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# PAGE ONE News

Vol. 02 No. 4 | April 16-30, 2018 [www.pageonenews.ca](http://www.pageonenews.ca)



## ‘We will get through this’: Canadians honour Humboldt Broncos

**Page One News**  
HUMBOLDT, Sask.- Community came together to mourn those killed and injured in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. A vigil, organized by the Saskatchewan government, was held at the Elgar Petersen Arena, home of the Broncos junior league hockey team. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also attended the vigil along with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe. Fifteen people died from the collision between a bus carrying the Broncos and a semi-trailer. Fourteen others were injured. Meanwhile, investigations into the bus crash continue. RCMP Saskatchewan assistant commissioner Curtis Zablocki told a media conference the driver of the tractor trailer, who was not injured in the crash, was initially detained, but later released. The assistant commissioner said it was too early to comment on the cause of the collision. “The RCMP is continuing its investigation, which will examine the road, weather and mechanical condition of both vehicles,” he said. The mother of a former Broncos teammate created a GoFundMe page for the affected players and their families with an initial target of \$10,000. However, it has so far raised over \$4.5 million. Condolences continue to pour in from players, organizations and political leaders. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the entire country was in shock and mourning. “We are heartbroken knowing many of those we lost had their entire lives in front of them,” he said in a statement.

## Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee makes progress on shared priorities




**Page One News**  
OTTAWA-The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, participated in the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee meeting to review progress made since the Committee was formed last year and to discuss what actions need to be taken to advance our shared commitment to reconciliation. “Today’s meeting with Inuit leaders was productive and encouraging. Important work has been done over the past year to find innovative and meaningful solutions to the distinct issues faced by Inuit. Together, we can bring about the type of transformative change that we need to make a real difference for Inuit, for the benefit of all Canadians,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. During the meeting, the Prime Minister and Inuit leaders reflected on the important progress made to strengthen the Inuit-Crown relationship and to address key social, economic, cultural, and environmental issues together. These accomplishments include: Long-term funding to support housing in Nunavut and an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit Settlement Region; a commitment to eliminate tuberculosis across Inuit Nunangat by 2030, and to reduce active tuberculosis by at least 50 per cent by 2025; progress on an Inuit early learning and child care framework, which would reflect the distinct needs and priorities of Inuit children and families; progress toward a new Arctic Policy Framework, including infrastructure and related needs, which will ensure that Inuit Nunangat residents and governments are at the forefront of decisions about the future of their region.



**ISLAMABAD-Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meeting a delegation of Canadian Parliamentarians headed by MP Ms. Yasmin Ratansi at Prime Minister’s Office in Islamabad.**






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PAGE ONE

# “A to Z of Autism”

## Queenston Drive students promote autism awareness

**Page One News**  
MISSISSAUGA-A group of students with autism made their school, teachers, and families proud when they promoted autism awareness through a series of amazing presentations within the school and the local community.

The presentation, titled “A to Z of Autism,” was prepared by Grade Seven and Eight students from the Queenston Drive Public School’s contained Intermediate Autism Spectrum Disorder (IASD) program. The presentation also helped educate future healthcare practitioners at York University about potential needs for individuals with autism.

Students were given tasks to help support and develop life skills, personal development needs and academic skills as part of the project. A number of students chose to relate their own experiences to their research and communicate what autism means for them personally.

The students were involved at every step of the presentation

and collaborated as they brainstormed ideas for each letter of the alphabet before conducting research and gathering supporting resources with their iPads.

“I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work with wonderful people who believe like I do, that our students are capable of so much! With a program that focuses on teaching our students what autism is and how it affects each of them personally, we help to empower them. Our students become true advocates for autism awareness, both for themselves and others,” Erica Glover, intermediate ASD teacher, said. “The ‘A to Z of Autism’ presentation that we helped our students create, is a true reflection of what our students can do, given the right tools and supports, time and nurturing patience.”

The presentation is part of a larger initiative to promote autism awareness within the school and the local community, including Springfield Public School.



# York University Information Session

**When: Wednesday, April 18th, 2018**  
**Time: 7:30pm**  
**Where: Markham Civic Centre**  
**Council Chamber**  
**101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham**

Councillor Amanda Yeung Collucci and York University would like to invite you to an Information Session to provide you with an overview of the upcoming campus design in Markham, a sense of Academic programs that will be offered and the project schedule.

If you’re interested, please email Fion Lau at [fionlau@markham.ca](mailto:fionlau@markham.ca)

**\*Event is open to everyone!**

**Amanda Yeung Collucci**  
Ward 6 Councillor  
City of Markham





# City announces new Commissioner of Planning and Building

Page One News

MISSISSAUGA-The City of Mississauga has selected Andrew Whittemore as the new Commissioner of Planning and Building effective April 16, following a national hiring competition.

Whittemore has been the City’s Director, City Planning Strategies since 2015 and replaces Ed Sajecki who is retiring.

“It is wonderful to welcome Andrew on to the City’s Leadership Team,” said Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. “Andrew has had a diverse and rich portfolio with the City where he has been involved with very exciting and transformational city-building projects including the successful implementation of an Affordable Housing Strategy. He is a strategist and partnership builder who is passionate about creating a great city. We’re delighted to have him lead the Planning and Building



MISSISSAUGA-Andrew Whittemore is City of Mississauga’s new Commissioner of Planning and Building.

team.”

Mississauga City Council passed a by-law to officially appoint Whittemore at its Council meeting. In his role as Commissioner, Whittemore will report to the City Manager and will oversee a department responsible for strategic long-term planning within a legislated

planning policy framework. This involves the creation of policies, plans, processing development applications and building permits and undertaking building inspections to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the public. He will oversee three divisions: Building; Development and Design; and City Planning Strategies.

“Mississauga is a dynamic city that is undergoing a remarkable transformation from suburban to urban city,” said Whittemore. “Leading this continued transformation is an incredible opportunity. I look forward to working with the wonderful staff in Planning and Building and the Mayor and Council in my new capacity to create complete and inclusive communities and a high quality of life for all of the city’s residents.”

Whittemore joined the City in 2012 bringing considerable city

building experience.

His strength lies with his diversity of professional expertise - regional and community planning, development planning, cultural planning and community development. During his time with the City of Halifax, he spent years in development planning and played a major role in delivery of its first Regional Planning Strategy. He has vast experience with both community and waterfront redevelopment and expertise in community engagement. Whittemore views culture as a central tenet to creating a great city and served as the City’s Director of Culture where he led the creation of the first public art master plan. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Acadia University and a Master of Urban and Rural Planning from DalTech (formerly known as the Technical University of Nova Scotia)

# City of Mississauga will continue to host Tour de Mississauga in 2018

Page One News

MISSISSAUGA - Today, General Committee (GC) supported a recommendation that will see the City of Mississauga continue to host the Tour de Mississauga in 2018 in partnership with SustainMobility and the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee (MCAC).

“Since its start in 2007, The Tour de Mississauga has motivated thousands of residents to cycle and has become one of Canada’s largest community cycling events,” said Geoff Wright, Commissioner, Transportation and Works. “As a City, we continue to pursue our goal of growing cycling for commuting, recreation and exercise. By partnering with SustainMobility and MCAC this gives us the opportunity to reach a broader group of cyclists while we look

for a more permanent solution for operating the tour.”

According to the GC report, staff recommends hiring SustainMobility to help organize the Tour de Mississauga at a cost of \$51,655. This will be funded from the City’s existing operating budget and a \$9,827 surplus from the 2017 event. In addition, the Region of Peel will help with a \$15,000 grant to support operating expenses of the 2018 event. As part of the recommendations, staff will seek approval for longer term funding to assist in finding a third party to manage the Tour de Mississauga after 2018.

“The Tour de Mississauga is designed to promote and attract families and cyclists of all skill levels to ride in and explore the City of Mississauga,” said Chris Fonseca, Ward 3 Councillor and MCAC member. “The tour is a

popular event that has attracted up to 3,800 riders and there is so much opportunity to continue to grow cycling in Mississauga.”

