

# GTA Chronicle

Empower, Embrace, Engage

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## Mark Carney Receives Resounding Support from Brampton MPs and Ministers at Leadership

On January 25, 2025, Mark Carney, a prominent candidate in the Liberal Party leadership race, held a dynamic event in Brampton, Ontario, where he received significant endorsements from key political figures. The gathering underscored Carney's vision for a rejuvenated Liberal Party and a prosperous Canada.

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North and Minister of Democratic Institutions of Canada, expressed her enthusiasm on social media, stating, "Great to join @markjcarney's leadership event today in Brampton. It's an inspiration to see so many new and returning people excited by the prospect of a rejuvenated Liberal Party under Mark's leadership."

Kamal Khera, Member of Parliament for Brampton West and Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities of Canada, also shared her support, noting, "Incredible energy in Brampton today with supporters for @markjcarney. I am supporting Mark Carney to become the next leader of the Liberal Party of Canada."

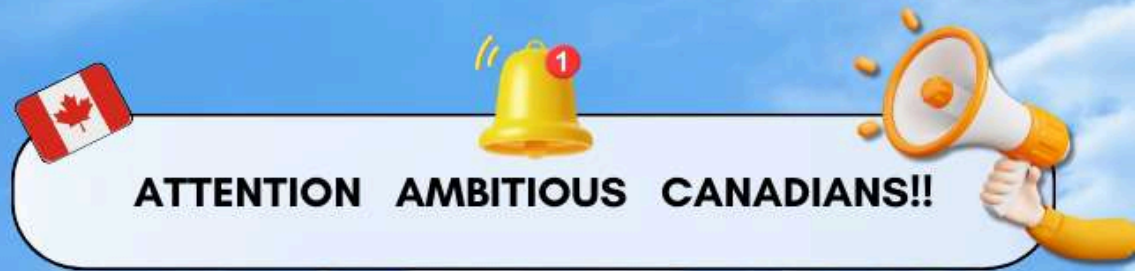


## Councillor Rowena Santos Celebrates Six Years of Environmental Stewardship on TRCA Board



Councillor Rowena Santos proudly marks six years of dedicated service on the Board of Directors of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). As an environmental advocate and representative for Brampton, Councillor Santos has been instrumental in advancing numerous conservation and naturalization projects that enhance the city's ecological health and community well-being.

Reflecting on her tenure, Councillor Santos stated, "It is an honour to serve six years on the TRCA Board of Directors. As an environmental advocate and representative from Brampton, we have important waterways, catch basins, wetlands, trails, forests, and naturalization projects like the Etobicoke Creek Trail, Riverwalk, Loafers Lake, Heart Lake, Claireville, naturalization of the Jordan Jefferson Jayfield channel, Bike the Creek, and more. I love working with fellow councillors like Chair Paul Ainslie and the amazing staff like CEO John MacKenzie. Thank you for this recognition. It's truly an honour to serve alongside all of you!"



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## Mexico Refuses U.S. Deportation Flight Amid Rising Tensions

On Thursday, Mexico denied landing access to a U.S. military deportation flight, disrupting the Trump administration's immigration plans. This action comes amid growing tensions between the two neighboring countries, rooted in President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies and threats of trade tariffs.

**Flight Blocked:** A third deportation flight, meant to repatriate immigrants to Mexico aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17, was halted, although two other flights carrying 80 deportees each successfully departed for Guatemala. **Mexican Sovereignty Asserted:** Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to respecting sovereignty while cooperating with the U.S. on migration issues. It stated, "Mexico embraces its returning nationals with open arms."

**Trump Administration Response:** White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt claimed that Mexico accepted a record number of four deportation flights on the same day. However, officials clarified that those flights were government-chartered through ICE Air Operations, not military aircraft.

**Immigration Crackdown:** The Trump administration has intensified its immigration enforcement, including reinstating the "remain in Mexico" policy and increasing military presence along the border by 1,500 troops. **Guatemala Accepts Flights:** Guatemala received three flights carrying 265 deportees on Friday, including two via military aircraft and one commercial.



While the Trump administration has pushed for aggressive deportation tactics, Mexico's resistance highlights the challenges of enforcing such policies without bilateral collaboration.

This development also comes against the backdrop of Trump's ongoing threats to impose a 25% tariff on Mexican goods, further straining diplomatic ties. As both nations navigate this turbulent period, the handling of migration and deportation remains a contentious issue.

## Canadian Woman Detained in India Over GPS Device: A Tale of Outdated



Tina Lewis, a 51-year-old Canadian nurse practitioner and avid adventurer, found herself caught in an unexpected legal tangle during her travels in India. Two months into what she described as a transformative personal journey, Lewis was detained at Goa's Dabolim International Airport on Dec. 5, 2024, for possessing a Garmin inReach Mini GPS device in her luggage—an item prohibited under India's 1933 Wireless Telegraphy Act.

