025

STARTING AT **\$5,999**



**Alaska – Alaska's Unparalleled Wilderness Ocean cruise**  
June 25 to July 8, 2025

STARTING AT **\$6,149**



**Australia – Like Nowhere Else Ocean cruise**  
March 20 to April 5, 2025

STARTING AT **\$10,189**



**Thailand and Laos – Cultures and Traditions Tour**  
February 26 to March 18, 2025

STARTING AT **\$7,999**



**Morocco – Iberian and Moroccan Odyssey Ocean cruise**  
March 28 to April 11, 2025

STARTING AT **\$5,099**

## Trend: Foodie travel

Foodies, take note: it's never been easier to pair the fun of travel with the joy of great food. To satisfy travellers' appetite for culinary experiences, the *explore* team has curated itineraries packed full of palate-pleasing discoveries.

### Farms, vineyards, and amazing food

Foodies want more than just a list of recommended places to go. Imagine visiting the most beautiful cities in Italy and tasting local wines under the guidance of a sommelier, then ending the day at a charming bed and breakfast on a local farm.

From Greece to Italy, from France to Spain, travel in 2025 is all about getting to know a place through its traditional cuisine and regional specialties, one plate at a time.



explore tours perfect for epicureans




**Italy – Flavours of Italy Tour**  
May 25 to June 9, 2025  
August 31 to September 15, 2025  
September 28 to October 13, 2025  
October 5 to 20, 2025

STARTING AT **\$7,299**



**Spain – The Sights and Flavours of Spain Tour**  
May 25 to June 6, 2025  
September 28 to October 10, 2025

STARTING AT **\$5,899**



**Greece – Greece at Its Finest Ocean cruise**  
May 5 to 17, 2025  
August 27 to September 8, 2025

STARTING AT **\$5,789**



**Portugal – Dramatic Douro River cruise**  
September 8 to 19, 2025

STARTING AT **\$9,499**



**Ireland – From Cliffs to Castles Tour**  
September 2 to 17, 2025

STARTING AT **\$6,999**



**France – A Feast for the Senses River cruise**  
September 21 to October 3, 2025

STARTING AT **\$7,899**

Prices and product descriptions were accurate as of September 1, 2024. Prices include the contribution to the Compensation Fund for Customers of Travel Agents, which has been free since January 1, 2024. Prices are in Canadian dollars and are per person based on double occupancy. They include taxes, international flights and transfers mentioned in the itinerary, accommodations (inside staterooms for cruises unless otherwise indicated), meals mentioned in the itinerary, certain excursions, certain activities, and other transportation listed in the itinerary as well as government and port fees (for cruises). Prices are subject to availability and supplier conditions. For general terms and conditions and product details, please visit [caa.quebec.com/travel](http://caa.quebec.com/travel).



## Trend: Long stays

Take the time to take your time. Sounds good, doesn't it? Inspired by the slow travel movement, long stays give travellers a unique opportunity to explore one or more destinations to the fullest.

### Because we never want our vacation to end

When you opt for a long stay, you're treating yourself to enough time to live like a local and truly soak up the vibe of a city or region. It's a great way to enjoy a few weeks of winter sun in Spain, or to sample the *dolce vita* on the Amalfi Coast.

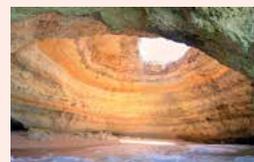
Looking for a complete change of scene? Venture to a lesser-known warm destination, like Montevideo. A long stay in the capital of Uruguay is both fascinating and relaxing.

### explore Long stays



**Spain – Dazzling Costa del Sol**  
Tour – Long stay  
February 6 to 28, 2025

STARTING AT **\$3,649**



**Portugal – Holiday in the Algarve**  
Tour – Long stay  
January 15 to February 7, 2025  
March 5 to 28, 2025

STARTING AT **\$3,579**



**Uruguay – Flavours of Uruguay**  
Tour – Long stay  
January 16 to February 7, 2025

STARTING AT **\$3,899**



**Italy – La Dolce Vita**  
Tour – Long stay  
March 16 to April 7, 2025

STARTING AT **\$3,699**

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**explore**  
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## 4 good reasons to choose explore for your next trip

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**Norway - A Nordic Fairytale**  
Grouped tour

Available from May 25 to September 14, 2025

STARTING AT **\$1,979<sup>2</sup>**



**Vietnam - Beauties Untold**  
Grouped tour

Available from February 12 to November 5, 2025

STARTING AT **\$2,059<sup>3</sup>**

See all our  
departures here



\* Prices and product descriptions were accurate as of September 1, 2024. Prices include the contribution to the Compensation Fund for Customers of Travel Agents, which has been free since January 1, 2024. Prices are in Canadian dollars and are per person based on double occupancy. They include taxes, domestic flights, accommodation, tours, and meals as listed in the itinerary (unless otherwise stated). Prices are subject to availability and supplier conditions. For general terms and conditions and product details, please visit [caa.quebec.com/travel](http://caa.quebec.com/travel). 1. Price for departures between May 17 and June 14, 2025. 2. Price for departures between May 25 and September 7, 2025. 3. Price for departures between February 12 and November 5, 2025.



# LIVING IT UP



Tram 28 criss-crossing the streets of Lisbon

A new moment of glory has arrived for this dream of a land, which tops all the lists of trendy European destinations. The birthplace of great navigators beguiles visitors of every sort, taste and background.

BY — CAROLYNE PARENT

# IN PORTUGAL



Lisbon's Triumphal Arch, seen from Augusta Street in Baixa

**F**irst, there is the capital of Lisbon: unpretentious yet full of surprises and utterly authentic. The city of seven hills spreads out before you, replete with inclines and slopes. Its cityscape is never boring.

Lisbon delights in its multiple districts, each with its own distinct vibe. Alfama, for example, enchants with its maze of narrow cobblestone streets where – come evening – echoes of fado music float through the air. Elegant Chiado is the Lisbon shopping-and-theatre hub. Bairro Alto, a sleepy place during the day, comes alive after dark with its bars and cafés. The waterside Cais do Sodré district, historically a rough and seedy area, is a magnet for night owls (its TimeOut Market is a food haven, highlighting signature creations by the city's top chefs). Baixa is the heart of Lisbon, an historic and commercial centre noted for its straight streets and neoclassical architecture.



Experience a magical moment at the Dark Sky Alqueva Observatory



The elegant terrace of the SEEN Sky Bar, where you could easily spend a whole day!



Sunset at Giraldo Square, Évora's historic centre



### PIERRE'S FAVOURITE SEASON

"I lived in Lisbon for two years, and June is my favourite month there. June is festival month, encompassing Portugal Day on June 10 and other saints' days and public holidays. Lisbon's streets, especially in the old district of Alfama, come alive for the entire month. Food-and-drink stands are everywhere. It's a treat to stroll along cobblestone streets while enjoying the aromas of grilled sardines and experience Portuguese music and outdoor performances, all in ideal weather."