The recommendations will go to City Council for approval at the April 11 Council meeting.

The Tour de Mississauga is an annual cycling event that takes place on the third Sunday in September. It is one of Ontario’s largest cycling events. It began in 2007 and this year will mark its 11th year. In 2017, the event was restructured to make it more financially sustainable.

Registration fees were introduced and the longer 80, 100 and 120 kilometre routes were replaced with shorter five and 10 kilometre routes. The route changes reduced organization time and provided more opportunity for families and children to participate in the cycling event.



# MP Sahota hosts community Easter Egg hunt

Page One News

BRAMPTON-Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, welcomed the Brampton community into her office for a Community Easter Egg Hunt.

The Hunt served as an opportunity for the community of Brampton North, in particular our children, to meet their Member of Parliament and participate in friendly competition. As the upwards of one hundred children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt, their parents had the opportunity to speak with MP Sahota about Budget 2018, while also learning about what the Federal Government has

achieved in the last two years and what more it is working hard to achieve this year.

“My goal has always been to be accessible to the community – including our children. I do a lot of outreach into the community and my office is always busy helping constituents, but this time around, my staff and I wanted to host something for the children,” said MP Ruby Sahota. “We knew we had to turn this into an annual event when many of the children participated told us this was their “best Easter ever” and they want to come back next year.” MP Sahota and her staff have many more community events planned for 2018.





# City of Burlington receives Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award

Page One News

BURLINGTON-The Ministry of Seniors' Affairs has selected the City of Burlington to receive the Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award. The award recognizes communities and municipalities that are working

to meet the needs of Ontario's growing older adult population by creating enabling environments that encourage social connections and ability to age well.

In July 2017 Council adopted the Burlington Active Aging Plan as a living document intended to

evolve with the community and to provide actionable changes to improve the lives of Older Adults within Burlington.

The nomination for the recognition award was submitted by the Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee.

The nomination included: The engagement process that was undertaken with our community to prioritize needs and interests which shaped the Active Aging Plan; the key objectives of the plan and the collection of testimonials from citizens who could speak to the value of age-friendly community work already underway

Recognition ceremonies were held on March 26 in Toronto at the first ever Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Symposium named after the Ministry's aging well strategy: 'Aging with Confidence'.

"Our government is proud to recognize the City of Burlington with an Age-Friendly Community award for its ongoing work and progress to meet the needs of seniors, Burlington's fastest growing age group. Through Burlington's Active Aging Plan and Ontario's

Aging with Confidence Action Plan, we are working together to provide support so older adults can stay independent, safe, healthy, active and connected to our community."- Honourable Eleanor McMahon, MPP for Burlington

"We are grateful to the Ministry of Seniors Affairs for our 2015 grant which helped us focus our priorities and helped us engage with seniors to develop and adopt the Burlington Active Aging Plan in 2017. The Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee was a critical part of developing this strategy, and they continue to do a tremendous amount of work advocating for seniors."-Mayor Rick Goldring

"We are proud that our collective efforts to make Burlington an age-friendly community are making a difference and are being recognized. We strive to provide accessible and inclusive environments, both physical and social, that enable seniors to live independent, healthy and active, safe and socially connected lives."- Chris Glenn, Director of Parks and Recreation



Left to right: Mandy Newnham, Supervisor of Recreation Adult Programs; Rob Axiak, Manager of Recreation Services; Jim Thurston, Chair of Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee; Sheila Burton, Chair of Burlington Seniors Advisory Committee, Advocacy Sub-Committee.

## City of Toronto launches 2018 Clean Toronto Together campaign

Page One News

TORONTO-Mayor John Tory has announced the details of the City of Toronto's 2018 Clean Toronto Together campaign that invites residents, schools, businesses and community groups to participate in the annual spring cleanup.

On Friday, April 20, Toronto schools and businesses can participate in the Corporate and School 20-Minute Makeover by cleaning up around their schools and workplaces.

On Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22, residents and community groups can join the Community Cleanup Days and remove litter from public spaces such as parks, ravines, laneways and beaches.

"Every year, Clean Toronto Together sets new records for community participation, which is a testament to the people of Toronto and the pride we take in our great city," said Mayor Tory. "I encourage everyone to get involved in our spring cleanup and to make an effort every day to keep our city clean and green."

Sponsors and partners include lead sponsor Glad Canada, Pizza Pizza, Tim Hortons, Toronto Star, Global News, Global News Radio, Metroland Media, Metro News, Park People, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board and Bag2School.

"GLAD Canada is delighted to be part of the City's cleanup



for the eighth year in a row. It's wonderful to see more residents, communities and schools pitching in every year," said Mike Pilato, General Manager of Clorox Canada, which owns the GLAD brand. "The simple act of spending just 20 minutes cleaning an area in your community can make a huge difference and make Toronto an even more beautiful and vibrant city."

Participants are encouraged to register their cleanups at <http://www.livegreentoronto.ca>. Registration helps the City to arrange special litter pickups, avoid duplicate cleanups and measure results. The deadline to register for the Community Cleanup Days is April 17.

Now in its 15th year, Clean Toronto Together is Canada's largest spring cleanup program. It begins with City staff cleaning streets, parks and watercourses. Over a four-week period, the City deploys more than 300 pieces of equipment, including litter vacuums, sweepers, front-end loaders, dump trucks, sidewalk sweepers and power washers.

## South Asian Spring Bazaar returns

Page One News

OAKVILLE-The much-awaited Oakville South Asian Spring Bazaar and Festival will make its annual appearance at Volodymyr Cultural Centre, 1280 Dundas St., W., from noon to 11 pm on Saturday April 21.

The event, with raffles and attractive prizes, will feature members of the Oakville community and over 50 vendors. "We would like to encourage new businesses to expand into the Town of Oakville and most importantly we would love it if members from all faiths

would attend," said Muneezah Jawad, who is organizing the event with Zaitoon Umer.

Apart from many other fun activities, there will be free cultural dance at 2 pm, free reptile show at 5 pm, and a dhol performance at 6:30 pm.





## PAGE ONE

# 2018 Provincial Budget

## Mayor Frank Scarpitti is pleased, and disappointed

### Page One News

MARKHAM—"I applaud the Provincial Government for the significant investment in health care, child care, care for seniors and mental health," says Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "As Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign for the renovation and expansion of the Markham Stouffville Hospital, I am pleased to see the government's support of an additional \$10.1 million for operating costs."

"Investing in the jobs of the future is also the right move," says Mayor Scarpitti. "The City of Markham is the second largest innovation cluster in Ontario, we believe in supporting entrepreneurs, change makers and thought leaders; while attracting and retaining a skilled and diverse workforce."

The provincial budget fails to deliver on the construction of York Region's number one transit priority. The Province says it will work with municipalities to nominate potential transit projects such as the Yonge Subway Extension and Downtown Relief Line, which have both already been identified



by Metrolinx as priority projects.

"As Chair of the York Region Rapid Transit Corporation, I am disappointed there was no mention of additional funding to start the construction of the Yonge Subway Extension," says Mayor Scarpitti. "We cannot let another term of provincial government go by without a solid financial commitment. This is about easing congestion everywhere and taking crammed buses off the busy Yonge Street Corridor. York Region is a growing economic force with more than 150,000 people commuting daily to work in the Region."

On a positive note, Ontario plans to help transit riders with fare integration. PRESTO card users at stations in Markham will

also see fare reductions when taking GO Transit back and forth to Union Station; all trips under 10 kilometers will cost card users just three dollars per trip.

"I am encouraged to hear the Province will work with York Region Transit on fare integration, potentially saving cross-boundary transit commuters up to \$1.50 trip, that's hundreds of dollars a year," says Mayor Scarpitti. "But we need to make that a reality for those commuters as soon as possible."

