

GTA Chronicle

Empower, Embrace, Engage

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Bonnie Crombie's Leadership Raises Concerns for Brampton Ahead of Ontario Election

As the Ontario provincial election draws near, concerns are mounting in Brampton over Ontario Liberal Leader Bonnie Crombie's stance on the city's future. Crombie, the former Mayor of Mississauga, has long been viewed with skepticism by Brampton residents due to her advocacy for Mississauga's separation from Peel Region—a move many feared would leave Brampton financially vulnerable. Now, new revelations have reignited old tensions, prompting questions about her commitment to Brampton's development and prosperity.

Crombie's tenure as Mississauga's mayor was marked by a determined push to separate her city from Peel Region, arguing that Mississauga was subsidizing Brampton and Caledon. Financial statements from 2019 showed that Mississauga contributed approximately 61% of Peel's tax revenues while receiving 54% of services in return. However, Brampton residents and leaders saw her push for dissolution as an attempt to distance Mississauga from its regional responsibilities, potentially leaving Brampton with funding shortfalls in critical services.

At Peel Regional Council, Crombie frequently championed policies that prioritized Mississauga, often at Brampton's expense. Her efforts to reallocate regional funds and resources raised concerns about the future of Brampton's infrastructure and economic growth under her leadership.



Crombie's history with Brampton has now come under further scrutiny following the leak of an audio recording in which she allegedly states, "I don't go to anything in Brampton. It's not my city. I don't care." These remarks have triggered widespread backlash, with residents taking to social media to express disappointment and frustration. Critics argue that such a statement is not only dismissive but also deeply concerning for a leader seeking to represent all Ontarians as Premier.

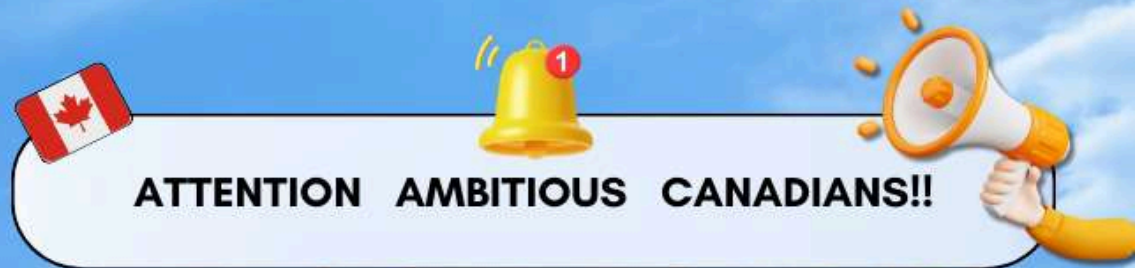
Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Minister Sarkaria Make Bold Pledge to Remove 407 Tolls



Ontario Premier Doug Ford has promised to permanently remove tolls from the provincially-owned section of Highway 407 in Durham Region if his party wins the February 27 election.

Speaking at a campaign stop in Pickering on Wednesday, Ford called tolls on Highway 407 between Brock Road in Pickering and Highway 35/115 in Clarington "absolutely horrible" and claimed the removal would save frequent users up to \$7,200 per year.

Ford was joined by Transport Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria, Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and the mayors of Pickering, Oshawa, and Uxbridge,



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Federal Government and City of Brampton Collaborate to Support Local Priorities

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, alongside federal representatives, including Members of Parliament Maninder Sidhu and Sonia Sidhu, met with local leaders from the City of Brampton, including Mayor Patrick Brown, Regional Councillor Paul Vicente, to discuss collaborative efforts to address the city's most pressing priorities. The productive discussions focused on key areas such as infrastructure development, public transit, housing affordability, and community programs, underscoring the shared commitment to ensuring Brampton's continued growth and prosperity.

The meeting highlighted the federal government's dedication to supporting Brampton's vision for a vibrant and inclusive community. By working together, both levels of government aim to deliver tangible results that will benefit residents and strengthen the city's future.

Infrastructure Development: Investments in critical infrastructure projects to support Brampton's growing population and economic needs.

Public Transit: Enhancing transit systems to improve connectivity, reduce congestion, and promote sustainable transportation options.

Housing Affordability: Addressing the housing crisis by increasing the supply of affordable homes and supporting innovative housing solutions.

Community Programs: Strengthening community services and programs to enhance the quality of life for all Brampton residents

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North: "Today's discussions were a testament to the power of collaboration. By working together, the federal government and the City of Brampton can address the challenges our community faces and unlock new opportunities for growth and development. Brampton's future is bright, and we are committed to ensuring.

Maninder Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton East: "Brampton's growth is a priority for our government. Through collaboration with local leaders, we are committed to delivering the infrastructure, transit, and housing solutions that our community needs to thrive."