– PIERRE LE DUFF, Travel counsellor  
Sherbrooke Travel Centre



Cabo de São Vicente, in Sagres

At sundown, visitors and *Lisboetas* alike mingle in the many resto-bars – such as the SEEN Sky Bar – with vast views over the city. Breathtaking! Another good idea to do in Lisbon is to ride the famous Tram 28 that criss-crosses the main districts, hopping on and off wherever you please to join the locals for a shot of *ginjinha* (cherry brandy) or ubiquitous grilled sardines or wander through a secret garden or linger in an ultra-modern contemporary museum. In other words, live it up!

### The backcountry that time forgot

As you head south toward the Algarve, take the time to explore the vast farming region of Alentejo. Past the Tagus River, cork-oak plantations and pastures, you'll find a string of charming medieval towns, including the splendid Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986 and designated European Capital of Culture 2027. It contains not just Roman and Arab vestiges, but also majestic palaces and convents dating back to Portugal's golden age. The convents also left another legacy as precious as it is delicious: the conventual pastry, which has since entered traditional Portuguese



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The typical Algarve village of Ferragudo



The fishing town of Tavira, in southeastern Portugal

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September 8, 2025

### GUIDED TOUR

Treasures and flavours  
September 13, 2025

### LONG STAY

Holiday in the Algarve  
January 15 and  
March 5, 2025

### SLOW TRAVEL

Love at first sight in and  
around Lisbon  
October 1, 2025

cuisine. Évora's bakery and café Pastelaria Conventual Pão de Rala is a must to stop at and sample the finest of these divine sweets.

Other fortified towns look as though they, too, pop straight out of a picture book. Perched atop a hill, Reguengos de Monsaraz overlooks Lake Alqueva, a large man-made reservoir that ensures its survival. Potters, weavers and winegrowers define this tiny white-walled town. The organic wine estate Herdade do Esporão offers a wine bar, a Michelin-starred restaurant and, of course, visits to the winery and vineyards. Come evening, the sparkling Dark Sky Alqueva Observatory beckons stargazers!

Stretching further along the Atlantic coast are small seaside resort towns, typified by high, rugged cliffs that occasionally give way to golden-sand beaches. Here, visitors and locals mingle in *tascas* (typical casual Portuguese eateries) to savour grilled fish served with delicious crispy Vinho Verde.

### Sunshine and culture at the beach

Here we are at last in the Algarve. Its endless beaches and romantic coves, framed by jagged cliffs, are forever bathed in sunshine against an emerald sea.

Faro, Albufeira, Carvoeiro, Ferragudo, Portimão... these picture-postcard destinations succeed, but do not resemble, one another. They range from bustling urban resorts to picturesque fishing villages and quiet, relaxing hamlets.

Descending the Alentejo coastline, you arrive at Lagos, a haven of utter beauty for vacationers in search of the outdoors, culture and relaxation. The Praia do Camilo hiking trail, overlooking the golden beaches, is a perfect vantage point to admire the panorama.

But it is at Sagres, in Cabo de São Vicente (Cape St. Vincent), that you can take in the infinite horizons. The cape is the most southwesterly point of continental Europe, exposed to the so-called "devil's wind" that captivates emotions.

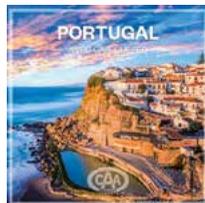
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### LISTEN ON SPOTIFY

From the captivating rhythms of folk music to the gentle melodies of Fado, this playlist is a true tribute to the cultural and musical richness of Portugal. Enjoy your musical journey!



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# Home

We're here to offer you advice and personalized assistance for all your home projects: renovations, maintenance, buying or selling a property.



## The role of building inspectors will be regulated soon

The long-expected *Regulation respecting the supervision of residential building inspectors in preparation for inspections for a real estate transaction* (REIBH) was adopted last February in Quebec.

For prospective home buyers, this regulation will guarantee that the inspectors they hire to evaluate their desired property are well qualified.

More precisely, the REIBH allows the Régie du Bâtiment du Québec (RBQ) to determine the conditions and terms of recognition for obtaining building-inspector certification.

This regulation will take effect on October 1, 2024. Building inspectors already in practice will have three years to complete the upgrade training in order to qualify for certification. Those who wish to become building inspectors must obtain an Attestation of College Studies (ACS) in building-inspection technology.

These two considerations – RBQ certification and ACS in building inspection – will now figure among the verifications made by CAA-Quebec when vetting professionals who wish to become (or remain) members of our Approved Residential Suppliers network.



## Home insurance An inspector wants to check out your house

Your home insurance company calls to schedule an appointment for an inspection of your home. Are they allowed to do this? Yes, and we suggest you accept.

This inspection aims to verify the covered risks and adjust your protections. It is generally requested when subscribing to a new insurance policy or during a renewal, particularly if:

- your house is old;
- you have a wood-burning stove;
- you have made significant home renovations;
- there has been an increase in the number of claims in your neighbourhood.

The inspection is free of charge and usually lasts less than an hour. It covers the house's structure – roof, foundation, signs of damage and infestations – as well as systems like heating (central, wood-burning, forced air, electric), plumbing, electrical work, ventilation and air conditioning, and home security.

### Is the inspection mandatory?

Yes and no. You have the right to dismiss or contest the inspector's findings, but the insurer also has the right to deny you coverage. Note that the more accurately the house is evaluated, the easier it will be for the insurer to calculate the premium. Of course, there's a risk of receiving a premium increase, but your insurer could also reduce it, for example, as a result of improvements made to the house.



## PROLONGED ABSENCES

# Leave home worry-free

If you plan to be away for a while, take the necessary precautions to protect your home against damage and loss. **BY — JACQUELINE SIMONEAU**

### Before your departure

- Ask someone you trust to mow the lawn in summer or remove snow from the driveway and off the front porch, steps and walkway in winter.
- If your home has an alarm system, show the person how to activate and disable it and add their name to your emergency-contact list.
- Ask a neighbour to park their car in your driveway periodically and to put their recycling bin at the end of your driveway on collection days.
- Set your timers at hours when you would normally turn lights on and off.
- Outside, install motion-sensor lights in dark areas and photocell lights on the porch.
- Install digital monitoring devices (like cameras and smart doorbells).
- Pause or forward your mail.
- Trim shrubs and hedges that hide the house from view.
- Keep your valuables and important documents in a safety deposit box.
- Don't announce your departure date or trip duration on social media.

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## The day of your departure

- Secure your windows and patio door(s) using metal or wooden safety bars. Remove the crank handles from any windows equipped with them and store them out of sight.
- Turn off your home's water supply and drain the pipes by opening the taps on the lowest floor. Turn off the circuit breaker for the water heater.
- Lower the thermostats.
- Disable the automatic garage-door opener.
- Unplug unnecessary electrical appliances.



### SUZANNE'S MEMO

→ "Notify your insurer in case of a prolonged absence, as some coverage may cease after 30 days of vacancy. A phone call to your insurance agent is all it takes to adjust your policy so you leave with peace of mind. Also, check all clauses of your contract to ensure that everything is in order."

— SUZANNE MICHAUD  
Vice-President Insurance, CAA-Quebec



Get up to **19 percent off** your home insurance premium and **5 percent off** the monthly rate of GardaWorld home alarm packages.

