

The Suburban

QUEBEC'S LARGEST ENGLISH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

THOUSANDS PROTEST COVID RESTRICTIONS IN 300 KM DRIVE TO QUEBEC CITY



By Chelsey St-Pierre
The Suburban

The Foundation for the Rights and Liberties of Quebecers, organized a motorized protest against government lockdown measures that took place last Saturday. The foundation's leader, Stephane Blais planned the protest alongside his team and in tandem with the Surete du Quebec, the Quebec Transport Ministry (MTQ) and local police forces in various regions.

The protest consisted of convoys of cars that departed from four primary locations. Quartier Dix30 at 11 a.m., Centre Laval at 10:15 a.m., Galeries de la Capitale at 10:15 a.m. and the Costco parking lot in Sherbrooke à 11:15 a.m.

A live stream on social media, set up by the foundation in cooperation with Alexis Cossette-Trudel of Radio-Quebec, an independent media outlet, followed the convoy by helicopter and the video images were shared live on the Foundation's online platforms.

According to observers, between 14,000 – 15,000 people participated in the protest travelling in approximately 8000 vehicles. The vehicles were decorated with banners depicting anti-authoritarian slogans, messages of love, freedom and anti-censorship. Thousands of drivers passing the convoy in the left lane, which protesters were asked to keep clear, waved and honked as a show of support. Hundreds of supporters gathered on foot alongside the route and on bridges overlooking the convoy. Many prepared

signs and yelled out words of encouragement. Drivers honked at onlookers when passing them and many shouted "freedom" to each other.

Laval police escorted the convoy onto the highway and exited right before the convoy crossed the Laval border. Surete du Quebec police then took over guiding the convoy in an organized fashion with tactical checkpoints to control direction and police vehicles followed the convoy. Many protesters waved and thanked police while driving past them.

Upon arrival at Levis, there was a welcome by Blais who personally thanked protesters

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Frustration is an understatement for gyms

By Joel Ceasu
The Suburban

Frustration is a vast understatement describing what Steve Lapierre feels these days. Owner of three yoga studios in the greater Montreal area, he is watching government restrictions on businesses in his sector slowly shut down an entire industry and put it in long-term peril, along with the employment of thousands.

His nearly 1100 members and 58 employees at three Idolem locations are all affected by the shutdown, something he says doesn't actually rely on data or the track record of his own actions in the face of the pandemic.

"When we reopened in June there was not one outbreak at any of the 12 locations," he says. "We've done our part: we closed for several months, followed all the measures, invested money in equipment,

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Yoni M. Dahan
Real Estate Broker - World Class Realty
(786) 316-2841
Yoni@wcrusa.com

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