Ontario will also be providing municipalities with \$40 Million over the first two years of Cannabis Legalization; but there is concern that amount will not be sufficient to cover increased municipal costs for enforcement.

# 'Poetry keeps moments alive forever'

## Pujita Verma is Mississauga's new Youth Poet Laureate



### Page One News

MISSISSAUGA-National Poetry Month is a little sweeter this year with the introduction of Mississauga's new Youth Poet Laureate, Pujita Verma.

Verma was announced as the City's newest Youth Poet Laureate (YPL) this morning during General Committee. She succeeds the City's first YPL, Rebecca Zseder.

As the new YPL, Verma will represent the City as Mississauga's literary ambassador for youth. The objective of the YPL is to elevate the status of poetry, literary arts and young writers through the development of a community youth poetry event or project.

At 17 Years old, Verma is in her senior year at Glenforest Secondary School. For the past two years, Verma has acted as the secretary for Ink Movement

Mississauga, a youth-led non-profit organization that encourages youth to express what's on their minds. She has also been a member of her school's Student Writer's Guild since 2014, performed at poetry slams across the GTA and is currently a National Finalist for the 2018 Poetry In Voice Recitation Competition.

Her upcoming appearances include participation during the Canada Day festivities on Mississauga Celebration Square. She will also have the opportunity to be mentored by the City's Poet Laureate, Wali Shah.

Verma's work reflects mental well-being, life, the environment and "the miraculous nature of seemingly ordinary things."

"Poetry is a way in which we can cherish small miracles and keep moments alive forever," Pujita Verma said.

# Mississauga moves forward with Smart Cities Challenge

### Page One News

MISSISSAUGA-At General Committee, Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Shawn Slack presented highlights of the City of Mississauga's draft submission for the federal government's Smart Cities Challenge.

"The City of Mississauga's Smart Cities Challenge submission furthers our plans to create a connected and engaged city," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie. "By combining community-based solutions with innovation, we can bridge the digital divide between those who have access to technology and those who don't. As we continue to create a city for the 21st century, we want to ensure Mississauga continues to be a place where we can all live, work and prosper."

The Smart Cities Challenge encourages communities to think creatively to improve the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology.

The City's plan will "solve for social resilience" by providing easy and equitable access to services through the use of technology

and data. The plan supports new immigrants, those at risk, youth and the broader community. It is comprised of several pieces that include: providing a basic digital kit to people who may have financial or other barriers; creating community workspaces with amenities to enable learning, places to work, meet and succeed; encouraging the use of active and public transportation; using Intelligent Digital Signage, Artificial Intelligence A/I, Voice First Services, Augmented Reality, Open Data, Mobility and integration with agency services.

"We want to continue to look for opportunities to positively improve the quality of life for residents. By investing in new and emerging technologies, we can create a city that is more inclusive and focuses on achieving outcomes that align with our existing master plans and Strategic Plan," said Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer.

The Challenge is a cross-Canadian initiative open to communities of all sizes, including municipalities, regional governments and Indigenous communities (First Nations,

Métis and Inuit). Successful applicants will receive prize based on population size.

"Through public engagement sessions, feedback received online and consultation with community partners, we've identified a need to support youth, newcomers and those at risk in our community within the submission," said Shawn Slack, Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer. "At the same time, we've taken this opportunity to use these key insights to begin the planning process for a Smart City Master Plan which will provide a more fulsome response to broad needs across the community. The plan will set the agenda for data and technology planning at the City for the next 10 years."

An independent jury appointed by the federal government will select finalists by summer 2018. Each finalist will receive a \$250,000 grant to develop their final proposal which must be submitted in winter 2019. Winners will be announced spring 2019.

The submission deadline is April 24, 2018.

# City of Burlington looking for volunteers for the Taskforce on Anti-Bullying/Harassment

### Page One News

BURLINGTON-The City of Burlington is looking for passionate volunteers to participate on the Taskforce on Anti-Bullying/Harassment.

The citizen volunteers will be joined by members of Halton Regional Police Service, Ward 6 Councillor Blair Lancaster and City of Burlington staff to address issues related to bullying and harassment in the City of Burlington, both internally and externally. Participants must be available during the day for meetings.

"I strongly support the city's ongoing efforts to make

Burlington a more inclusive and more equitable city where everyone feels respected and truly welcomed."- Mayor Rick Goldring

"When we have a safe culture, we can have truly open and constructive dialogue about issues. There's nothing wrong with a difference of opinions but we all need to feel comfortable enough to give our thoughts without fear of intimidation, bullying or harassment.

"These negative incidences appear to be escalating recently and we need to set a framework that will govern all interactions at the city."- Councillor Blair Lancaster

## PAGE ONE NEWS

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# Premier Kathleen Wynne meets with Ethnic Media to discuss the 2018 Budget

**Page One News**  
MISSISSAUGA-The Ontario Budget presents a plan for care, not cuts.

Earlier this week, Premier Wynne was in Scarborough and Mississauga to meet with and take questions from Ethnic Media outlets about the 2018 Budget. Approximately 70 media outlets attended both sessions and asked a variety of questions.

“You are all such an important link between your communities and the work that we do at Queen’s Park. I appreciate the time and dedication you put into covering the news of the day because we all know the pressures the media has been under in recent years,” said Premier Wynne.

The Premier went on to discuss the pressures families are facing in Ontario.

“The economy is growing relatively well, but it’s changing quickly, and that growth isn’t being shared equally. We need a government that invests in care, not cuts. This is exactly what the budget is all about.” She said.

The 2018 Budget is investing in the care that people need most. This includes access to dental benefits they don’t get from their workplaces, and creating free prescription medication for everyone under the age of 25, and everyone over the age of 65 years. The Premier shared the added benefits for seniors in Ontario, noting that our parents and grandparents deserve the best care possible, and the ability to stay in their homes for as long as they are able and want to.

“That’s why we created a new \$750 benefit for seniors that will help them with costs around their homes. This will ensure that they can stay in their homes for as long as they want.”

The Ontario government is also investing in 30,000 long-term new long-term care beds. That includes 5,000 spaces for culturally appropriate care in multicultural and Indigenous communities.

“I do not believe that this is the time to make deep cuts to the services the people of Ontario rely on,” the Premier affirmed. “We will continue to expand free tuition so that more low- and middle-income students can go to college or university. We will raise the minimum wage to \$15, and we will launch free preschool childcare in 2020 so families have the option to go back to work, if they choose.”



## Brampton Members of Parliament host Budget Breakfast



**Page One News**  
BRAMPTON— Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, alongside MP Kamal Khera (Brampton West) and MP Sonia Sidhu (Brampton South), hosted a “Budget Breakfast” event to discuss the various gender-based budget measures in Budget 2018 and their impact on the economy and equality in Canada.

The three Members of Parliament spoke about topics such as: the wage gap, underrepresentation in leadership, gender-based violence, and how the Federal Government is to addressing these issues and so many more in Budget 2018. Local stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the gender-based budget measures introduced by the Canadian Government, as well as given the opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations for future changes. Through Budget 2018, the Government is taking a leadership role in addressing long-standing barriers to gender equality. Some of these measures

include announcing legislation to tackle the gender wage gap in federally regulated workplaces; providing better parental benefits; and introducing a whole-of-government tool called the Gender Results Framework, which will guide government priorities and measure progress in achieving gender equality. With equality of opportunity as a guiding principle, Budget 2018 takes the next steps in the Government’s plan to create good, well-paying jobs, improve lives and grow the economy for all Canadians.

MP Ruby Sahota is the Chair of the Federal Liberal Ontario Caucus, Co-Chair of the All-Party Entrepreneur’s Caucus, and a former member of the Status of Women Committee. MP Kamal Khera is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue, a member of the Standing Committee on Finance, and the former Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of health. MP Sonia Sidhu is a member of the Standing Committee on health, the Chair of the All Party Diabetes

Caucus, and was appointed to sit as a member of the Special Committee on Pay Equity.