EXTREME  
WEATHER  
EVENTS

# Taking the proper steps to prepare

Natural disasters spare no one. Are you ready to face them? Here's how to react quickly and efficiently to different emergency situations.

BY — JACQUELINE SIMONEAU



## Violent winds and tornadoes

### Damage prevention

Trim branches that can weigh on power lines or break windows during bad weather or harm any house installation. Secure all outdoor objects that may be blown away or torn off by the wind, as garden furniture and garbage containers.

### When the alarm sounds

**INDOORS** → Stay away from windows, doors and exterior walls. Take shelter in the basement, the bathroom or a closet.

**OUTDOORS** → In the absence of a secure shelter, hunker down in a ditch. If in a car, park away from trees and power lines. If there's a tornado warning, get out of the car and move away from it as the car could be propelled into the air.



## Flooding

### Damage prevention

Make sure the house foundation is in good condition and the land slopes away from the house to facilitate water runoff. If need be, during renovations, take the opportunity to install a sump pump and a check valve.

### When the alarm sounds

**INDOORS** —> Stack furniture and put valuables high up or move them all to the higher floor. If water threatens to penetrate, shut off both the heating system in the basement and the gas tap outside, and cut off the power supply.

**OUTDOORS** —> Board up your windows and place sandbags and polyethylene membranes in front of each entrance and each opening. If you're in a car, never drive on a flooded road as your vehicle could be carried away by the current. If possible, move it to an elevated location.



## Earthquake

### Damage prevention

Firmly secure all objects (like picture frames, shelves, television sets) to stop them from falling.

### When the alarm sounds

**INDOORS** —> Stay away from windows and heavy objects. Take shelter under a heavy piece of furniture, protect your head and hold on. In the absence of heavy furniture, huddle against an interior wall.

**OUTDOORS** —> Head for an open space, away from bridges, overpasses, buildings, trees and streetlights. If in a car, pull over to the side of the road in a clear area until the shaking stops.



## Wildfires

### Damage prevention

Choose fire-resistant construction materials (asphalt shingles, bricks, aluminum). Opt for tempered-glass or double-glazed windows and a ventilation system with motorized shutters. Keep combustible materials (firewood, propane tanks) away from the house. Remove pine needles, dead leaves and mulch from gardens and dead branches from bushes and hedges. Monitor the progress of the situation while ensuring you can evacuate the area quickly. Fill up your car and park it in a way that allows you to drive forward when leaving.

### When the alarm sounds

Follow evacuation orders from public authorities.

**INDOORS** —> Keep doors and windows closed to minimize smoke exposure. Temporarily block openings – range or dryer hoods and ventilation outlets – that could let in sparks or burning embers.

**OUTDOORS** —> Keep a watering hose or a water tank handy so you can try to put out a fire as it starts. If in a car, plan your route using reliable maps like those published by SOPFEU. Keep your car windows closed to prevent smoke from entering the cabin.



—> **“Contact your insurance company to check the coverage offered in case of natural disasters. For example, most basic home insurance policies cover damage caused by winds or tornadoes, but not by flooding, landslides and earthquakes. However, specific endorsements can often be added to cover these risks.”**

— SUZANNE MICHAUD  
Vice-President Insurance, CAA-Quebec



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## Landslide

### Damage prevention

Be on the lookout for telltale signs like cracks or bulges in slopes or unusual water flows on embankments. Leave the area immediately if a landslide seems imminent.

### When the alarm sounds

**INDOORS** —> If you're unable to evacuate the area, take shelter in the part of the house farthest from the landslide. Huddle under a solid piece of furniture, protect your head and neck, then hold on.

**OUTDOORS** —> Quickly move in the opposite direction of the landslide and stay away from trees and power poles. If in a car, avoid mud-flows, fallen rocks and collapsed roads.



### Don't forget:

- Be on the lookout for weather warnings in your area.
- Develop an evacuation plan and designate a gathering spot. Practise fire drills periodically.
- Prepare an emergency kit containing everything necessary to meet everyone's needs for 72 hours.
- Plan a primary evacuation route and an alternative one, and inform your loved ones of your movements.

— To learn more about how to prepare for, prevent and deal with different emergency situations, consult the [Government of Quebec website](#) from which these valuable tips are taken.



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HOME AUTOMATION

# A dynamic duo

Imagine a home that knows you better than you do yourself, anticipating your needs with stunning precision. We're now in the era of AI-powered home automation.

BY — JACQUELINE SIMONEAU

Smart home devices and appliances – including wireless surveillance cameras, smart doorbells and locks, smart thermostats and robot vacuums – have multiplied over the past few years. Artificial intelligence (AI) will take us even further, making a new generation of smart homes safer, more functional, energy-efficient, and personalized homes.

### AI for everyone

Artificial intelligence optimizes home automation with its capabilities to analyze, adapt to changing conditions and generate automated

home-automation system can recognize when a house is empty so it can turn off the lights, lock the doors and lower room temperatures.”

Another AI asset is integrating facial and voice recognition with home-automation devices. The technology uses facial recognition from connected cameras to differentiate between a known and unknown face. It can also analyze data in order to detect any suspicious movement and alert the occupant in real time. As for virtual assistants, they allow you to control different devices in the home with voice commands.

This technology also has an important impact on energy consumption. “AI can analyze consumption habits and recommend solutions to reduce costs and energy footprints,” Nguyen says. “It can also automatically adjust the interior environment to changing exterior weather conditions and improve comfort. By taking these external factors into consideration, AI could even anticipate and warn of an imminent risk of power failure, thus helping to prevent damage.”

All this is just an overview of the possibilities offered by AI to simplify our lives.



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\* See the details on our website.



**A promising future**

Advanced technology is such that AI-powered home automation evolves rapidly. Current AI research shows great promise. Two trends are emerging.

The first concerns the detection of emotion. From facial and voice recognition, AI could read the emotional state of occupants and respond accordingly, for example, by dimming the lights and selecting soothing music.

The second opens the door to connected home care. “The population is aging,” Nguyen explains. “Despite increasing health problems or limited mobility, many people wish to live at home for as long as they possibly can. Artificial intelligence makes this possibility realistic. For example, it

facilitates remote monitoring of an occupant’s state of health. It can provide continuous supervision and alert the caregiver in the event of a fall or other unusual behaviour. Furthermore, it can remind people to take their medication or anticipate certain needs. In short, it’s a form of assistance despite the physical absence of the caregiver.”

AI-powered home automation promises a future where technology will meet the needs of people with increasing precision. However, it’s important that this transformation be accompanied by constant vigilance of any ethical implications, ensuring that innovation is deployed while fully respecting human dignity and the private lives of individuals.

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# Mobility

We inform and advise on mobility issues, whatever your vehicle happens to be – a four-wheeler, two-wheeler, EV or RV.



## CAA-Quebec at the F1 Grand Prix

For the third consecutive year, CAA-Quebec acted as the official towing partner for the 2024 Formula 1 Grand Prix du Canada, held in Montreal from June 7 to 9. A great collaboration continues.