The device, which connects to satellite networks for navigation and emergency communication, led to Lewis being treated "like a fugitive," despite her assurances that it wasn't a satellite phone. Her six-day ordeal involved court hearings, legal fees, and a brief brush with jail time, all for a gadget she routinely used for mountaineering and solo adventures.

Lewis was preparing to board a flight to Kerala when airport security flagged her GPS device. Initially treated as a routine inspection, the situation escalated when security officers handed her over to local police, citing outdated laws banning satellite-linked communication devices without prior government approval.

The Canadian traveler explained that the device was solely for personal safety, allowing loved ones to track her location during outdoor expeditions. However, police officials were unconvinced, arguing that the GPS's precise location tracking could theoretically aid in launching missile strikes.

Lewis was advised to seek legal representation, and her experience with lawyers ranged from unsettling to reassuring. She avoided jail but spent hours in police custody and the courtroom. "I felt like I was being treated as a criminal for something I had no idea was illegal," Lewis said.

Her legal battle stretched over several days, culminating in a fine of 662 rupees (approximately \$11 CAD). However, retrieving her passport from the airport police added another layer of stress. Lewis's case is not an isolated incident.

Several other travelers, including citizens from the Czech Republic, Scotland, and the U.S., have faced similar detentions in India for carrying GPS-enabled devices or satellite phones. These incidents highlight the challenge of navigating outdated laws in an era of modern technology.

# Flower City Friends Club Celebrates Lohri with Veterans, Raises \$4,000 for Lorne Scots

The Flower City Friends Club (FCFC) hosted a grand Lohri celebration at the Paul Pallecshi Recreation Center in Brampton, bringing together over 100 senior members and local dignitaries to mark the traditional Punjabi festival. The event was a blend of vibrant cultural activities, community spirit, and charitable giving, highlighted by the presentation of a \$4,000 donation check to Henry Verschuren and Col. Gary Love of the Lorne Scots Regiment in Peel.

The festival featured joyous singing, solo and couple dance performances, group dances, and a lively bingo game that brought cheer to the attendees. Traditional Lohri treats and delicious food added to the festive spirit, making it a memorable occasion for all. Lohri, a harvest festival celebrated with great fervor in Punjabi culture, symbolizes new beginnings and gratitude. The event also served as a platform for FCFC women members to showcase their dedication and talent, having knitted poppy flowers to raise funds for veterans of the Lorne Scots, a distinguished regiment known for its legacy of service and bravery.



Special recognition was given to Regional Councillor Rowena Santos, who played a pivotal role in making this collaboration between FCFC and the Lorne Scots Regiment possible. Acting as a catalyst, her efforts facilitated a strong connection between the club and the regiment. Her guidance and support ensured the successful fundraising and celebration.

Chairman Gian Paul remarked, "Rowena Santos has been a significant force in bridging the gap between our club and the Lorne Scots Regiment. Her dedication and leadership have been instrumental in making today's event and this donation possible. On behalf of FCFC, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for her unwavering support." The donation check was presented to Henry Verschuren and Col. Gary Love, who expressed deep appreciation for the efforts and generosity of the FCFC members. Col. Love said, "The services provided by the Lorne Scots are made possible through the support of communities like this. The kind gesture of the ladies of FCFC, who dedicated their time to knitting poppy flowers and raising these funds, is truly remarkable. Your efforts honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in uniform."



### Flower City Friends Club Contd.....

Prominent guests at the event included Shafqat Ali MP, Regional Councillor Rowena Santos, and City Councillor Paul Vicente. Each of them commended FCFC for their initiative and community contributions:

Shafqat Ali MP remarked, "The generosity and dedication of FCFC members in raising funds for the Lorne Scots highlight the incredible contributions of our seniors to society. Their efforts are truly commendable."

Regional Councillor Rowena Santos said, "This event not only celebrates culture but also brings the community together for a noble cause. FCFC's support for our veterans showcases their commitment to those who protect us."

City Councillor Paul Vicente added, "It's inspiring to see how FCFC bridges generations and strengthens bonds through such meaningful initiatives. The Lorne Scots are fortunate to have the backing of a community like this."

Gian Paul, Chairman of FCFC, expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported the event and fundraising efforts. He said, "Lohri is a time to celebrate our roots and come together as a community. Through this event, we not only honored our cultural heritage but also extended our heartfelt support to the brave men and women in uniform who protect us every day. I sincerely thank our members, the City of Brampton, and all dignitaries for their unwavering support."





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## Mukesh and Nita Ambani to Attend Trump Inauguration and Exclusive Private Dinner with Incoming US President

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man, and his wife, Nita Ambani, are set to attend the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump on January 20, 2025, in Washington, D.C. The couple has been invited as prominent guests to witness Trump's swearing-in as the 47th President of the United States.