“This Budget Breakfast serves as a way for us to connect with community leaders that know our community’s issues better than anyone else. Bramptonians that know that gender equality is not only good for Canada; it is good for our economy. Our government is taking a leadership role in addressing long-standing barriers to gender equality and ensuring that we can continue creating a Canada that works for all Canadians”. - Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North

“Our government is building a stronger economy that works for all Canadians, including those right here in Brampton. We are making sure that women and girls have the skills and opportunities they need to succeed, and today was an opportunity that allowed us to get feedback and let us know that our government is on the right track. There is still more work to be done, and we will continue working hard on behalf of Canadians to make a fairer and more equal Canada”. - Kamal Khera, Member of Parliament for Brampton West

“Investing in women is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. When women have equal opportunities to succeed, everyone benefits and our economy is provided the conditions it needs to thrive. I am proud that Brampton is able to serve as an example of that principle. Our city is fortunate to have so many great women in leadership positions, and our Government will continue to ensuring all Canadians have the opportunities needed to succeed”. - Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South

## Sukhwant Thethi calls for new youth anti-violence strategy

**Protect Children from Violence and Becoming Violent: Liberal Candidate for Brampton South**

**Page One News**  
BRAMPTON – Sukhwant Thethi, the Ontario Liberal Candidate for Brampton South gave the following statement: Like every parent in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, I was shocked by the senseless tragic death of Paviter Singh Bassi right in front of Sandalwood Heights Secondary School, as well as the vicious and cowardly beating of a defenceless autistic man at Square One bus terminal.

But when I learned how young most of the attackers were, I was horrified.

Not only have the parents of the victims had to go through something no parent ever should, but the parents of the attackers have also lost their children forever.

The reality of being working parents means that we spend far less time with our children than any of us ever want to, and a new youth anti-violence strategy is clearly needed to address this reality.

The most important part of an anti-violence strategy is to protect our children and youth from becoming the victims of violence, and the second most important part is to prevent children and youth from ever becoming violent.

As parents, neighbours, and caring members of our community, we must act swiftly to create an immediate solution, right here in Brampton and Mississauga. Our youth are our future, and no parent should ever have to lose their child to violence



or even a life of violence.

Over the past two years, decent and compassionate people throughout Canada and the United States have as watched in horror as violence, hate, and senseless crimes have steadily increased since the rise of Trump and Trump-style politicians. A new youth anti-violence strategy is clearly needed to keep our families, children, and neighbourhoods safe.

Every child and young person deserves the opportunity to fulfill their potential. That’s why youth violence has no place in our Ontario, and I invite people of all communities, cultures, and political stripes to join with me to work for an immediate solution and a safer community.



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INTERVIEW

# Care and opportunity for all: Naheed Yaqubian

Liberal MPP candidate shares her journey with Page One News, says the Liberal Plan will make a difference

By Awais Ibrahim  
RICHMOND HILL-If elected, Naheed Yaqubian will be the first #Iranian-#Canadian woman elected in the provincial parliament, one of her social media posts read.

‘How about changing that if to when,’ a supporter commented.  
As the Liberal MPP candidate from Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding, Naheed Yaqubian and her team are buzzing with confidence and excitement. They are going door to door and carrying with them an amazing message and an extraordinary team of volunteers.  
“We are focussed on the Liberal plan, which is making a real positive impact on people’s lives,” Naheed Yaqubian said in an interview with Page One News.

The Liberal candidate talked about her achievements, goals, and passion for community. She is a huge fan of Premier Kathleen Wynne. “As the Premier says, it is not who we are fighting against. It is who we are fighting for. I completely agree with that statement because we know who our opponents are fighting for,” she said. “That answer is big business, corporations and the wealthy. And we always know that the Liberals have been on the side of everyday people.”

The Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill riding is home to about 78,000 voters and an incredibly diverse community with a wide range of needs when it comes to social services and social programs. “I think it is important that while it is a relatively well-off community, there are many people who rely on the services and supports the government offers – whether that’s education, healthcare or transit. It is important for me to share with my friends and neighbours the fact that I think the government is a force for good,” she said.

Naheed, born and raised in the same riding, has always been engaged with the community.



Her views led her to sit on the Board of Refugee SSP Toronto, a nationwide organization of lawyers who provide pro bono services to Canadians seeking to welcome refugees to Canada.  
She has received awards, distinctions and appreciation as a student, a volunteer, a lawyer and as the elected chair of the York Region School Board Equity and

Inclusivity Advisory Committee. “Our committee, under my leadership, was pivotal in making sure that students and parents felt included and their concerns were listened to and addressed by our Board,” she said. Her leadership has also led to a review of fundraising initiatives at the school level across the board. “It is going to have real and tangible



results and I am proud of the work our committee has done,” she said.

Naheed, who loves to play tennis, is all praise for her team of volunteers, and says the role of a volunteer and citizen in Canadian politics is more important than the role of a Canadian politician. “They are the backbone of our society. They are people who serve lunches at places of worship. They are people who quietly set up and take down events. They are the people who, year after year, give their time to the community and they deserve the respect for the wonderful fabric that we have woven here in Richmond Hill,” she said.

She, however, says a recent conversation with a volunteer really warmed her heart, and made her proud. “I recently met a single mother who has two children, including a son with schizophrenia. She used to spend thousands of dollars for his medication. Now, thanks to OHIP+ program, that medication is totally free,” she said.

Since January 1, 2018, more than 4,400 drug products are free for anyone age 24 years or younger as part of the OHIP+ program, an initiative which has helped the Liberal government win hearts. This program is being expanded to include senior citizens over 65 as of August 1, 2018.

Naheed has another achievement she is really proud of. As a law student at Queen’s University, she created an advocacy organization, ‘the Law Student Society of Ontario,’ which still exists today. She received the Tricolour Award award for her efforts, the highest honours at Queen’s University. “It recently intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada on a question of equality rights from the perspective of law students. At the time I was thrilled to be recognized but more important to me than the award is the fact that the organization is still active and still advocating for the needs of students,” she said.

When it comes to diversity, this riding is a mini-Canada in itself. Growing up in Richmond Hill, she was the only person in her class with a different name, but 25 years later things are altogether different. “Now you go to grocery stores and you can see signs which say Eid Mubarak and Ramadan Mubarak. I am thrilled the community has evolved in such a way,” she said.

Naheed, who has had the benefit of learning from a wide variety of South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures, says she has the experience, skill set, passion and support which make her the best candidate to vote for. “Winning is not the prize. Governing is the prize. I think it is important that people consider not only who they want to win, but also who they want to govern,” she said. “They should think about the type of government they want and the role of government in their everyday life. I am confident that after that reflection I will earn their votes.”

“Our civil and free society in Ontario is not a coincidence, but a consequence of decisions made by everyday people to invest in what matters most. And these decisions are at risk when people like Doug Ford run for office.”





# A Turkish city in a Eutopian world!

Urz Heer is a name synonymous with community empowerment, inter-faith dialogue

By Awais Ibrahim

MISSISSAUGA-Some cities are named after famous people, and they get recognized instantly. Some people are named after famous cities too, and they too get famous. Uruzurum Heer is one such person, but it is not her name that makes her stand out-it is the community work she does, and the interfaith initiatives she takes in Canada, South Asia and the Middle East.

“My father visited Erzurum back in 1960s, liked the city, liked the name, and named me after the city,” Uruzurum Heer said in an interview with Page One News. “I have been to Erzurum. It is a beautiful rural city,” she said. Urz Heer, as she is known in the community, currently works with the Region of Peel where,

apart from creating a community engagement strategy, she makes sure people know about what the Region does.

Urz Heer shared her journey, achievements and community initiatives with Page One News. She also talked about best moments of her life including travel to the Middle East, representing Canada at an international peace conference in Switzerland, and leading an inter-faith dialogue session with Pope John Paul II in attendance.