While the Grand Prix showcases the prowess of the world's finest race-car drivers, it also proves to be the auto industry's greatest tech lab. For example, all F1 cars are hybrids, a technology that we find today in many passenger cars. In fact, most driving aids that we now enjoy – turbo engines, semi-automatic gearboxes, traction control, anti-lock braking systems (ABS) – come from the research and innovations of F1 automobile manufacturers who are always striving to surpass themselves in order to better protect their drivers.

Car tires have also improved immensely thanks to motor racing. Pirelli's recent testing of new rain tires with Ferrari is a case in point. Obviously, no one changes their tires on rainy days, as is the case on a racetrack, but certain ingredients or compounds could be found in the manufacturing of summer tires that could prove more effective on wet road surfaces.



## Worst Roads The scoreboard

The ninth annual *Worst Roads* campaign ended last May garnering 4,465 votes. Route 329 in Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard in the Laurentians topped the list, up from second place last year. Other roads listed are also in a pitiful state. Here are the top ten worst.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>01 ROUTE 329*</b><br>Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard,<br>Laurentides    | <b>06 CHEMIN DES MILLE-ISLES</b><br>Mille-Isles, Laurentides   |
| <b>02 CHEMIN DU CONTOUR-DU-LAC-À-BEAUCE</b><br>La Tuque, Mauricie | <b>07 CHEMIN VAL-DES-LACS</b><br>Sainte-Sophie,<br>Laurentides |
| <b>03 CHEMIN PINK</b><br>Gatineau, Outaouais                      | <b>08 CHEMIN ÉDOUARD-ROY</b><br>Sherbrooke, Estrie             |
| <b>04 CHEMIN NOTCH</b><br>Chelsea, Outaouais                      | <b>09 CHEMIN KLOCK</b><br>Gatineau, Outaouais                  |
| <b>05 BOULEVARD ALBINY-PAQUETTE</b><br>Mont-Laurier, Laurentides  | <b>10 ROUTE 321*</b><br>L'Ascension, Laurentides               |

\*MANAGED BY THE MINISTÈRE DES TRANSPORTS ET DE LA MOBILITÉ DURABLE.

Find the rankings by region at [CAAQUEBEC.COM](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM). CAA-Quebec has forwarded these results to the relevant authorities. In six months, we'll report what concrete actions will have taken place. Thank you for your participation and until next year!



## Get your car battery tested before winter sets in

No one wants to be faced with a nasty surprise especially during the first days of extreme cold. To have your car battery tested, contact CAA-Quebec Battery Service without delay! Available in several urban centres, this service counts as one of your four annual roadside assistance services (visit [CAAQUEBEC.COM/BATTERY](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM/BATTERY) for details). A patrolling specialist will go to your house or workplace to assess the condition of the battery and charging system (starter and alternator). If your battery needs to be replaced, opt for a CAA battery, which comes with a 6 year warranty. You'll get 3 percent off the exclusive member price.



## Car-theft prevention is everyone's business

A recent member survey shows that, despite the uptick in vehicle theft and insurance costs, 40 percent of respondents make no effort to prevent more thefts.

While authorities have a role to play, you, as a driver, can also adopt good habits to deter thieves. How? Close the windows, lock the doors, and park your car in a safe area. Consider installing anti-theft devices like a steering wheel lock, a Faraday box (to block RFID signals from the smart key), an OBD port protector that prevents access to the onboard computer, a vehicle tracking system or an Apple AirTag, for example. The more devices you use, the better you will deter potential thieves. Note that these additions can help reduce your car insurance premium. Look into it!



## Don't miss this electrifying event!

The Quebec Electric Vehicle Show will take place from October 25 to 27 at Quebec City's Centre de Foires d'ExpoCité. Our experts from the CAA-Quebec Mobility Advisory Services will be on hand to introduce the latest technological innovations in the field of electric mobility. It's a great opportunity to ask all your EV questions.

Mobility experts Jesse Caron and Maxime Dubois will host two conferences, including one on buying a used electric vehicle. Imagine! Three whole days to see, test-drive, analyze and compare different EVs. For the best price, go online to buy your tickets [EXPOCITETPRO.TICKETPRO.CA/EN/PAGES/SVEQ2024](http://EXPOCITETPRO.TICKETPRO.CA/EN/PAGES/SVEQ2024).



## Change in the offering of Approved Auto Repair Services

Members now get a 3-percent instant discount, up to \$100, on car maintenance and repair, including parts and labour, at any AARS facility (see conditions and exclusions on our website). Be sure to visit one this autumn to change your tires. Locate the facility nearest you at [CAAQUEBEC.COM](http://CAAQUEBEC.COM).

# Finally, a Lemon Law in Quebec

In the fall of 2023, Quebec unanimously passed Canada's first-ever Lemon Law – namely, Bill 29's flagship measure against planned obsolescence. This new regulation is integrated within the Quebec *Consumer Protection Act* (CPA), already deemed one of the most effective laws of its kind in North America.

BY — NADINE FILION

## Three strikes and you're a lemon

The CPA provision 53.1 came into force on October 5, 2023, targeting “seriously defective automobiles.” While owners or long-term lessees must apply to the courts to have their vehicle sold, lease cancelled, price reduced or vehicle repurchased by the manufacturer, the burden-of-proof procedure has been simplified. A straightforward calculation suffices to support their cases.

A new vehicle bought or leased within three years and whose odometer shows less than 60,000 kilometres is declared a “lemon” if:

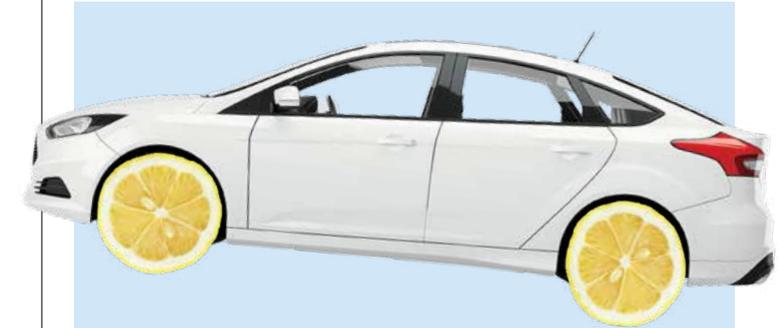
- It was subjected to three unsuccessful repair attempts for the same defect under the basic conventional warranty.
- It was subjected to 12 repair attempts for several unrelated problems, regardless of whether or not these attempts were successful.
- It was kept by the dealer or manufacturer for more than 30 days while they attempted “once or twice” to repair a defect.

**NOTICE** —→ not including any days for which the dealer or manufacturer demonstrates that the repair cannot be carried out due to a parts shortage AND that a courtesy car is provided to the consumer.

## A law stricter than anywhere else in North America

In Quebec, a vehicle is declared a lemon when its defects “render it unfit for the purposes for which it is ordinarily intended or substantially diminish its usefulness.” The law also specifies that a “seriously defective automobile is deemed to be affected by a latent defect.”<sup>1</sup>

Quebec is the only province in Canada to have adopted a Lemon Law, which is particularly strict compared to those already in effect in the United States. State Lemon Laws have been around for 40 years there, generally stipulating the maximum number of years/kilometres between the sale of a new vehicle and the moment when a consumer can request it be declared a lemon varies widely, from almost nothing to 24 months/24,000 miles (38,600 kilometres). In Maine, the law allows for three years, but only 18,000 miles (29,000 kilometres).



### PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE

“Is a method of stimulating consumer demand by designing products that wear out or become outmoded after limited use.”

(SOURCE: DICTIONARY.COM)

### Once a lemon, always a lemon

Once declared a lemon, a car will carry the “*seriously defective automobile*” (SDA) status for the rest of its life. A merchant that puts the car up for sale or lease must declare this status on the label that must be affixed onto the automobile. Failure to comply will carry hefty fines and monetary administrative penalties.

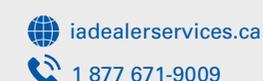
1. ANTI-LEMON WARRANTY FOR AUTOMOBILES, OFFICE DE LA PROTECTION DU CONSOMMATEUR (OPC.GOUV.QC.CA)

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Enjoy true peace of mind with the Allied Automobile Protection Plan. To learn how this program fits your needs, contact your dealer or CAA-Quebec recommended repair facility.



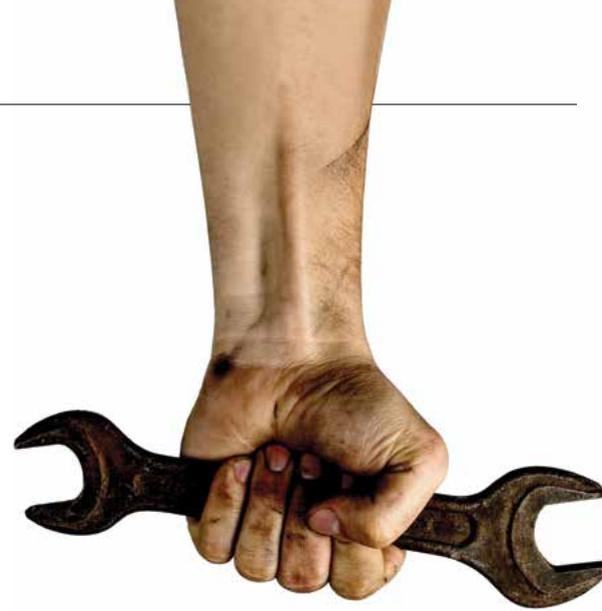
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### Other consumer-protection measures

Besides the anti-lemon warranty, the CPA includes the following provisions for the automotive industry:

- A reclassification of used vehicles sold by dealers where, since April 5, 2024, the legal warranty of good working order has been extended to cover older used cars with more kilometrage.
- At least 90 days before the end of a long-term lease, the dealer must offer a free inspection of the vehicle. The lessee can accept or refuse this offer.
- As of October 5, 2025, the right to repair will be strengthened in order to force manufacturers and merchants to make available replacement parts and repair services already provided for in the CPA. This is essentially a fight against planned obsolescence, which prohibits the use of techniques that make it more difficult to maintain or repair goods.

While this provision includes an exception regarding the free reparability data that manufacturers must provide, it has been embraced by independent auto-repair shops throughout



the province. “By giving Quebecers the right to choose the service provider who will maintain and repair their vehicle, and in the process prolong the existence of the model in terms of automobile maintenance and repair, we ensure the continuation of an essential service in remote regions,” affirms the Automotive Industries Association of Canada (AIA Canada).



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**FUEL ECONOMY  
EXPLAINED**

## Reducing the eco-footprint and costs

With rising fuel prices and growing ecological concerns, it's high time we reduce our fuel consumption and give both our wallets and the environment a break. Each act matters. Here are some practical pointers.

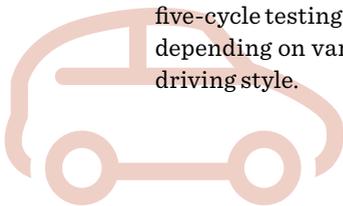
BY — NADINE FILION



Toyota Corolla hatchback

**01 — Choose the right vehicle for you**

The *Fuel Consumption Guide*, published annually by National Resources Canada (NRCan), provides information about the fuel consumption of current models of light-duty vehicles. It's a great source of information to consult before choosing your next car (new or used). For example, a consumption difference of as little as one litre per 100 kilometres could mean an annual saving of up to \$250, assuming the gas price at the pump is \$1.66 per litre<sup>1</sup> and you drive 15,000 kilometres per year. While the Guide's official fuel-consumption ratings are based on results of a five-cycle testing procedure, actual consumption can vary depending on variables like road condition, weather and driving style.



**02 — SUVs cost more all around**

Do you want an SUV or a seven-seater? Be aware that they cost more to buy than the models from which they are derived (by an average of \$9,700, according to *Protégez-Vous*<sup>2</sup>), and also burn more fuel. For example, a compact SUV such as the popular Toyota RAV4 (non-hybrid) will consume 15 percent more gasoline than the Toyota Corolla hatchback. For a driver who travels 15,000 kilometres annually, this can represent a few hundred dollars per year.

**03 — Assess what your true needs are**

That's the title of the campaign conducted by Équiterre over the past two years to encourage motorists to consider the impacts and high costs of SUVs. The organization highlights the additional purchasing costs of SUVs – estimated at almost \$10,000<sup>3</sup> – their increasing dangers to vulnerable road users and environmental impacts due to additional greenhouse gas emissions.

When considering a new vehicle, Équiterre recommends that you consider alternative means of transportation such as electric bikes, car-sharing and public transit. You could rent a large vehicle on occasion for work or vacation purposes. These practices are wholly supported by CAA-Quebec. Online tools are available to help you choose the vehicle best suited to your needs:

- **THE ÉQUITERRE COMPARE VEHICLES** —> This platform allows you to measure the impact of two models on finances, road safety and the environment based on data provided including graphics and evaluations ([NOSUVFORME.CA](http://NOSUVFORME.CA)).
- **THE RUNNING ELECTRIC CATALOG OF PLUG-IN VEHICLES** —> Is a web page that lists all plug-in, hybrid and electric vehicles available in Quebec and eligible for at least one government rebate. It also includes detailed information about each vehicle's fuel economy as well as its battery, charging and towing capacities ([ROULONSELECTRIQUE.CA/EN](http://ROULONSELECTRIQUE.CA/EN)).
- **THE CAA DRIVING COSTS CALCULATOR** —> Will help you choose a model that best meets your needs ([GARGOSTS.CAA.CA](http://GARGOSTS.CAA.CA)).



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**Most fuel-efficient vehicles for the 2024 \* model year**

VEHICLE CLASS	HYBRIDS	CONVENTIONAL VEHICLES
Compact	Toyota Corolla Hybrid (4.7 L/100 km)	Mitsubishi Mirage (6.2 L/100 km)
Mid-size	Toyota Prius Prime SE (1.8 L/100 km)	Hyundai Elantra (6.5 L/100 km)
Full-size	Mercedes-Benz S 580e 4MATIC (3.9 L/100 km)	Honda Civic hatchback (7.0 L/100 km)
Station wagon	Volvo V60 T8 Recharge (3 L/100 km)	Kia Soul (7.8 L/100km)
SUV (Small)	Kia Niro PHEV (2.1 L/100 km)	Nissan Rogue (7.2 L/100km)
SUV (Large)	Lexus RX 450h+ (2.8 L/100 km)	Mazda CX-90 (9.3 L/100 km)
Minivan	Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid (2.9 L/100 km)	Chrysler Grand Caravan, Chrysler Pacifica, Honda Odyssey (10.6 L/100 km)
Pickup truck (Small)	Ford Maverick Hybrid (6.3 L/100 km)	Chevrolet Silverado (9.2 L/100 km)

\* THE L/100 KM RATING IS BASED ON COMBINED CITY-HIGHWAY VALUES.

