

GTA Chronicle

Empower, Embrace, Engage

● Vol. 2 Issue 76

● www.gtachronicle.com ●

May 16, 2025

Canadian MPs Break Spending Record in 2024, Clocking \$187.8 Million in Taxpayer Costs



Members of Parliament spent a record-breaking \$187.8 million in 2024, marking the highest total ever disclosed in a single calendar year. The eye-popping figure includes over \$32 million in travel expenses and nearly \$2 million for hospitality, sparking fresh scrutiny over how taxpayer dollars are being used on the Hill.

The numbers, pulled from newly released expenditure disclosures, reveal a sharp \$12.7 million increase over 2023. Salaries for MP staff accounted for the largest portion, totalling \$114.1 million, followed by \$39.8 million on third-party contracts and \$1.9 million on hospitality.

On average, each MP spent \$547,000, but only ten crossed the \$700,000 mark—led by outgoing Bloc Québécois MP Kristina Michaud, who billed taxpayers \$775,000, including a staggering \$328,000 in travel. That's even more than Nunavut MP Lori Idlout, whose remote riding requires extensive travel logistics.

By party average, the NDP led all parties, spending \$583,000 per MP, followed by the Bloc Québécois at \$565,000, the Greens at \$559,000, the Conservatives at \$556,000, and the Liberals at \$532,000. While larger parties receive additional federal resources for research and administration, the per-MP expenses still raised eyebrows. While Canadians continue to foot the bill, the debate over accountability and oversight is far from over. The next round of disclosures may show whether 2025 continues the record-setting trend—or whether a tighter fiscal lens is finally being applied on Parliament Hill.

Flower City Friends Club Father's Day Bus Trip Confederation Beach Park, Hamilton June 15, 2025



Reserve Your Seat

Web: www.flowercityclub.ca Email: info@flowercityclub.ca

City of Brampton Celebrates Completion of \$25M Balmoral Recreation Centre Revitalization



The City of Brampton proudly announces the official completion of the Balmoral Recreation Centre revitalization and expansion project, reopening a beloved community hub with modern amenities and nearly double its original space.

Originally built in 1964, Balmoral Recreation Centre has long served as a pillar of Brampton's east end. With a \$25 million investment, the City has restored and reimagined the centre to ensure it continues meeting the evolving needs of families and residents for generations to come.

"The revitalization of the Balmoral Recreation Centre represents much more than an investment in infrastructure; it is an investment in our community's future," said Mayor Patrick Brown. "Now with state-of-the-art upgrades and expanded amenities, Balmoral will continue to serve as a space of connection and wellness."

Peter Robertson, Former Brampton Mayor and Educator, Dead at 86

Peter Robertson, former mayor of Brampton and long-serving city councillor, has passed away at the age of 86, drawing heartfelt tributes from local leaders who remember him as a tireless public servant and community builder.

The news was confirmed on Thursday by Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown, who extended his condolences to Robertson's family on behalf of Brampton City Council.

"Peter was a dedicated public servant who spent decades working to make Brampton stronger and more inclusive," Mayor Brown said in a social media post. "His legacy lives on through the many lives he touched – as Mayor, educator, and community leader."

No cause of death has been disclosed.

Decades of Service to Brampton

Robertson first became mayor in 1991, winning the mayoral seat following the death of then-Mayor Ken Whillans. He served in the role until 2000, when he was succeeded by Susan Fennell.

Key Features of the Revitalized Balmoral Recreation Centre:

Expansion from 17,000 to 35,000 sq. ft.

Fully modernized pool area, featuring Brampton's deepest pool at 12 feet

New sauna, resurfaced pool deck, and updated change rooms

FIBA-sized gymnasium for multi-sport use

Brand-new outdoor splash pad and playground

Flexible community rooms for programs and rentals

Energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems aligned with Brampton's green goals

"Community spaces are the heart of our neighbourhoods," said Councillor Rowena Santos, Chair of the Community Services Section.

"The revitalized Balmoral Centre is more than just a building – it's a vibrant, inclusive hub that reflects our commitment to health, inclusion, and resilience."



Mayor Brown echoed those sentiments, noting Robertson had also offered personal support during Brown's early days as mayor.

"I will always be grateful for the advice Peter gave me when I started as Mayor," he said. "We are grateful for his service and lasting impact on our city."