Nothing makes Heer happier than bringing communities coming together, and helping those in need, be it raising funds, empowering people, or building bridges amongst people of different faiths in Canada and elsewhere.

## ‘I have stood up for justice and equality’

Urz Heer an Ontario PC nomination candidate in Mississauga Centre

MISSISSAUGA-‘I am running for nomination to be the Ontario PC Candidate in Mississauga Centre.

I have been a resident of Peel for over 25 years and have been working actively in the mainstream and the Muslim community community for over 30 years. I have stood up for justice and equality for all Canadians regardless of their

race, culture or background. I believe my many years of involvement working in government, politics and the Mississauga community makes me the most experienced and qualified to represent your voice at Queen’s Park. I am once again asking for the community’s support and prayers on Saturday April 21st 2-5pm Inshallah at Payal Banquet Hall at 3410 Semenyk Crt, Mississauga. Contact Urz at UrzHeerCampaign@gmail.com’



The girl named after the Turkish city says she probably lives in a Utopian world.

“Maybe it is the Libra inside me that wants to create harmony but really it is the vision that I have that one day in the world there would only be peace,” said Urz, who has been to Israel and Palestine twice. “One day, we will all be friends, and we will all get along. There is lots of room for everyone and that is my vision,” she said referring to the Middle East conflict.

Urz wears several hats and has three decades of community work

she is really proud of. In 2002 when Pope John Paul II was in Canada, she was one of those who led the inter-faith dialogue. She is involved with various synagogues, churches, Syrian community empowerment and women faith circles. She is also a co-founder of Shalom-Salaam, a grassroots group formed to start a dialogue between Muslims and Jews across the GTA. “A lot of people from other faith groups joined us because everyone is passionate about peace in the Middle East,” said Heer, who has been part of the Inter-Faith Council of Peel for the past 10 years. “We have rabbis, priests, pastors, imams and people from all the faith groups from the region. We try to bring together people for conversations and dialogues, friendship, and try to do some good within the community.”

Urz Heer agrees sometimes it is hard to talk about issues when those engaged in conversations and dialogues actually do not belong from the Middle East. Heer has been to Israel and Palestine-the recent visit was part of a Muslim leadership program. “We learnt about the different issues and dynamics in Israel, learning about Jews, their history, culture, traditions

and understanding some of the complications,” she said. “From here we can’t go there to solve their problems. But we can take some of the learning and build a network here and we can try to build better relationships through better conversations.”

Urz Heer is also passionate about politics and says that is where the real change comes. “We need to make sure we have the right champions that help us and our families grow. Currently, we have a handful of people that are leading initiatives, but it will be much easier if everyone could take on a small role to play in community building,” she said.

Urz Heer continues to make the community proud. She is involved with The Care Factor-her brainchild- a not for profit which has raised over \$1 million for humanitarian causes across the world, including Syria, East Africa, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Her dedication and passion for community work has been recognized several times, but she says her biggest achievement is representing Canada in the International Visitor Leadership Program in the US and the Peace Conference in Switzerland. “It is an honour for me to be nominated for these programs representing Canada, Canadians and our community. That in itself is a great honour,” she said. Recently, she also went to the United Nations at the NY Headquarters for the UN Women Conference where Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai delivered the opening remarks to kick off the annual gathering of women from around the world.

Urz Heer has been contributing to the community as a journalist and media personality too. As host of a popular Rogers TV show, Heer Now, Urz Heer interviewed several high profile personalities including Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffery, Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, party leaders, ministers and politicians from the NDP, Liberal and the Conservative party. “I really enjoyed interviewing Mayor Hazel McCallion. She is spunky and spontaneous and I have always admired her leadership... she is fierce, brave and she has done a lot for Mississauga,” Urz Heer said.

Asked if she would give one more try to become part of the political mainstream, she shrugged her shoulders. “Once you are in politics, you are always involved,” she said.





COMMUNITY

'The Enchanter Moon' leaves audience spell-bound

**Page One News**  
BRAMPTON-Jhinook Mukherjee Sinha was put into training in creative dance when she was only 3 years old at Mamata Shankar Troupe by her parents with deep musical interests.

After 11 years of practicing creative dance, Jhinook realized her passion for the classical dance form....Bharatanatyam. It has been a rather pleasant journey for Jhinook, paving her way through the avenues of 'Bhava', 'Raga', 'Tala', under the sublime shadow of the maestro Guru Smt. Thankamani Kutty, at Kalamandalam, Kolkata.

A long meticulous spell of training followed which honed her natural talent and innate sense of artistry to perfection. Jhinook is a danseuse in Bharatnatyam with potentiality and vitality. Her nymphatic and subtle movements in Bharatnatyam expose her possibilities of emerging as leading Bharatnatyam exponent in future.

Jhinook is not only exceptionally talented, but a beautiful and humble person who shares her love for classical arts wholeheartedly with the world.

For the last two months, while here in Toronto, Jhinook has been dedicated to training over 50 students for the inaugural launch of her production, The Enchanted Moon. This production was showcased at the Tookhar Tamasha Arts Program, Dola Re Dol on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

The extensive production included over 50 participants of various ages and dance backgrounds and was meticulously choreographed. Costumes were exquisitely appropriate to the region from where each dance was showcased and was brought by the artist from Calcutta for the performance. The 45 min program left the audience spell-bound. Toronto looks forward to seeing this artist return in the near future to share her talent once again.

**\*Production Details:\***  
Script- Soumi Sengupta, Narration in male voice- Biplab Ganguli, Narration in female voice - Swati Mitra, Music - Ablu Chakraborty, Visuals- Sagnik Roy, Concept, Choreography and Direction Jhinook Mukherjee Sinha.



Photos courtesy Annie J Koshy - Media Consultant

Regional Councillor Joe Li's 2018 Canada Diversity Celebration Event

**Page One News**  
MARKHAM- Chair Regional Councillor Joe Li hosted his 7th annual Indian-Chinese Hindi singing cultural event in collaboration with Co-Chair Amar Erry- President of Arya Samaj Markham- Vedic Cultural Centre, Joe Samion, Hakka Canadian Association, and Event Coordinator Neera Chakravorty.

This event was held at the Flato Markham Theatre.

The Indo-Chinese Hindi singing event provides a unique

platform to many local artists and brings the two communities together to celebrate unity and diversity in our City of Markham, most diverse city in Canada. This program featured a mix of 20 talented amateur singers who sang a variety of popular and classic hits in Hindi, Chinese, and English. Over 520 attendees experienced this cultural event. Among the dignitaries in attendance were MP Mary Ng, Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Alan Ho-

Ward #2 Councillor, and Logan Kanapathi-Ward #7 Councillor.

Thank you to the artists, Muzic City, Upper York School, volunteers and supporters for making this event a grand success. Special thank you to Event Sponsor Liberty Development, Platinum- Sponsors Federick Restaurant and LiDynasty Indian Hakka Cuisine, Silver Sponsors- Deloitte, Top Notch Employment Services Inc, and Toronto Printing Ltd.





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## COMMUNITY

# Mayor Tory, Councillor Colle introduce free parking, other supports for Eglinton businesses

## Page One News

TORONTO-The City of Toronto introduced support for local businesses on Eglinton Avenue to encourage more residents to visit during construction of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. Mayor John Tory and Councillor Josh Colle (Ward 15 Eglinton-Lawrence) made the announcement this morning at the Maria A. Shchuka library branch on Eglinton Avenue West after visiting businesses along Eglinton Avenue.

"We are all looking forward to the completion of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and the transit it will deliver to the city, but there are real impacts on local businesses and neighbourhoods while we build transit," said Mayor Tory. "I believe these supports will help residents and businesses during construction."