SOURCE: FUEL CONSUMPTION GUIDE, NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE VEHICLE CATEGORIES STRICTLY ACCORDING TO THE INTERNAL VOLUME OF THE MODELS.

1. THE \$1.66 GAS PRICE REPRESENTS THE AVERAGE STICKER PRICE IN QUEBEC FOR 2024, ACCORDING TO THE RÉGIE DE L'ÉNERGIE DU QUÉBEC AT PRESS TIME.  
2. "SUV: DO YOU REALLY NEED ONE?", *PROTÉGEZ-VOUS*, AUGUST 2021.  
3. "LIGHT TRUCKS: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIGHT VEHICLE FLEET," RESEARCH REPORT, POLYTECHNIQUE, MONTRÉAL.



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- ➔ Generous warranties and conciliation service
- ➔ Instant discount by showing your card on arrival at the garage
- ➔ Several certified garages for electric vehicles





#### 04 — Maintain your vehicle

Poorly maintained vehicles can consume up to 25 percent more fuel than those in good mechanical conditions. Proper maintenance will save you gas money and increases your car's resale value. So, make sure that:

- the filters are clean;
- the spark plugs are in good working order;
- the maintenance schedule is respected; and
- the tire pressure is adequate.



#### 05 — Practise eco-driving

Eco-driving reduces fuel consumption, exhaust emissions, car-maintenance costs and driver stress, inevitably leading to better road safety. Here's how to eco-drive:

**ANTICIPATE TRAFFIC FLOW** —> So as to reduce acceleration and abrupt braking. This will, in turn, lower fuel use and prevent premature wear and tear on tires.

**KEEP A STEADY HIGHWAY SPEED** —> Driving with cruise control at 100 km/h uses 20 percent less fuel than when exceeding 120 km/h.

**TURN OFF THE ENGINE DURING PROLONGED STOPS** —> To avoid wasting fuel. In fact, modern cars are equipped with stop/start technology that automatically cuts the engine when the car comes to a complete stop.

**USE AIR CONDITIONING WITH MODERATION** —> It can increase fuel use, especially when you drive at a low speed.

**CLOSE THE WINDOWS WHEN DRIVING AT CRUISING SPEED** —> This will reduce air resistance and improve the car's aerodynamics.



#### 06 — Gasoline grades

Which should you use: regular or premium gasoline? You'll find this information in your car owner's manual. Be sure to respect its guidelines. If the manual specifies that super gasoline is necessary, don't use the regular kind just to save money, as it will affect the car's performance, its lifespan and its warranty. That being said, if the owner's manual states that super gasoline is recommended only (to generate more power, for example) but not required, don't waste your money on the higher octane.

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### 07 — Other useful tips

**INSTALL A BLOCK HEATER IN YOUR CAR** —> According to CAA-Quebec, during the first 20 kilometres of driving in cold weather, a preheated vehicle will consume up to one-third less fuel than one that has not been preheated.

**REDUCE EXCESS WEIGHT** —> If you're not using the roof rack or loading rails, remove them. These obstacles to aerodynamics can increase fuel consumption by as much as 20 percent, according to the NRCan Office of Energy Efficiency

**PLAN YOUR TRAVELS** —> Combine your trips and avoid rush hours whenever possible.

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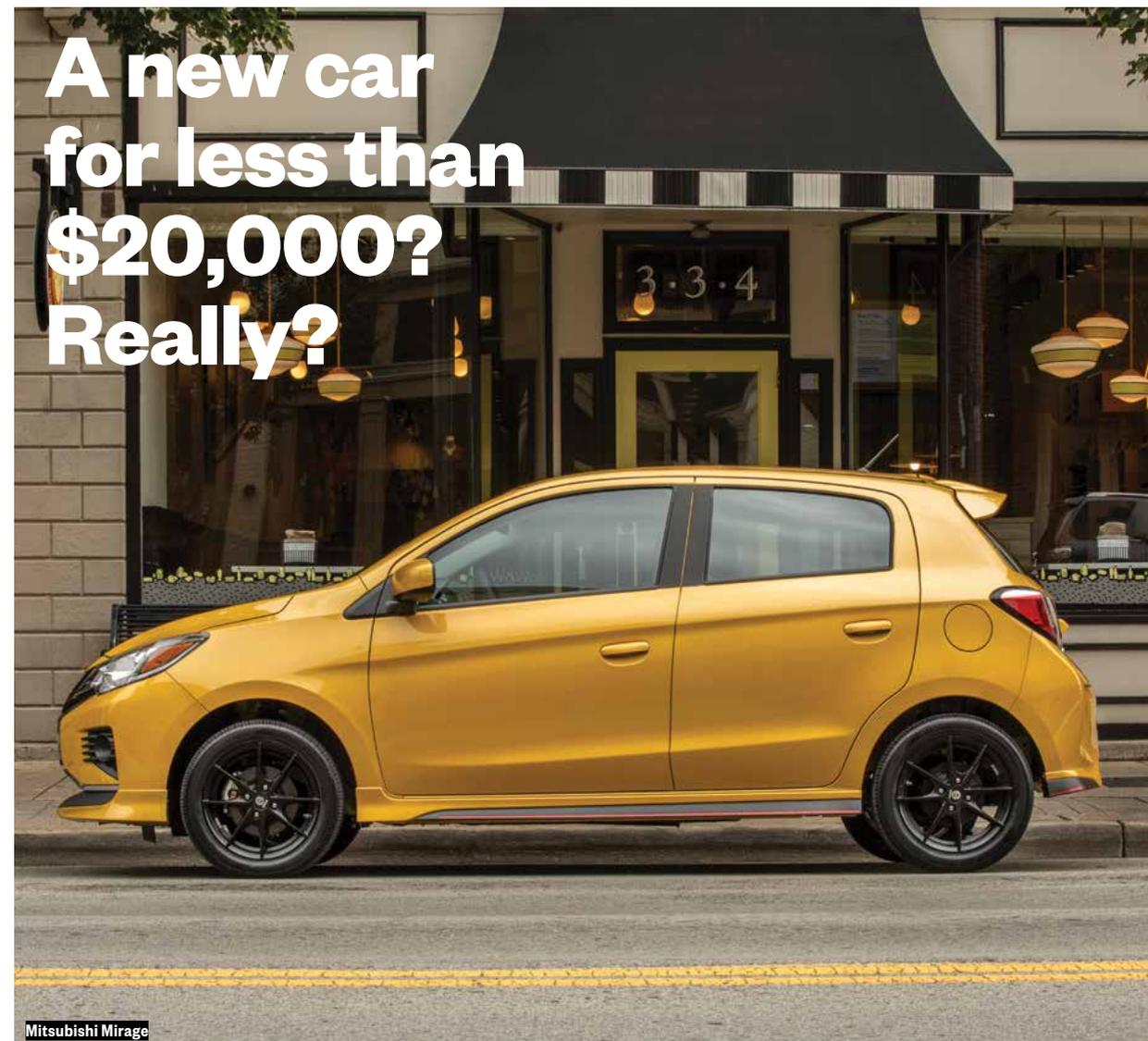
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**POINT-S.CA**



Mitsubishi Mirage

Since 2018, the auto industry has gone through a storm as perfect as it is improbable, driving car prices through the roof. Not even entry-level models or used cars are spared.