Sonia Sidhu, Member of Parliament for Brampton South: "Affordable housing and accessible transit are critical to building a stronger Brampton. I am proud to work with my colleagues and local leaders to ensure our city continues to grow sustainably and inclusively." it remains a thriving place to



Paul Vicente, Regional Councillor, City of Brampton: "This partnership between the federal government and the City of Brampton is a significant step forward in addressing our community's needs. Together, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for all Brampton residents."

Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown: "We are grateful for the federal government's support and partnership. These discussions are a crucial step in advancing Brampton's priorities and ensuring our city has the resources it needs to continue growing sustainably and inclusively."

The federal government and the City of Brampton will continue to work closely to finalize plans and secure funding for priority projects. Regular updates will be provided to the community as progress is made. The federal government and the City of Brampton will continue to work closely to finalize plans and secure funding for priority projects. Regular updates will be provided to the community as progress is made.

U.S. Alcohol Stays on LCBO Shelves as Tariffs Delayed for 30



American whisky, rum, and wines will continue to be available at LCBO stores and restaurants after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a 30-day delay on U.S. tariffs. The postponement has temporarily halted Ontario's planned boycott of U.S. alcohol products, which was set to take effect on February 4.

The LCBO had previously stated that U.S.-made spirits, wine, beer, ready-to-drink cocktails, and non-alcoholic products would no longer be sold in its stores, online channels, or convenience outlets. Wholesale customers, including bars, restaurants, and retailers, were also informed they could no longer order U.S. products. The LCBO has not yet clarified how it will handle its inventory of California wines if tariffs resume. For now, Ontarians can continue to enjoy their favorite U.S. alcohol products while negotiations between Canada and the U.S. continue.

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Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Named 50th Aga Khan, Succeeding His Late Father

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini has been officially named the 50th Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of millions of Shia Ismaili Muslims, following the passing of his father, Prince Karim Aga Khan, at the age of 88.

The appointment was confirmed after Prince Karim's will was unsealed, as announced by the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

A Legacy of Leadership

Prince Karim Aga Khan IV had led the Ismaili Muslim community since 1957, when he succeeded his grandfather at the age of 20. Over his 67-year tenure, he played a significant role in philanthropy, education, and economic development, particularly through the AKDN, which operates hospitals, schools, and cultural initiatives across the developing world.

Beyond his spiritual role, the late Aga Khan was also known for his immense wealth and business ventures, with Forbes estimating his fortune at \$1 billion in 2008. His investments spanned hospitality, telecommunications, and horse breeding, including Shergar, one of the most famous racehorses in history.

Prince Karim passed away in Lisbon, Portugal, the seat of the Ismaili Imam, with his family by his side. A funeral will be held in the coming days.

Prince Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V is the eldest son of Prince Karim and Begum Salimah, a British ex-model who converted to Islam after marriage.



Educated in the United States and based in Switzerland, the new Aga Khan has been deeply involved in the Aga Khan Development Network, holding positions on various boards and chairing the Environment and Climate Committee.

According to the AKDN, Prince Rahim has prioritized environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and initiatives to combat extreme poverty. His leadership is expected to continue and expand his father's legacy of humanitarian efforts and global development.

Prince Rahim is married to Kendra Spears, a former American fashion model, and they share two sons.

As the new hereditary Imam of the Ismaili Muslims, Prince Rahim is set to lead his global community into a new era, carrying forward the values of service, education, and social welfare.