To support local businesses along Eglinton Avenue during construction, the City will introduce the following support: Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) will offer a \$6 discount code to use on the Green P app for paid parking within 200 metres of Eglinton Avenue from Jane Street to Don Mills Road (the equivalent of approximately two hours of free parking in most spots in the area). The code will run for the duration

of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT construction period. To access the discount, users must initiate a parking session through the TPA app, click on session options, click on discount and enter Crosstown; As part of Clean Toronto Together, the City will launch a blitz along Eglinton Avenue to clean the corridor.

City Council also approved \$100,000 for immediate programs to assist impacted businesses along Eglinton Avenue. This funding will support the implementation of the following programs: Expanding Digital Mainstreets to support the growth of businesses by making the adoption of digital technologies easier; Economic scans for all Eglinton Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) to identify key demographic trends in Eglinton neighbourhoods, the factors that either deter or attract people from shopping along Eglinton and the development of strategies for the BIAs to build upon or address these factors.

In addition to these supports, the City has commissioned a study to develop recommendations for a City-run program to enable retail areas affected by construction projects to access supports to mitigate the negative economic impact.

It is expected that a report on this study will be presented to a



City committee in 2019.

"Bringing a project the size of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT to one of the busiest arteries in Toronto does have impacts on the people traveling along and through Eglinton Avenue as well as the local businesses located right along the corridor," said Councillor Colle. "I am happy to see that the City is working together with Metrolinx to minimize the effects of this construction."

To enhance the City's initiatives, Metrolinx has agreed to the following supports for

local businesses: A targeted advertising campaign from March to June to support the Oakwood community and celebrate its Caribbean culture; the summer 2018 Gallery City initiative will double business participation from last year to 100 participants, with 10 identified to date. A formal launch event will be held in June; Radio advertisements on 15 radio stations until the end of June to reinforce shopping local and the Experience Eglinton campaign; Continuation of the successful window washing and

mat cleaning initiative for local businesses throughout 2018; Funding the costs of installing seven temporary bus shelters along the corridor where bus shelters have been removed due to construction; Full funding of event fees for BIA and community events along the Eglinton Crosstown corridor held during the construction project; Full funding of the registration fees for restaurants along Eglinton Avenue to participate in the Winterlicious and Summerlicious events during the construction project.

## Fort York to host APTN's Indigenous Day Live celebrations in June

### Page One News

TORONTO-In partnership with APTN, the City of Toronto's Fort York National Historic will host Indigenous Day Live celebrations on Saturday, June 23 as part of the four-day Indigenous Arts Festival running from Thursday, June 21 to Sunday, June 24.

Indigenous Day Live, Canada's largest national celebration in recognition of Indigenous peoples, will feature daytime celebrations and free evening concerts in Toronto, Winnipeg and Ottawa, as well as a live broadcast on APTN (the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network).

"National Indigenous Peoples Day and the Indigenous Arts Festival recognize the unique culture, history and significant contributions made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to our city and to Canadian society," said Mayor John Tory. "I encourage all residents to join in the celebrations this June and for those who cannot attend, to tune in to the Indigenous Day Live broadcast on APTN."

"Indigenous Day Live brings Canadians together to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' accomplishments, through

cultural activities and live music, while contributing to the nationwide movement of reconciliation," says Jean La Rose, APTN's Chief Executive Officer. "We are honoured to be collaborating with the Toronto Indigenous Arts Festival, who have been providing annual Indigenous Peoples Day activities for many years."

"These events, which comprise Toronto's largest National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations, are a result of active collaboration between the City and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation alongside Indigenous artists from across the country," said Councillor Michael Thompson (Ward 37 Scarborough Centre), Chair of the City's Economic Development and Culture Committee. "The celebration reflects Toronto's commitment to celebrating diversity and reinforces Fort York's growing legacy as an inclusive reflection of our history."

Along with Indigenous Day Live, the four-day Indigenous Arts Festival at Fort York will feature the sounds of some of the most recognized Canadian entertainers in Indigenous music, visual arts,

dance, theatre and film. Kicking off on National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, the festival also includes Na-Me-Res Toronto's Annual Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, June 23.

The Indigenous Arts Festival is produced by the City of Toronto in partnership with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The event is presented by TD with financial support from the Government of Canada and Tim Hortons.

Fort York National Historic Site is one of 10 Toronto History Museums operated by the City of Toronto. Since 1793, Fort York has been an important military location and is known as Toronto's founding landscape. Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, this 43-acre heritage conservation district is home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings. The fort offers permanent exhibits and immersive multimedia displays at the Visitor Centre, ongoing programming and events, site tours, military displays, historic cooking demonstrations, and the annual Indigenous Arts Festival. Fort York National Historic Site is also home to the first phase of The Bentway.

## Being ME, North America's largest women's conference a major success

### Page One News

TORONTO-Being ME, North America's largest all women's conference attracted thousands of women this past weekend in downtown Toronto's Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The day-long event, organized by women for women, offered powerful presentations and engaging workshops that addressed the most pressing issues facing Canadian women. With well-renowned experts in various fields, the event provided hands-on discussions on stopping harassment, navigating the sexology debate, and on staying fit, flexible and healthy in both mind and body. It offered dialogue on how to work with the Canadian community and help those under-represented, such as working with the indigenous community to uphold their rights, aiding refugees as they settle, and welcoming newcomers here in Canada. Furthermore, it provided an outlet for creativity, where women came together and shared in the beauty of the arts, through poetry and song.

"Being ME is not just an event,

but an experience that allows a woman to express herself and learn from the powerful expression of her fellow sisters, through respectful discourse that challenges norms and builds one's foundation as she embraces and builds her life both professionally and personally," says event director Naila Kibria.

Now in its seventh year, Being Muslimah Empowered (ME) is an event that helps women navigate the various roles they face- from the professional world, to running a successful household, and all the facets of life in between. The event's focus is to celebrate the successes of women, and to encourage the expression of the best in one's self, in whichever capacity it is. To this end, Being ME emphasizes self-development, empowerment, community leadership, and sisterhood. This conference embarks upon the mission to give all women a voice and an outlet to express the reality of their lifestyles, to share accomplishments that benefit humanity, and to inspire others to do the same.



COMMUNITY

# Ontario commits over \$11 billion to build first phase of High Speed Rail

Page One News

LONDON-Premier Kathleen Wynne was at Info-Tech in London to highlight Ontario's historic investment to build a high speed rail line along the Toronto-Windsor corridor that will connect communities and create jobs and economic growth across Southwestern Ontario.

As announced in the 2018 Budget, the government will make an initial investment of more than \$11 billion to support construction of Phase One of the project between Toronto and London. Canada's first high speed rail line -- the largest new investment in the Budget -- will slash travel times in half along the corridor, offer people a

convenient new travel option that will reduce carbon emissions, while creating new opportunities for workers, businesses and anyone traveling in this part of Ontario.

Electric-powered trains will move at speeds of up to 250 kilometres per hour on a combination of existing track and new dedicated rail corridors. The high speed trains will dramatically reduce travel times -- to an estimated 73 minutes between London and Toronto Union Station. This will give people a faster and greener way to get around, and will help businesses attract talented workers from across a wider area.

This project is one in a series of major investments Ontario is making to build and expand public transit and transition to a low-carbon innovation economy. These investments include the transformational GO Regional Express Rail (RER) project, which will introduce all-day, two-way service every 15 minutes across the GO rail network, with electrified service on core segments, including the Union Pearson Express. Weekly trips across the entire GO rail network will grow from about 1,500 to nearly 6,000 by 2025.

Building high speed rail is part of the government's plan to support care, create opportunity and make life more

affordable during this period of rapid economic change. The plan includes free prescription drugs for everyone under 25, and 65 or over, through the biggest expansion of medicare in a generation, free tuition for hundreds of thousands of students, a higher minimum wage and better working conditions, and easier access to affordable child care.

