

Gambling Problem Prompted Grewal's Resignation: PMO

OTTAWA: Raj Grewal's sudden resignation as a Liberal MP was prompted by a gambling problem, according to the Prime Minister's Office.

Grewal, who represented the riding of Brampton East, announced his immediate resignation Thursday, citing unspecified personal and medical reasons.

On Friday, the PMO issued a statement saying that Grewal had informed the office earlier this week "that he is undergoing serious personal challenges and that he is receiving treatment from a health professional related to a gambling problem that led him to incur significant personal debts.

"Based on these circumstances, we agreed that his decision to resign as Member of Parliament for Brampton East was the right one. We hope he receives the support he needs."

The statement, issued in response to numerous media inquiries, went on to say: "We are not aware of an investigation by the Peel Regional Police.

"We are aware of inquiries by the RCMP regarding the circumstances that were the subject of a complaint to the ethics commissioner about Mr. Grewal earlier this year."

Ethics watchdog Mario Dion launched a formal inquiry last



May after two opposition MPs expressed concerns that Grewal might have been in a conflict of interest when he invited a construction executive — who was paying Grewal for legal services at the time — to official events with Justin Trudeau during the prime minister's trip to India early this year.

The conflict-of-interest code prohibits MPs from using their positions to further their private

interests or to improperly further another person's interests.

It's not clear what prompted the PMO's reference to the Peel police and a spokesperson for the force declined to comment.

"We do not confirm if we are investigating an individual or if there is an active investigation," said Const. Akhil Mookan.

"The only time we would share information on an individual is if charges were laid."

Project Zero To Distribute Free Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms To People In Need

TORONTO: The City of Toronto's Fire Services, the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and Enbridge Gas Distribution has announced a partnership to improve home safety and bring fire and carbon-monoxide-related deaths down to zero.

Toronto Fire Services has received 1,026 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms through Project Zero — a public education campaign that is providing more than 6,600 alarms to residents in 30 Ontario municipalities. Toronto Fire Services will be donating its allotment of alarms to the Daily Bread Food Bank for distribution to people in greatest need.

"As colder weather approaches, residents may spend more time indoors," said Fire Chief Matthew Pegg. "Properly installed and maintained combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms help provide the early warning that is needed to safely escape from a house fire or carbon monoxide exposure."

Carbon monoxide is a toxic, odourless gas that is a by-product of incomplete combustion of many types of common fuels. All fuel-burning equipment needs to be properly maintained to prevent carbon monoxide buildup.

"Carbon monoxide alarms are recommended as a second line of defense to protect against the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning," said Pegg.

"We have proof that prevention saves lives," said Akilah Dressekie of Enbridge Gas Distribution. "Knowing this, we remain committed to educating our customers about the importance of installing a combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm, as well as properly maintaining fuel-burning equipment."

"It is essential that Ontarians protect themselves and their families from carbon monoxide poisoning," said Ross Nichols, Ontario Fire Marshal and Chair of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council. "By installing their carbon monoxide alarms in their home on every level and adjacent to sleeping areas, residents can help prevent needless tragedies." "We are happy to be able to meet the needs of our network with this donation. Helping families feel safe and secure goes hand in hand with feeding them," said Neil Hetherington, CEO of Daily Bread Food Bank.

Project Zero has provided almost 35,000 alarms to participating municipalities for use in their communities.

Here's What You Need To Know About Winter Operations In Brampton

BRAMPTON: It's no secret that winter in Brampton brings snow, ice and freezing temperatures. Though winter weather sometimes arrives earlier than expected, the City is prepared. Here's what you need to know this winter season.

What does the City do when it snows? When it snows in Brampton, the first priority for City crews is to salt and plow primary roads. These are main roads that carry higher volumes of traffic, are on a Brampton Transit/Züm bus route, or have a Peel separate or public school on them. These roads are salted and then plowed continuously.

Once primary roads are cleared, crews begin salting residential streets. These are neighbourhood streets that carry lower volumes of traffic.

There are two things to keep in mind about plowing operations on residential streets

- They are only plowed when at least 7.5 cm (3 inches) of snow falls in a single storm. That's the diameter of a hockey puck, or a bit bigger than a cricket ball.
- They are not plowed to bare pavement like main roads. It's normal for some snow to stay on the ground, even when the street has been plowed.

The City also plows and sands recreational trails in parks, as well as sidewalks

- on a primary road
- on a Brampton Transit/Züm route
- in front of a City park or facility
- behind your property

- curb-faced (no grass boulevard between the sidewalk and road)

All other sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner.

Crews aim to have all roads, sidewalks and recreational trails maintained within 24 hours after a snowfall ends, but it might take longer if weather conditions are severe. We thank all residents for their patience.

You can make a difference!

- Clear the sidewalk in front of and beside your home by 11 am the day after a snowfall

- Don't shovel snow from your property onto the road or sidewalk

- On waste collection day, clear a spot for your carts at the bottom of your driveway or on the boulevard just behind the curb. Don't place them on the sidewalk or road.

- When it snows, don't park on the street until it has been salted or plowed. Crews can't properly plow a street when cars are parked on it. And remember — if a snowplow can't get down a street, neither can a fire truck.

Stay connected:

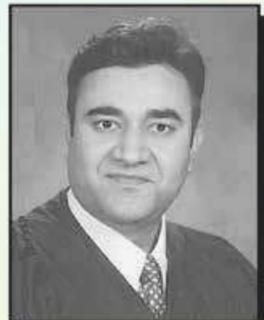
- Visit www.brampton.ca/snow for more winter information, including 24/7 snow clearing status updates

- Visit www.brampton.ca/prepared for tips on developing an emergency plan, putting together emergency kits for your home and car and staying safe while shoveling.

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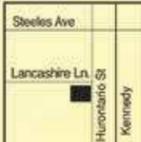


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Brampton Calling Youth Activists For Symposium

BRAMPTON: As part of the ongoing conversation about the Brampton 2040 Vision, the City of Brampton is inviting Brampton high school students to be part of its first Vision Youth Symposium. The event is taking place at Brampton City Hall on Saturday, December 1 from 10 am to 5 pm, followed by a social event from 5 to 8 pm.

The event will give Brampton's youth an opportunity to share their ideas on how to bring the Vision to life. Participants will choose an area of interest — environment, transportation, jobs, recreation, health, social issues, or arts and culture — and work together to start developing an action plan for the future.

The day will include free breakfast and lunch, workshop sessions, performances, presentations and more. To register, please visit bramptonyouthsymposium.eventbrite.com.