BY — NADINE FILION

Until five years ago, you could get a new Honda Civic DX with manual transmission for less than \$20,000.\* In 2024, even an entry-level model (like the Civic LX with automatic transmission) will set you back at least \$28,750.\*

What's going on? Well, three factors – the pandemic, galloping inflation, and the global shortage of semiconductors – combined to severely disrupt automotive supply chains and markets. Used cars have become hard to come by, as well, but that's another story.

In 2018, a Chevrolet Spark or a Nissan Micra could be had for less than \$12,000. But these microcars have recently vanished from the Canadian market.

Even the Mitsubishi Mirage hatchback (five doors), Canada's cheapest new car this year, will be but a memory by the end of the 2024 model-year. Until then, you can still get an ES version at a starting price of \$19,465\* – almost double that of five years ago. What's more, the costs of financing and long-term leasing have greatly increased since the pandemic.

Note, however, that the Mirage comes well equipped. The entry-level version features electric windows, heated seats, automatic AC and cruise control. And its warranty is among the industry's best (5 years/100,000 km full warranty and 10 years/160,000 km powertrain warranty).

Another Mirage advantage is that it's the most fuel-efficient non-electric vehicle in Canada, with an NRCan combined city/highway



Subaru Impreza RS

rating of just 6.2 L/100 km. But at the same time, it's the least powerful model you can buy from a dealership. Its three-cylinder engine produces only 78 horsepower and is paired with a continuously variable automatic transmission (CVT). The manual transmission option is no longer available, however, so there goes a real driving pleasure! Other most fuel-efficient non-electric cars after the Mirage are the Hyundai Elantra (6.5 L/100 km) followed by the Nissan Versa and the Toyota Corolla, each with a 6.7 L/100 km rating. All of these cars, like the Mirage, no longer have manual transmissions.

#### The SUV option

If your needs justify buying an SUV, the least expensive new models on the market are the Hyundai Venue (starting at \$25,570) and the Chevrolet Trax (\$25,725). The 2024 Nissan Kicks is a few hundred dollars less (\$25,122) but watch out. Prices for the redesigned 2025 version will vary between \$29,229 and \$38,000.

Some will rightly say that these models are spruced up versions of subcompact vehicles and sold at prices higher than the models they replace. Still the fact remains that their tall silhouette provides a more generous interior clearance than expected. Their road handling is also more comfortable, despite their modest 121-to-141-horsepower powertrain.

That being said, there's a drawback: These SUVs consume up to 25 percent more fuel than the frugal Mitsubishi Mirage.

#### At least \$30,000 for all-wheel drive

If you desire AWD, the most affordable option will be a passenger car, or more specifically, a Subaru Impreza.

This compact car is the perfect illustration of the recent car-price explosion. A 2021 Impreza sedan with manual transmission sold for \$22,000. (Note that this model has since lost both its sedan configuration and manual gearbox.)

The Impreza will now only be available as a hatchback, with a 152-horsepower output distributed among all four wheels, and a CVT. Prices start at \$29,210.\* For other AWD vehicles sold in Canada, expect to shell out at least \$30,000.

\*PRICES INCLUDE ALL FEES, IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT REQUIRING MERCHANTS TO ADVERTISE "ALL INCLUSIVE" PRICES BEFORE TAXES.



Hyundai Venue



JESSE CARON  
Automotive Expert  
CAA-Quebec

#### JESSE'S ADVICE

"Each year, CAA-Quebec publishes a study on new vehicle warranties. To produce this analysis, our automotive experts thoroughly review the documentation of the main car manufacturers present in Canada to identify the best protections. A good warranty can contribute to savings when purchasing a new model, as it reduces the need for an additional warranty that may be charged extra. Some manufacturers offer coverage of up to 10 years on the powertrain, while others provide a comprehensive 5-year warranty. To find out if the model you are interested in offers an advantageous warranty, consult the 2024 Annual Study on New Vehicle Warranties on [caaquebec.com](http://caaquebec.com)."



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## 2024 HYUNDAI ELANTRA

PRICE: \$24,373 to \$43,623

**PROS** —→ Excellent equipment/price ratio, well-balanced steering, stable handling, low fuel consumption, simple controls and multimedia system, roomy trunk.

**CONS** —→ Noisy engine during acceleration, transmission sometimes jerky at low speeds, suspension still stiff at times, lack of support on front seats, low headroom at rear, dubious quality of certain materials.

While many other competitors have abandoned their compact sedans in North America, Hyundai stands firm with its Elantra. On sale for almost four years, the seventh-generation Elantra has undergone a number of changes this year, as much to the body as to the interior and safety features. It offers no less than four different powertrains, including a resolutely sporty one and a hybrid focused on fuel economy. The most common of the lot pairs a four-cylinder engine with a continuously variable transmission, as is the case with almost all the Elantra's rivals.

It goes without saying that a mid-range Elantra, such as the one we tested, does not arouse the senses like the dazzling N version. Over time, however, it has achieved an acceptable degree of refinement, especially given its affordable price. Its Japanese competitors still offer more flattering materials and superior reliability after several years, but these attributes come at a much higher price. If you don't need the versatility of a hatchback or all-wheel drive, choose the Elantra over the Kona and save money across the board while enjoying greater performance.

### TESTED MODEL

**ENGINE** — 2.0-litre 4-cylinder (147 hp)  
**TRANSMISSION** — Continuously variable automatic  
**DRIVETRAIN** — Front-wheel drive  
**TEST TEMPERATURE** — 4°C to 15°C  
**TESTED FUEL ECONOMY** — 7.3 L/100 km

## 2025 KIA SPORTAGE PHEV

PRICE: \$49,644 to \$52,894 (\$7,500 govt. rebate not included)

**PROS** —→ Extremely quiet ride, comfortable suspension, excellent directional stability, spacious and modern interior, significantly enlarged trunk, advantageous equipment-price ratio.

**CONS** —→ Easily noticeable understeer and body roll, hardly any electric range in winter, transition to gasoline engine slow at times, driving position too high, irritating dual-function controls.

The fifth generation of the Sportage has been enjoying great popularity since its arrival, almost two years ago. Its eye-catching styling and increased dimensions are no doubt part of this success, but Kia also played the electrification card to broaden its customer base. As such, it offers two hybrid versions of its compact SUV, one rechargeable, and the other not. We tested the first, which comes with all-wheel drive, an attractive equipment-to-price ratio and an electric range of 55 kilometres.