"We have to be bold and visionary right now and invest in the kind of future we know we are capable of. This is just no time for government to sit still and let opportunities pass Ontario by. The best time to build high speed rail was thirty years ago. The second best time is right now,

so we are taking action. We are going to build this line -- because high speed rail is going to unlock so many benefits for people and businesses across Southwestern Ontario." -- Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

"We are creating more transportation choices for people across Southwestern Ontario, and building an integrated transportation system that is prepared to meet the demands of the future. I am thrilled to announce this initial investment of more than \$11 billion towards this historic project. High speed rail will connect communities like never before." -- Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Transportation

## MPP Michael Chan a role model for immigrants: Amanda Yeung Collucci

Page One News

MARKHAM-Councillor Ward 6 and MPP Liberal candidate from Markham-Unionville riding Amanda Yeung Collucci has praised the services of International Trade Minister and MPP Michael Chan who announced his decision not to seek re-election.

In a press release, Amanda Yeung Collucci said MPP Michael Chan's extraordinary work for the community across the province in general and Markham in particular speaks for itself. "He has set a role model for immigrants for what we can accomplish when we put the community's interest at heart. He set the path for the Chinese community to engage in politics and become part of the next generation of elected officials at the Federal, Provincial and municipal level," she said.

The Liberal MPP candidate from Markham-Unionville thanked MPP Michael Chan for working hard as International Trade Minister, bringing investments to Ontario and working closely with the City of Markham to contribute to the growth of our City.

Amanda Yeung Collucci also mentioned MPP Michael Chan's role and contribution in the expansion of Markham Stouffville Hospital as well as paving way for the York University in Markham in the near future.

Amanda Yeung Collucci also welcomed Juanita Nathan, a long time Markham resident and Vice Chair of the York Region District School Board and Markham Trustee for putting her name forward to run for nomination in the Markham Thornhill riding. "She will be a great voice for the



Markham Thornhill community with her dedication and experience," Amanda said.

International Trade Minister Michael Chan has announced that he will not be running in the upcoming election, citing health concerns. "I am announcing today that I will not be seeking re-election in June. While this was not an easy decision, it was a necessary one that will allow me to focus on some health concerns that have recently developed," Chan said in a statement.

## Pakistan, India central banks clamp down on crypto-currencies

Page One News

ISLAMABAD-State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has told banks and other financial services providers not to support virtual currency transactions.

In a statement on its website and in a tweet, the SBP advised the general public that it regulates both domestic and international payment and money transfer services.

Pakistan's announcement follows one by India's central bank from having any links to virtual currency dealers, which immediately slashed cryptocurrency prices on local exchanges.

As per reports, the SBP said anyone using virtual currencies to transfer funds outside Pakistan could be prosecuted. The SBP also asked commercial and

microfinance banks, as well as payment system operators and payment service providers not to facilitate account holders seeking to carry out transactions in the form of ICO tokens and cryptocurrencies.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India has issued a detailed circular stating any regulated entities that already provide virtual currency services are required to cut all ties within three months.

Such services include maintaining accounts, registering, trading, settling, clearing, giving loans against virtual tokens, accepting them as collateral, opening accounts of exchanges that deal with them and transfer funds in accounts relating to purchase or sale of virtual currencies.

## Applying for short-term disability after age 60



By Muhammad M. Alam, B.comm., LL.B., J.D  
Managing Barrister  
Alam Law Office, Injury Lawyers

Ontario residents who are 60 or older and unable to work may have questions about disability benefits. Can they apply for short-term disability or must they wait to apply for CPP retirement



pension at age 65? The answer is that it might be best to file applications for disability benefits and pension simultaneously. The reason is that it typically takes longer for disability benefit applications to be approved, and pension payments may be made while the applicant waits for disability payments.

If the disability benefits application is approved for someone who already receives pension payments, the pension will be modified to disability. However, the applicant must not be 65 years or older, and he or she must have contributed the

minimum required amount. Also, if the applications are not filed at the same time, the disability benefits application must be filed within the first 15 months of receiving pension payments.

Furthermore, the disability must qualify as one of the conditions defined by the CPP laws that govern it, and the person must be deemed disabled prior to his or her retirement date and before he or she turns 65. It is important to note that pension payments received while waiting for disability benefits to be approved will have to be refunded if the pension is changed to disability. This refund typically happens automatically when it is subtracted from the first benefits payment.

This short-term disability<http://www.

thealamlaw.com/Personal-Injury-Lawyers/Long-Term-And-CPP-Disability-Claims.shtml> will then continue until the person turns 65, at which time it will automatically be changed to a retirement pension -- which will be less than the amount paid for disability benefits. The entire process may seem confusing, and a daunting task to tackle. Fortunately, Ontario residents can secure the support of an experienced lawyer to simplify the process and provide guidance every step along the way.

If you, a friend or a family member are victims of someone's negligence and suffering from injuries and losses, contact us to speak to one of our lawyers to know your rights and what steps you should be taking in order to protect your rights for the future.

Our firm has the necessary expertise to evaluate your claim and give you a realistic idea of what you can expect if you decide to make a claim for damages. Call us now for a 24/7 emergency hotline 416-625-2636 to speak to one of our experienced lawyers to know your rights and that you can make a right decision.

Disclaimer: This article is intended to supply general information to the public. We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information. However, as laws change quickly, the reader should always ensure the accuracy and applicability of such information with respect to their particular case. The information contained in this article cannot replace a thorough and complete review of the reader's situation by competent legal counsel who has had an opportunity to review all of the facts.



COMMUNITY

# Mayor Tory launches Fair Fare Pass to make transit more affordable for low-income residents



Page One News

TORONTO-The City of Toronto launched a new program to make transit more affordable for low-income residents. The Fair Pass Discount program, which starts tomorrow, will provide approximately 150,000 eligible residents who receive assistance through Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) with a 12-month discount on the regular Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) adult fare or adult monthly pass. The discount will be programmed onto a PRESTO card, saving cardholders a third of the current fare, \$1 on the adult fare for a single ride and \$30.75 on the adult monthly pass. Cardholders must load funds onto their card to receive the discount. Mayor John Tory made the announcement today at the City’s Employment and Social Services Metro Hall location, joined by Councillor Josh Colle (Ward 15 Eglinton-Lawrence), Chair of the TTC, and Councillor Joe Mihevc (Ward 21 St. Paul’s), the City’s Poverty Reduction Advocate.

“It is important that everyone in Toronto has access to public transit. The Fair Fare Pass is the single biggest initiative in our Poverty Reduction Strategy to help low-income families and adults,” said Mayor Tory. “Transit connects people to jobs, to their cultural and economic hubs, and to families and friends. I am proud that the City of Toronto is pushing forward in its efforts to help provide opportunities to residents in our city.” The Fair Pass Discount program was approved by City Council as a poverty reduction initiative to make transit more affordable for low-income residents. Making transit more affordable was one of the suggestions the City heard in its public consultations for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The City’s 2018 budget invested \$4.6 million to implement the Fair Pass Discount program. Other initiatives include the Kids Ride Free program for children 12 and under, lower fares for students and seniors, and the implementation of a hop-on, hop-off two-hour transfer. “The Fair Fare Pass is a great

example of how we’re making transit more affordable for low-income residents,” said Councillor Colle. “Having a single ride fare and a monthly pass option means customers have the ability to travel on a fare that best suits their needs.” “We have made great progress addressing recommendations in the City’s Poverty Reduction Strategy regarding transit equity,” said Councillor Mihevc. “This new program will address the needs of working-age, low-income transit users who have previously not been able to receive any type of transit discount.” The Fair Pass Discount program will be rolled out in three phases. Phase one will include OW and ODSP clients who do not receive transportation supports equal to or greater than \$100. Subject to City Council approval, phase two and three will extend eligibility to residents receiving housing supports or child-care fee subsidies and other Toronto residents living with a household income under the Low-income Measure (LIM) plus 15 per cent.

