

F1 Canadian Grand Prix 2026: Antonelli Wins As Russell Retires From Lead With Power Unit Failure

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Kimi Antonelli extended his **F1 Canadian Grand Prix 2026** mastery with a fourth consecutive race victory, capitalising dramatically on Mercedes team-mate George Russellâ??s heartbreaking power unit retirement to cross the line 10.7 seconds clear of Lewis Hamilton at the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve. The Italian teenager now leads the 2026 Driversâ?? Championship by 43 points and is starting to look unstoppable.

F1 Canadian Grand Prix 2026: Antonelli Claims Fourth Straight Win

Sundayâ??s race at Montreal was everything F1 fans had hoped for and more. With a mixed weather forecast hanging over the paddock, tyre selection became the first major talking point even before the lights went out. McLaren\s decision to bolt both their cars onto intermediate rubber proved catastrophic â?? Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri were pitting for slicks within two laps, tumbling toward the back of the field and never recovering.

Russell and Antonelli, both on soft tyres, immediately went wheel-to-wheel at the front in a gripping early duel. Russell nudged ahead, Antonelli responded, and the pair swapped positions multiple times in the opening quarter of the race. When Antonelli briefly moved ahead with what seemed a legitimate move, he was instructed to hand the position back over team radio. â??Why mate, he pushed me off and I was already ahead?â?• was his frustrated response â?? a line that will echo through the paddock for weeks.


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Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

Russellâ??s Heartbreak: Power Unit Failure Ends His Lead

On Lap 30, the drama reached its peak. Russell was still ahead, looking composed and in control, when his Mercedes suddenly slowed and died on track. The Briton slammed his fists on the car in visible anguish before climbing out â?? a devastating moment for a driver who had qualified on pole, won the Sprint on Saturday, and looked destined for his first Grand Prix victory of the season.

A Virtual Safety Car was immediately deployed, allowing the field to pit. Antonelli took on medium tyres and emerged with a comfortable 4.6-second advantage over Max Verstappen. From that point, the race was largely his to manage.

Russellâ??s retirement was later investigated for a separate incident â?? apparently for throwing his headrest out of the car after stopping â?? but the bigger story was the power unit failure itself, which will prompt serious questions at Mercedes about reliability over a race weekend in which both the Silver Arrows had been blindingly fast.

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Hamiltonâ??s Vintage Display, Verstappen on the Podium

Lewis Hamilton delivered a performance that felt like a throwback to his finest years. Starting fifth for Ferrari, he worked his way steadily through the field and spent the second half of the race locked in a tense duel with his former rival Verstappen. On Lap 62 â?? six from the end â?? Hamilton made his move cleanly around the outside at Turn 1, securing second place and the 18 championship points that come with it.


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Source: Formula 1 official website (formula1.com)

For Verstappen, third place represented his first podium of the 2026 season â?? a significant milestone for Red Bull after a difficult start to the campaign with the new regulations. Verstappen could barely contain his frustration at being unable to pass Hamilton in those final laps, but will take heart from the points and the pace his car showed in the closing stint.

Charles Leclerc finished fourth in the sister Ferrari ahead of Isack Hadjar, who survived two time penalties to remain fifth. Franco Colapinto claimed a well-deserved sixth for Alpine, his second consecutive points finish.

McLarenâ??s Nightmare Day and the Championship Picture

McLaren would rather forget this one entirely. Their tyre call at the start set both cars back irreparably. Norris â?? last seasonâ??s champion â?? spent the entire afternoon trying to claw back positions, suffered a collision with Albon, and ultimately retired with a gearbox issue. Piastri managed P11 with a drive-through penalty for his part in that same collision. It was a performance that will fuel their rivalsâ?? confidence heading into Monaco.

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Antonelli, meanwhile, is looking every bit the complete package. Four wins from five rounds, a 43-point championship lead, and the composure to manage both mechanical excellence and intense team-mate pressure on the same afternoon. The next round is the **Monaco Grand Prix on 5-7 June** â?? the most unforgiving circuit on the calendar, and the perfect next test for the teenager from Bologna.

For more F1 coverage, catch up on the Canadian GP race day build-up and the sprint qualifying story from earlier in the weekend. Follow all the action in the LBRD Sports section.

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