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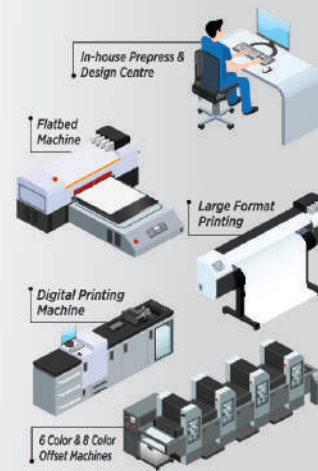
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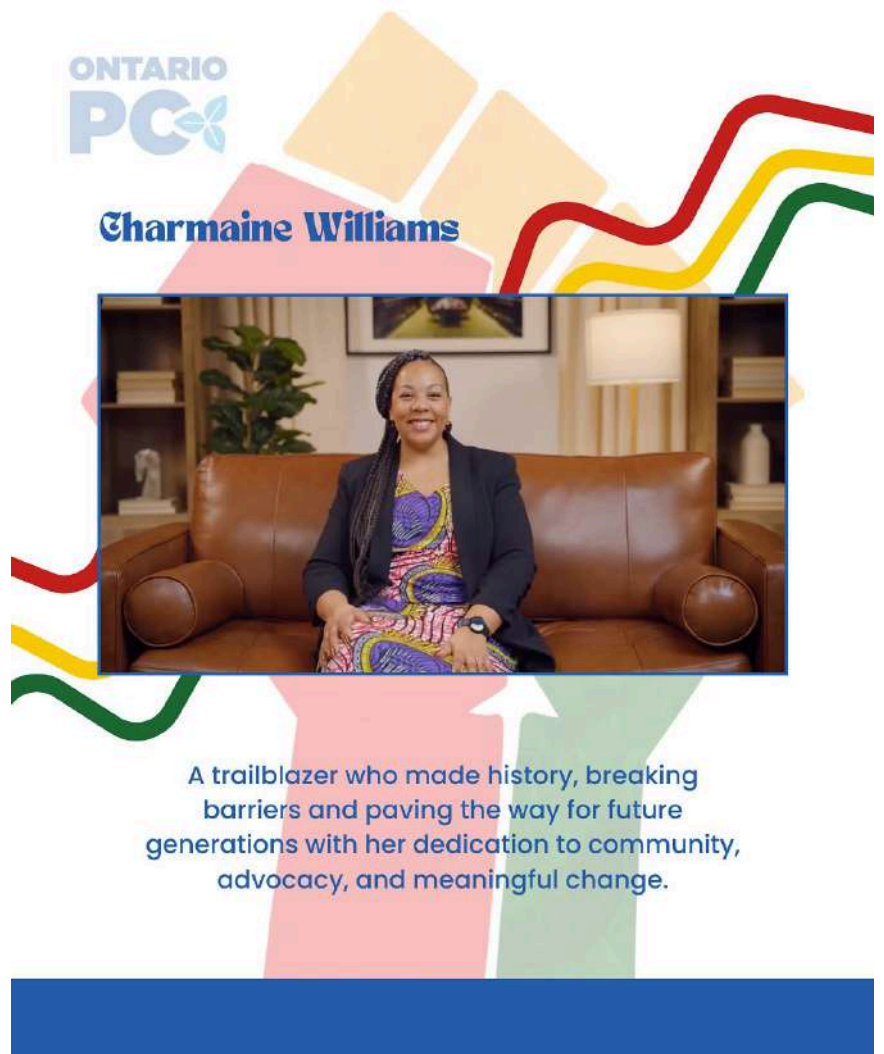
Black Women in Politics: Celebrating the Legacy of Rosemary Brown and Charmaine Williams

This Black History Month, we honor the extraordinary contributions of two trailblazing women who have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations in Canadian politics: Rosemary Brown and Charmaine Williams. Their leadership, resilience, and dedication to equity and justice continue to inspire and shape Canada's future.

Rosemary Brown made history as the first Black woman elected to a Canadian provincial legislature, representing the province of British Columbia in 1972. Throughout her career, she was a fierce advocate for equity, justice, and the empowerment of women and marginalized communities. Her groundbreaking achievements opened doors for greater representation in government and demonstrated the importance of diverse voices in shaping public policy.

Today, Charmaine Williams proudly carries forward Rosemary Brown's legacy as Ontario's first Black female cabinet minister. A passionate advocate for community safety, mental health, and social justice, Williams continues to break barriers and inspire others to follow in her footsteps. In her own words, "If you can see me, you can be me," Williams embodies the power of representation and the importance of visibility in leadership.

The stories of Rosemary Brown and Charmaine Williams remind us of the transformative impact of Black women in politics. Their leadership has not only strengthened representation but also advanced equity and justice for all Canadians. As we celebrate Black History Month, let us recognize and honor their contributions, resilience, and unwavering commitment to building a more inclusive society.



New Hope for Durham: Ontario Announces \$529M HART Hub in Oshawa to Tackle Addiction and Homelessness”



New facility to provide wrap-around services for individuals struggling with addiction, mental health, and homelessness.

The Ontario government has announced the launch of a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub in Oshawa, part of a \$529 million provincial initiative to establish 27 such hubs across the province. The Durham Region HART Hub, led by the Durham Community Health Centre (DCHC) in partnership with local authorities, aims to provide comprehensive support for individuals facing addiction, mental health challenges, and homelessness.

"We are incredibly honoured to be chosen as the lead agency for this vital initiative," said DCHC CEO Francis Garwe. "Our team has a deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of unsheltered individuals in Durham Region, and the HART Hub will allow us to expand our impact and provide even more compassionate care."

The HART Hub will offer a range of services, including primary healthcare, mental health and addiction treatment, supportive housing, and employment and income support. Clients will also have access to on-site or referral-based services such as shelter, food, showers, and naloxone distribution. The announcement comes as part of the province's broader strategy to improve access to mental health and addiction services while addressing public safety concerns. Earlier this year, Ontario closed nine supervised injection sites located within 200 metres of schools or licensed childcare centres. Unlike these sites, HART Hubs will not offer supervised drug consumption or needle exchange programs but will instead focus on recovery and long-term support.



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