# City of Brampton releases performance dashboard

Page One News

BRAMPTON– The City of Brampton is thinking differently, with the launch of a new performance reporting dashboard. The new City Dashboard 1.0 is an online tool that helps the community to see how the City’s daily operations contribute to community outcomes. The City Dashboard groups measures into six themes to give a snapshot of services, strategic goals and community conditions. Finance and Assets and Customer Service represent foundational operational and strategic financial measures. Community Well-Being, Livability, Economy and Urban Form reflect the things the City is working on daily, to influence and improve in the community. Along with a status and graph, each measure features a story that talks about why it matters, how it gets measured, and the progress the City is making. A “related links” section provides more context on Strategic Plan initiatives, day-to-day services, programs, maps, plans and studies.

The dashboard reinforces the City’s commitment to openness and accountability. Monitoring municipal service performance and community measures will help drive

innovation and influence continuous improvement to support Brampton’s growth as a connected global city. Find Brampton’s City Dashboard at [www.brampton.ca/dashboard](http://www.brampton.ca/dashboard). As version 1.0, there will be more to come as the City refines its data collection practices. The City encourages users to share any comments or ideas via the “dashboard feedback” button located within the dashboard. “Our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan identified a need to develop key performance indicators that demonstrate our commitment to transparency and accountability. Understanding where our City is performing the best and the areas where there is room for improvement, helps us connect, lead and innovate to improve the quality of life for our residents.”- Mayor Linda Jeffrey “Key to our continued Future Ready transformation is finding opportunities to increase speed, agility and responsiveness to deliver exceptional public services. The City of Brampton’s new dashboard is an exciting way to show our enhanced focus on continuous improvement, driving a culture of high performance and sound decision-making across the corporation.”- Harry Schlange, Chief Administrative Officer

# City of Brampton recognized for excellence in event industry

Page One News

BRAMPTON–The City of Brampton was recently recognized as an event industry leader as five of its festivals and events were named Ontario’s Top 100. Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) announced its annual top 100 list, and among the recipients for 2018 were the following Brampton festivals and events: CeleBrampton: Saturday, June 9, 2018; Brampton Celebrates Canada Day: Sunday, July 1, 2018; Remembrance Day Parade and Service: Sunday, November 11, 2018; Christmas Tree Lighting: Friday, November 16, 2018; Brampton New Year’s Eve: Monday, December 31, 2018 “We are proud to be recognized

by Festivals and Events Ontario for our City’s excellence in the event industry. Young and culturally vibrant, Brampton has an extensive line up of events and festivals for all to enjoy throughout the year. There’s always something exciting to do in Brampton.”-Mayor Linda Jeffrey “Understanding the importance of bringing our communities together is what inspires us to produce top quality events each year. Not only do festivals and events increase the vibrancy of our city, they help grow the economy by attracting residents, businesses, investment and tourism.”- Bob Darling, Director, Economic Development and Culture

# Sahara Senior Services celebrates International Women’s Day

Page One News

MISSISSAUGA - Sahara Senior Services Club celebrated International Women’s Day on Thursday March 1, 2018. Narinder Dhuga, the President of the club welcomed and thanked the Women’s committee for organizing such a wonderful event. Jyoti Sharma introduced key note speaker Samra Zafar who highlighted her personal story

of her bringing up and abusive married life. Also, she spoke how she succeeded as a woman even after all the hurdles from her family. Amandeep Kaur, COO of Punjabi Community Services was introduced as our key note speaker. Makhan Singh recited a beautiful poem while Mohini Bharti sang a Hindi song which was enjoyed by everyone.





COMMUNITY



**MARKHAM**-City of Markham and the Markham Race Relations Committee presented Many Faces of Markham 2018, an annual cultural celebration held in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This year's theme was 'Unity Through Diversity: Protecting Human Rights and Promoting Inclusion' and supported the municipality's commitment to the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination and their focus to promote respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity and the inclusion of racialized communities into the cultural fabric of the municipality.



**SCARBOROUGH**-Liberal candidate from Scarborough Centre Mazhar Shafiq was present at the Easter service at Hellenic Home for the Aged to wish the community a Happy Easter.



**TORONTO**-Team Mazhar Shafiq celebrating the win of Ramon Estaris who bagged the Provincial Liberal nomination in York Centre.

Sahara Senior Services celebrates Multicultural Day

**Page One News**  
MISSISSAUGA - Sahara Senior Services celebrated Multicultural Day at Sagan Banquet Hall, Mississauga. It was organized by the Women's Committee under the guidance of President Narinder Dhuga. Sushma Aggarwal welcomed all the members and guests for coming to this event and introduced Jyoti Sharma who handled her Emcee duties nicely. Narinder Dhuga thanked the Women's committee, the distinguished guests and the members for gracing the occasion. Narinder Dhuga also thanked the sponsors and the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments for helping Sahara Senior Services through Grants. He highlighted the importance of Multiculturalism and made a statement that he is waiting for the day when we all will 'Live and let live'.

Urmil Sandhawalia, Club's Vice President was introduced and she thanked all the guests and members for coming to the event. Jyoti Sharma introduced Minister of Senior Affairs Hon. Dipika Damerla who congratulated Sahara Senior Services for organizing Multicultural Day event. Sukhpal Chodda performed a beautiful dance on a Punjabi number. Bernard Jordaan, president of MSSC, congratulated Sahara Senior Services for organizing such an open minded Multicultural event. Orlander Marshal, the president of Mississauga 55 plus Car-Can group spoke about Black History and the senior members of this club performed a beautiful group dance. Naveed Chaudhry of Pak Pioneers congratulated Sahara Senior Services for organizing



the event. He mentioned that we need this kind of events more so that we all could understand each other better. He also mentioned that Pak Pioneers is very proud to be working very closely with Sahara Senior Services. Sukhjit Singh of Peel Multicultural Council spoke very highly of Sahara Senior Services and PMC's seniors participated by performing a colorful group dance by their Chinese senior



members. Gujrati Heritage members performed a Garba dance. Gidha a Punjabi dance was performed by Sahara Senior Services female members. Bhupinder Singh Rattan sang beautiful songs which were appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. Sumesh Nanda captured every beautiful moment with his photography. Everyone enjoyed tasty snacks and lunch.





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COMMUNITY

# Health care team goes beyond the walls of Markham Stouffville Hospital to give back in Nepal



**Page One News**

MARKHAM— From April 18 to 21, a team of Markham Stouffville Hospital (MSH) physicians, clinicians and supporters will travel to Phaphlu, Nepal to assist in the Solukhumbu District Hospital and a nearby school. The team of volunteers are heading to Nepal as part of MSH Trek Everest – an expedition that involves 18 days of trekking to Base Camp Mount Everest in support of

surgical care at MSH. The team of medical professionals are eager to donate their time and talent to help the impoverished country that was devastated by a severe earthquake in 2015. “I’m excited about the opportunity to challenge myself physically on the mountain, but more importantly to use my skills as a nurse and medical administrator to help in the Nepalese clinics,” said Barb Steed, Executive VP Patient

Services and Chief Practice Officer, MSH. “I do feel we have a moral and social obligation to help others in need, to use the resources that we have and to try to make a difference.” The health care team will share expertise in a wide variety of medical areas: emergency, midwifery, family practice, gastroenterology, plastics, dentistry and radiology. They will assist with everything from fractures, to skin excisions, to

gastroscopies to baby deliveries. They will also provide learning opportunities for local medical workers. Dr. Mitesh Mehta, a Radiologist at MSH is excited to share some insight from his subspecialty. “I’ve put together some slides to teach the doctors and midwives there how to do some of the ultrasounds that they want to do—so I’m looking forward to teaching them,” he said.

The Solukhumbu District Hospital is one of the top 10 health facilities in Nepal and is operated by The Hillary Foundation. The team will work with Amelia Hillary of The Hillary Foundation and Dr. Mingma Sherpa, the clinic director, who are experienced in hosting visiting doctors from outside countries to provide services. Follow their journey volunteering in Phaphlu and trekking to Everest at [mshtrekeverest.ca](http://mshtrekeverest.ca).

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