The Ambanis will arrive in Washington on January 18 and are slated to take part in several high-profile events leading up to the inauguration. According to reports, they will be seated on the platform alongside notable dignitaries, including members of Trump's Cabinet, elected officials, and other distinguished guests.

Among the highly anticipated pre-inaugural festivities, Mukesh and Nita Ambani will attend a "candlelight dinner" on January 19 hosted by President-elect Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump. Vice President-elect J.D. Vance and his wife, Usha Vance, will also join the intimate gathering, which has been billed as one of the most exclusive events of the inauguration celebrations.



Unlike many other attendees who donated significant amounts to secure invitations to private inaugural events, the Ambanis received a formal invitation due to their personal ties with the Trump family. The bond was further highlighted when Ivanka Trump attended the wedding of the Ambanis' son, Anant Ambani, to Radhika Merchant last year.

## Mass Immigration Raids to Begin Under Trump Administration,



The United States is preparing for sweeping immigration raids as federal authorities plan to target undocumented immigrants starting Tuesday, marking one of the first major actions under President Donald Trump's newly inaugurated administration. The raids, announced by Trump's incoming border czar Tom Homan, underscore the administration's hardline stance on immigration enforcement.

In a televised interview with Fox News, Homan confirmed that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is set to launch large-scale operations across the country. "On Tuesday, ICE is finally going to go out and do their job," he said. "We're going to take the handcuffs off ICE and let them go arrest criminal aliens."

Homan, known for his controversial policies during Trump's first term, including the widely criticized family separation policy at the U.S.-Mexico border, emphasized that the operation would prioritize individuals deemed public safety threats. However, he made it clear that no undocumented person would be exempt from enforcement. "What we're telling ICE is: You're going to enforce the immigration law without apology," he stated.

Despite assurances that the focus will remain on individuals with criminal records, Homan's comments indicate a broader scope of enforcement. The operation is expected to be a test of the administration's renewed immigration strategy and could foreshadow further stringent measures.

The planned raids have sparked intense debate nationwide, reflecting deep divisions over immigration policy. While supporters of the crackdown view it as a necessary step to enforce federal law and protect public safety, critics argue it risks tearing families apart and sowing fear within communities.

As the raids approach, immigrant communities and sanctuary cities brace for the fallout, while the Trump administration prepares to deliver on its promise of a stricter immigration policy.

## Measles Exposure Linked to Turkish Airlines Flight from Toronto

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is investigating a recent measles case linked to international travel, sparking concerns of potential exposure at Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Passengers aboard Turkish Airlines Flight TK17 (Istanbul to Toronto), which landed at Terminal 1 at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, may have been exposed to the highly contagious virus.

Measles is an airborne virus that spreads through breathing, coughing, sneezing, or talking by an infected person. The virus can linger in the air or on surfaces for up to two hours, with infection occurring through inhalation or contact with contaminated surfaces followed by touching the eyes, nose, or mouth.

TPH urges individuals potentially exposed to check their vaccination status. Measles is vaccine-preventable with immunizations typically administered at: 12 months of age (first dose). 4 to 6 years old (second dose) For those born in 1970 or later, two doses of the vaccine are required for full protection unless they've previously contracted the virus. People born before 1970 may have natural immunity from prior exposure. Those uncertain about their vaccination status can safely receive the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine or take a blood test to confirm immunity.



If symptoms develop, individuals should immediately contact their healthcare provider. It is important to call ahead before visiting a clinic or hospital to allow staff to take precautions and prevent further spread. Wearing a medical-grade mask, such as an N95, during medical assessments is strongly recommended.

School-aged children can catch up on vaccinations through their primary healthcare provider or by booking an appointment at a TPH community clinic via [www.tphbookings.ca](http://www.tphbookings.ca). The MMR vaccine is free for eligible adults through primary care providers and select walk-in clinics.

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# Federal Government Extends \$1-Billion Loan to Canada Post to Address Financial Challenges

The federal government has stepped in to support Canada Post with a \$1.034 billion loan, aimed at keeping the Crown corporation operational amid ongoing financial difficulties.

Canada Post confirmed that the repayable funding will be distributed as needed through the 2025-26 fiscal year. While this financial assistance will help the organization maintain solvency, Canada Post acknowledges that it will not address its deeper structural challenges.

The organization has been struggling with annual losses since 2018, which it attributes to rapid shifts in the postal and parcel delivery sectors, high labour costs, and outdated regulatory frameworks.

Public Services and Procurement Canada described the loan as a "critical financial bridge" to ensure Canada Post can continue meeting its obligations. The department noted that despite increasing the price of stamps, Canada Post was projected to fall short of its operating cash requirements in 2025.



"This funding will help Canada Post meet its immediate financial needs while it collaborates with the federal government to implement long-term changes for sustained viability," the department stated.



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