

# THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021

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## NOTE TO READERS: OUR BLANK FRONT PAGE

NEWSPAPERS AND LOCAL HEADLINES AT RISK OF DISAPPEARING ACROSS CANADA

BY PAUL RIVETT,  
Chairman and Co-Proprietor of Torstar  
BY JORDAN BITOVE,  
Publisher of Toronto Star and Co-Proprietor of Torstar

No, the blank front page of your newspaper isn't a mistake!

Indeed, we did it deliberately to raise - in a dramatic way - the fact that local newspapers and local headlines are disappearing across Canada.

Starting today, we are launching a nationwide campaign to raise awareness that our newspapers - and our democracy - are under attack.

The campaign, which we call "Disappearing Headlines," includes our blank front page and

See OUR, page 10

IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY



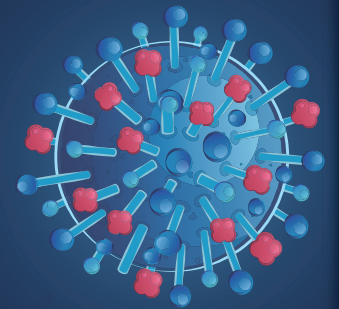
Roland Cilliers/Metroland

Vienna Flynn's parents are among many who hope their children will soon be admitted into the French immersion program.

## FRENCH PROGRAMMING NOT MEETING DEMAND

PARENTS FEEL HALTON CATHOLIC BOARD'S LOTTERY SYSTEM CREATES 'WINNERS AND LOSERS' /P5

FIND  
BREAKING  
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LOCAL  
INFORMATION  
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THEIFP.CA/CORONAVIRUS

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