

Brampton Getting \$11 Million In Gas Funding To Enhance & Expand Transit System

BRAMPTON: Ontario is providing more support to 105 municipalities across the province, to help them enhance and expand their transit systems, reduce congestion, and shorten commute times.

Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, was joined by Harinder Malhi, MPP for Brampton-Sprindale and Linda Jeffrey, Mayor of Brampton, on Tuesday to announce this year's gas tax funding for municipalities. Brampton is receiving more than \$11 million to support upgrades and enhancements that could include major transit infrastructure projects, buying more buses, adding new routes, extending hours of service, or improving accessibility.

Steven Del Duca said: "This year's increase in funding of \$22.7 million is great news for Ontario municipalities — a clear indication of our government's commitment to deliver the transformational and integrated transit system that the people of this province both expect and deserve. This increase in sustainable funding for local transit across the province means that more than 90 per cent of Ontario's population will benefit from improvements to their daily transit service so



that more people can get where they're going faster.

More public transit makes it easier for people to travel to and from work, school and appointments, reduces congestion and lowers air pollution.

One bus takes up to 40 vehicles off the road, and keeps 25 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere each year.

Creating more transit options for commuters and families is part of Ontario's plan to create fair-

ness and opportunity during this period of rapid economic change.

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

Harinder Malhi said: "As our population grows, it's so important for our transit networks to

keep up with the increased demand for new and more travel options. This increase in funding will help Brampton expand on much needed public transit for our residents. I would like to thank Minister Del Duca for prioritizing the need for more local transit funding in Brampton and across Ontario."

Linda Jeffrey said: "Brampton Transit is growing quickly and we have experienced extremely high ridership growth. This increase in

demand requires significant investment to ensure we can maintain and improve our service — whether that includes adding new routes or adding new buses. We appreciate the Province continuing to partner with us and this \$11 million in gas tax funding will go a long way to help us provide our residents with the kind of transit they require to get around town and the region."

• Ontario's gas tax program provides municipalities with two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues. In 2017, the province committed to increase funding to 2.5 cents per litre in 2019–20, 3 cents in 2020–21 and 4 cents in 2021–22. This is not an increase in the price paid at the pump by drivers.

• This year the province committed \$357.2 million in gas tax funding to 105 municipalities, providing service to 142 communities, the most since the program began in 2004. The funding will increase to \$401.3 million in 2019–20, \$481.5 million in 2020–21 and \$642 million in 2021–22.

• Six new municipalities were added to the program this year: Atikokan, the County of Brant, the Township of Clearview, the Town of Innisfil, Pelham, and the Town of Tillsonburg.

'Beacon' - New StreetARToronto Mural Unveiled

TORONTO: A new StreetARToronto Mural was unveiled in Duke Heights on Saturday, under the Finch Avenue West underpass, between Alexdon Road and Chesswood Drive.

The City of Toronto's StreetARToronto Program partnered with the Duke Heights Business Improvement Area (BIA) to support the new mural entitled The Beacon.

Councillor Anthony Perruzza and members of the Duke Heights BIA joined artist Dan Bergeron to unveil and celebrate the new mural. Bergeron, a visual artist

whose work examines, re-imagines and exists in the public landscape, worked with fellow artist Gabriel Specter to create a design that encourages active transportation by making the area more enjoyable for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

The Beacon's light rays, bright colours and forward flowing design is expected inspire the Duke Heights area and provide a glimpse of the future they hope to create for the neighbourhood. StreetARToronto (StART) is a suite of innovative programs specifically designed for streets and



public spaces. StART programs encourage active transportation such as walking and cycling, and create opportunities for positive

engagement among residents, businesses, artists, arts organizations and City staff.

By replacing vandalism with

vibrant, colourful art work, StART programs make our streets safer as well as more beautiful, showcase local artists, mentor emerging creative talent and reduce overall infrastructure maintenance costs. While based on themes relevant to local neighbourhoods, StART artworks and artists also reflect the City of Toronto's motto, Diversity our Strength, and foster a greater sense of belonging among all. StART is an initiative of the City of Toronto's Transportation Services division, Public Realm section. More info at <http://www.toronto.ca/streetart>.

Man Held On Sex Assault Charge

Region of Peel – Investigators from the 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau have identified and arrested a male involved in a sexual assault investigation.

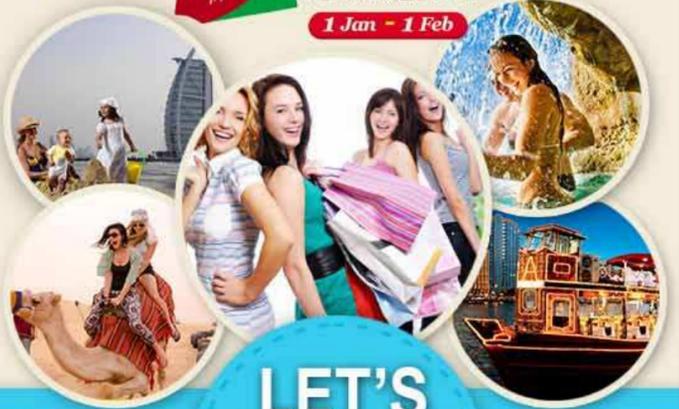
On Friday September 29, 2017, at approximately 8:30 p.m., the female victim entered a bus in the area of Keele Street, in the City of Toronto. The victim sat beside a male at the rear of the bus and the male quickly began to make sexual advances towards the victim. The victim was sexually assaulted on two different occasions by the suspect, while on the bus. The victim moved to the front of

the bus and requested the driver contact police. Police were contacted, but the suspect exited the bus at Queen Street and Kennedy Road, in the City of Brampton, and was last seen walking east on Queen Street.

On Wednesday December 13, 2017, Ravnit Kahlon, a 21 year-old male from the City of Mississauga, was arrested and charged with Sexual Assault and Mischief. He has been held for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. Peel Regional Police has thanked the public, who helped identify the suspect.




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