

# REAL ESTATE NEWS

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## Recent Federal Budget Encourages New Homebuyers

The government has earmarked \$15 million to nudge Canadians with RRSPs into buying homes. Now you can withdraw \$25,000 tax free from your RRSP to buy or build a first home - up from \$20,000.

### The Home Buyers' Plan (HBP)

The Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) is a program that allows you to withdraw up to \$25,000 from your registered retirement savings plan (RRSPs) to buy or build a qualifying home for yourself or for a related person with a disability.

### Conditions for Participating in the HBP

Only the individual who is entitled to receive payments from the RRSP can withdraw funds from an RRSP. You can make withdrawals from more than one RRSP, your RRSP issuer will not withhold tax on these amounts.

### Paying Yourself Back

Your first repayment is due the second year following the year in which you made your withdrawals. You have up to 15 years to repay the amount that you withdrew under the HBP. ▣

## RE/MAX stays #1

We're very proud, once again this year, to rank among the **30 most admired companies in Québec!** In fact, we succeeded in maintaining our **26th position** on the list of 150 companies most admired by Quebecers—based on an annual survey conducted by Léger Marketing, in cooperation with Commerce magazine.

According to Léger Marketing, RE/MAX is **still the leader in the real estate industry**, thanks to the quality of its agents' services, the firm's involvement in Opération Enfant Soleil and RE/MAX's advertising muscle. Here is the ranking of all major Real Estate firms:

- # 26 RE/MAX
- # 50 Royal LePage
- # 54 La Capitale
- # 85 Proprio Direct
- # 97 Century 21
- # 119 Sutton



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## REMINDER:

## Spring FORWARD Time Change...

**On March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Your life is worth more than these few minutes...

## Real Estate Statistics

Source: MLS Statistics TOTAL LISTINGS

		Feb. 09	Feb. 08
<b>DDO</b>	# for sale	288	273
	# sold	34	51
<b>Kirkland</b>	# for sale	99	126
	# sold	13	24
<b>Pte-Claire</b>	# for sale	159	145
	# sold	27	35
<b>Pierrefonds</b>	# for sale	487	488
	# sold	50	108

Properties were sold (on average) at 93-95% of asking price.

## Surprise! It's clogged...

Here is what every "Handy Homeowner" should know about home-made solutions for clogged pipes:

➤ Plunger: Useful when the pipe opening is large enough (toilet bowl or sink drain).



➤ Pipe cleaner: Works very well if the pipe is clogged with easy to dislodge residues.

*Commercially available Chemical products*: They can unclog pipes very quickly but it is preferable to avoid them for two good reasons: they are harmful to your health and the environment and can also damage drains and pipes.

### Environmentally friendly recipe to unclog a drain

1. First, start by removing as much water as possible from the clogged pipe before proceeding.
2. Pour in 125 ml (1/2 cup) of baking soda.
3. Then pour 125 ml (1/2 cup) of vinegar. Gargling in the pipe means the mixture is working. Wait a few minutes, then pour a large quantity of warm water down the drain. ■



**THE NATIONAL HOME SHOW**

**March 20-29, 2009**

### An all around home event presenting:

- renovation
  - construction
  - decoration
  - and landscaping
- A 10 day event at Place Bonaventure**
- no less than 500 experts and industry partners
  - sharing a 300 000 square foot surface
  - will welcome more than 150 000 visitors
- All in search of suggestions, crafty ideas and advice to help make their dream homes a reality.

RE/MAX is proud to present the **National Home Show** to be held at Place Bonaventure from March 20th to 29<sup>th</sup>

\*For \$2 OFF coupons please visit [www.salonationalhabitation.com](http://www.salonationalhabitation.com)

From basements to kitchens, floors to ceilings, basic repairs to undertaking major renovation projects using lavish custom finishes, visitors will find absolutely everything they ever wanted or needed to know about transforming a house into a home during their visit at the National Home Show.