EGLINTON

CARPETS & FLOORING

since 1976



We have 2 Locations to serve you:

Mississauga Location:
3495 Laird Rd, #8 Mississauga, ON L5L 5Y4

Tel: 905-828-9910

Toronto Location:
2700 Dufferin St Unit #21, York, ON M6B 4J3

Tel: 416-783-1141

www.eglintoncarpets.com

Ceasefire or Sellout? India's Diplomacy Under Shadow of Billionaires

Modi's Silence on Trump Claim Sparks Concerns of Cronyism and Compromise

U.S. President Donald Trump's bombshell claim that he "sure as hell helped settle the problem" between India and Pakistan has ignited a storm of controversy—most notably due to the stark silence from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The statement, made by Trump while addressing American troops in Doha, suggests a behind-the-scenes role in defusing a serious conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

Trump's boast stands in direct contradiction to India's longstanding policy: that all matters with Pakistan are to be resolved bilaterally, without third-party mediation. Yet, while India's Ministry of External Affairs issued a guarded denial of foreign involvement, Prime Minister Modi has personally offered no rebuttal—an omission that has deepened suspicions and opened a Pandora's box of speculation.

Critics across political lines are asking: Why is Modi silent?

One growing theory links Modi's restraint not to strategic diplomacy but to the protection of his close ties with two of India's wealthiest and most powerful businessmen—Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani. Both have amassed extraordinary wealth and influence during Modi's tenure, raising long-standing allegations of crony capitalism.

Adani's fortunes have risen in tandem with Modi's global outreach. After Modi's official trips to countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, Adani Group swiftly secured major energy and port infrastructure contracts. In one instance, following Modi's visit to Bangladesh, Adani was awarded a power project that many in the host country criticized as being skewed in India's favor.

At home, security restrictions near the sensitive India-Pakistan border were reportedly eased to facilitate Adani's construction of a massive renewable energy park in Gujarat—raising red flags among India's defense experts.

Mukesh Ambani's empire, Reliance Industries, has also flourished under Modi's leadership. The launch of Reliance Jio disrupted the telecom sector, backed by favorable regulatory frameworks and deep state encouragement. Government-endorsed initiatives in digital infrastructure and clean energy have often coincided with Reliance expansions, reinforcing Ambani's dominance in India's corporate landscape. A further consolidation of influence came when Adani acquired NDTV, one of India's few remaining independent media houses. Critics see this as part of a broader push to mute dissent and align media narratives more closely with the ruling establishment.

Meanwhile, legal trouble looms abroad: Adani Group is under investigation in the United States over a \$265 million bribery scandal linked to renewable energy projects, prompting concerns that Modi's hesitance to challenge Trump could be tied to lobbying efforts to soften American scrutiny.



Opposition Demands Transparency

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has demanded a special parliamentary session, calling Modi's silence "an insult to Indian sovereignty." The opposition is pressing for transparency, questioning whether India's foreign policy is being dictated by billionaire interests or even influenced by potential compromising leverage in the hands of Trump or his allies.

"Has the Prime Minister compromised India's principled stand for the sake of private friends and foreign favor?" Ramesh asked during a media briefing.

The Bigger Picture

The controversy underscores deeper concerns about the intertwining of political authority and corporate power in India. Modi's brand of economic nationalism has undeniably attracted investment and built global clout—but it also raises questions about who truly benefits, and at what cost to democratic accountability.

As tensions simmer in South Asia, and with India's international image at stake, the lack of direct engagement by its top leader is not just puzzling—it's becoming politically untenable.

India's citizens deserve clear answers. Until then, Modi's silence continues to speak volumes.



LEGEND

TIRE CANADA INC.



WHOLESALER & DISTRIBUTOR



For more Info, Call

ROGER SHARMA

Off: 905-612-6663

Fax: 905-612-7322



**DISTRIBUTORS FOR JINYU, DURUN FULL RUN, ROADLUX,
HANKOOK TIRES & ALL MAJOR BRANDS**

1339 KHALSA DRIVE MISSISSAUGA ON L5S 1W6



Live & Do Business in USA Under 3 - 4 Months

With

**E2, E1, & L1 Visa
Programs**



CONTACT US +1 289 232 2700



Indo Canadian Golf Association™



PRESENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Venue: Glencairn Golf Club, Milton, ON

www.icgacanada.ca | info@icgacanada.ca

ICGA IS NOT JUST A NAME; IT'S A BRAND

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Avtar Brar 416-710-7309,
Roger Sharma 416-819-7414,
Mohinder Singh 416-892-8184,
Gian Paul 416 457 5553,
Dr. Rakesh Uppal 905-782-7440,
Bhupinder Brar 647- 273 -3349,
Satinder Singh 647-882-2312.
Atul Paul 416-460-0864

Tournament 1:

Competitive League for the ICGA Cup

Format:

Individual competition

Fee:

\$400.00 (Individual Player)

Tournament 2:

Four-Ball Scramble Tournament

Format:

Teams of four in a scramble format

Fee:

Single Player: \$350,
Foursome: \$1,400

Register Online at www.icgacanada.ca



LIKE EVERY YEAR, PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO A REGISTERED CANADIAN CHARITY