Admittedly, the Sportage has lost the sporty edge that characterized its two previous iterations. However, Kia has provided it with ride comfort, roominess and a contemporary design that are far more appealing to its target customer base than dynamic prowess. On top of that, thanks to government incentives, plug-in models cost about the same price as their gas-powered equivalents ... not to mention the savings at the pump and the gains in refinement they bring. If you can find a Sportage PHEV — or afford to wait a long time — you'll definitely be getting a good deal.

### TESTED MODEL

**ENGINE** — 1.6-litre turbo 4-cylinder with electric motor and 13.8 kWh lithium-ion battery (261 hp)  
**TRANSMISSION** — 6-speed automatic with manual mode  
**DRIVETRAIN** — All-wheel drive  
**CLAIMED ELECTRIC RANGE** : 55 km  
**COMPLETE CHARGE** : 2 hrs (15% to 100% charge, 30-amp 240volt charging)  
**TEMPERATURE** — 10°C to 24°C  
**TESTED FUEL ECONOMY** — 7.7 L/100 km



## 2025 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER PHEV

PRICE: \$51,247 to \$62,347

**PROS** —→ Enhanced electric range, safe and efficient all-wheel drive, commendable performance, spacious, comfortable interior, polished finish, attractive price thanks to current government incentives.

**CONS** —→ Electric motors overwhelmed at cruising speed in cold weather, over-assisted steering, disappointing consumption in hybrid mode, ride sometimes stiff (20-inch wheels), third-row layout almost useless.

Mitsubishi launched the second-generation Outlander PHEV in 2023, just one year after the gas-powered version of this same SUV. The plug-in hybrid boasts significantly higher values than its predecessor, both in terms of range and power. It still features a 100-percent Mitsubishi-designed powertrain, while the gas-only models use an engine long used by Nissan in the Rogue. Since 2022, the latter has shared its platform, its mechanics, as well as several interior elements with the Mitsubishi SUV.

The Outlander PHEV's test drive on slippery roads highlighted three key points. Firstly, Mitsubishi's S-AWC all-wheel-drive system fully deserves its solid reputation. Secondly, all-season tires approved for winter use stand up honourably in deep snow, but their limitations on ice remain quite obvious. Finally, every motorist in Quebec would gain from occasional practice in a controlled winter environment, if only to boost their confidence and better understand the reactions of today's vehicles, most of which are laden with driving-aid tools.

### TESTED MODEL

**ENGINE** — 2.4-litre 4-cylinder with electric motors and 20 kWh lithium-ion battery (248 hp)  
**TRANSMISSION** — Continuously variable automatic  
**DRIVETRAIN** — All-wheel drive  
**CLAIMED ELECTRIC RANGE** : 61 km  
**COMPLETE CHARGE** : 6 hrs 30 min (15-amp 240volt charging)  
**FUEL ECONOMY, CITY/HIGHWAY COMBINED (NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA)**  
 32.1 kWh/100 km (equivalent to 3.6 L/100 km, electric mode)  
 or 9.0 L/100 km (hybrid mode)

## 2024 TOYOTA COROLLA

PRICE: \$26,149 to \$37,764

**PROS** —→ Comfortable and quiet ride, competent handling, efficient and economical hybrid engine, comfortable seats, field-proven reliability, expanded model range.

**CONS** —→ Loud acceleration, numb steering, outdated dashboard, some scattered controls, complex multimedia system, A-pillars too wide.

Rare are the vehicles that are produced without interruption for almost 60 years, especially while retaining the same name. Such is the case with the Corolla, whose 12th generation arrived in the country as a 2020 model. The Corolla, which overtook the Honda Civic as Canada's best-selling compact car, is available as a hatchback, in addition to the sedan we recently tested. Our tester paired a hybrid powertrain with all-wheel drive, an option that reappeared in the Corolla catalogue in 2023.

So, how did the Corolla survive the SUV tidal wave so smoothly? True, its coveted reputation for reliability attracts pragmatic customers, but the car has plenty more to offer. Its broad range is complemented by substantial frugality, proverbial resale value and a drivability that's more inspiring than ever before — though comfort still takes precedence. Nevertheless, before opting for the hybrid version, be sure to do your math carefully, especially in the case of a lease ... that is, unless you're adamant about all-wheel drive.

### TESTED MODEL

**ENGINE** — 1.8-litre 4-cylinder with electric motors and 1.3 kWh lithium-ion battery (138 hp)  
**TRANSMISSION** — Continuously variable automatic with manual mode  
**DRIVETRAIN** — All-wheel drive  
**TEST TEMPERATURE** : 4 °C à 15 °C  
**TESTED FUEL ECONOMY** : 6.1 L/100 km



SCAN TO WATCH  
THE VIDEO





## 2024 VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS

PRICE: \$53,145 to \$63,945

**PROS** —→ Impressive interior space, sprightly engine, improved transmission, precise and communicative steering, sound handling.

**CONS** —→ Stiff suspension (21-inch rims), frustrating controls, several cheap materials, insufficient soundproofing, hard-to-find driving position.

Six years after its launch, Volkswagen has given the Atlas a second partial redesign for 2024. This time, the changes are not limited to aesthetics. The cabin boasts a major overhaul, while the popular V6 engine bowed out in favour of a new take on the four-cylinder already found in entry-level models. As yet, there is no electrified version of this mid-size SUV, which can seat six or seven people, depending on the version.

If spaciousness is paramount in your search for an SUV, the Atlas should feature on your short list of contenders. This vehicle, sometimes overlooked, also lives up to Volkswagen's reputation when it comes to driving pleasure, even though it's not quite as dynamic as the Touareg it replaced. Alas, refinement continues to be lacking, both inside the cabin and when tackling degraded road surfaces. Perhaps we'll have to wait for a real revamp before this issue is rectified.

### TESTED MODEL

**ENGINE** — 2.0-litre turbo 4-cylinder (269 hp)  
**TRANSMISSION** — 8-speed automatic with manual mode  
**DRIVETRAIN** — All-wheel drive  
**TEST TEMPERATURE** — -15°C to 2°C  
**TESTED FUEL ECONOMY** — 11.5 L/100 km

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**PROJECT MANAGER**  
Stéphanie Fortier Allaire

**COORDINATOR**  
Marie-Josée Vachon

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**PRESIDENT AND CEO (ACTING)**  
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**MANAGEMENT**  
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**Head Managers**  
Marie-Claude Desjardins et Jocelyn Goyer  
**Editor** Juliette Ruer

**Art Director** Louis-Philippe Verrier  
**Graphic Artist** Yvan Perron

**Content Manager** Caroline Abel

**Writers** Lyne Boisvert, Jesse Caron, Nadine Filion, André Laroche, Carolyne Parent, Julie Perreault, Jacqueline Simoneau, Julie St-Hilaire

**Translator** My-Trang Nguyen  
**Copy Editor** Donna Jensen

### ADVERTISING

**Advertising Representation**  
Maro Bourassa, 514-216-5536  
**Sales Coordinator** Maria Perrotti

### PRODUCTION

**Head of Copywriting Negotiations** Mélanie Turcotte  
**Researcher, Visual Content** Emmanuelle Neault  
**Team Manager, IT Department** Serge Mercier —  
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