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## GTA Mayors Brown, Tory & Crombie Sworn In



BRAMPTON/TORONTO/MISSISSAUGA: The three new GTA mayors, Patrick Brown of Brampton, John Tory of Toronto and Bonnie Crombie of Mississauga were sworn in by the respective city clerks in colourful ceremonies in their cities.

Hundreds of Bramptonians gathered at the Rose Theatre on the night of December 3 to witness Brown's swearing-in by city clerk Peter Fay.

A smudging ceremony, which was about an hour-long, by Anishinaabe community leader Kim Wheatley to bless

the new council and the team made for a fascinating start. Brampton voters elected five new members of council in the Oct. 22 election, including Mayor Patrick Brown, Wards 1 and 5 city Coun. Rowena Santos and regional Coun. Paul Vicente; Wards 7 and 8 city Coun. Charmaine Williams; and Wards 9 and 10 city Coun. Harkirat Singh.

They will join returning Wards 2 and 6 councillors Doug Whillans (city) and Michael Palleschi (region), Wards 3 and 4 incumbents Jeff Bowman (city) and Martin Medeiros (region), as well as newly elected regional

councillors Pat Fortini in Wards 7 and 8, and Gurpreet Dhillon in Wards 9 and 10.

Dhillon and Fortini have moved to regional council after serving earlier as city councillors. Brown was sworn in earlier on Saturday, December 1 by former Ontario premier Bill Davis. A video of the informal ceremony was shown after each of the 10 councillors took their oaths of office during the ceremony. "I am very excited to work with this team. We have six returning members in for their

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## Scheer Flays PM's Nod On Migration Pact

*Trudeau Backs UN Document Rejected By Many Countries*

OTTAWA: As Canada prepares to sign on to a United Nations agreement on migration, Conservative politicians are pushing back, saying signing it would be tantamount to erasing Canada's borders.

But the Liberals say Conservatives are simply trying to court voters being fed conspiracy theories about the UN agreement fuelled by the controversial online news outlet Rebel Media.

The Global Compact on Migration is set to become the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement under the UN to cover all dimensions of international migration. It is aimed at improving co-operation between countries and will be signed by multiple countries next week in Morocco. Canada's Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen is to sign on Canada's behalf.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer strongly opposes the agreement, arguing it would give foreign entities influence over Canada's immigration system and would influence media coverage of immigration issues.

"Canadians and Canadians alone should make decisions on who comes into our country and under what circumstances," Scheer said Tuesday.

"Instead of signing international agreements that erode our sovereign right to manage



Leader of the Opposition Andrew Scheer rises during question period in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Adrian Wyld

our borders, the prime minister should focus on restoring order at home."

But Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Scheer of using "Rebel Media talking points" — a reference to the controversial news website, which has been linked to the alt-right.

In August 2017, Scheer announced he would no longer give interviews to Rebel Media, which had been heavily criticized for sympathetic coverage of white supremacists at a deadly protest

in Charlottesville, Va., until it changed editorial direction. His criticism of the UN pact migration pact is similar to that espoused by Rebel Media, which has called the compact a means to normalize mass migration and silence media critics.

Concerns about the UN agreement have been raised several times in the House of Commons this week, with Conservative immigration critic Michelle Rempel calling it a "border-erasing poli

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## Security Review Finds 'Vetting' Gaps In PM's India Trip

OTTAWA: The RCMP should have alerted Justin Trudeau's protective detail that Jaspal Atwal — a man with a serious criminal record and a history of violence — might turn up during the prime minister's February trip to India, says a review of the turbulent visit.

The newly released report from the national-security committee of parliamentarians says the RCMP "recognizes that it erred" in not passing along the information about Atwal, who had been convicted of attempted murder years earlier.

The heavily censored report, tabled Monday in Parliament, says government agencies do not have a comprehensive system for vetting guest lists for foreign events involving the prime minister and have not conducted a "lessons learned" exercise to determine what they could do better.

Trudeau was embarrassed during the overseas trip when it was revealed that Atwal, a B.C. Sikh convicted of trying to assassinate an Indian minister in 1986, had been invited to two events with the prime minister.

Atwal was also charged, but not convicted, in connection with a 1985 attack on Ujjal Dosanjh, a staunch opponent of the Sikh separatist movement, who later became B.C. premier and then a federal Liberal cabinet minister.

Atwal was photographed with

Trudeau's wife and at least one cabinet minister during a Feb. 20 event in Mumbai, and an invitation to a second event, in New Delhi, was rescinded after the news broke.

The committee report says the Mounties had information on Feb. 13 about Atwal's possible presence in India during Trudeau's visit.

"That information caused RCMP personnel to search criminal databases, revealing information that should have triggered the notification of the Prime Minister's Protective Detail and the

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## Pramod Goyal Elected As 31st President Of ICC

TORONTO: Mr. Pramod Goyal was unanimously elected the 31st President of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) on Monday, December 03, 2018, by board members.

Mr. Pramod Goyal is a business strategist and a highly experienced management consultant with over 30 years of experience in founding, managing, and advising growth companies, including strategy consulting, corporate finance, audit, and governance; private equity transactions and venture capital; commercial due-diligence and strategic business relationships.

He is currently the President and CEO of Canadawide Financial Corporation Limited, a business advisory, and management consult-



ing firm. In the past, he has held senior roles at Investco, Royal Bank, Scotiabank and Acer Telecom.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree, and Post-Graduate Diploma in Internal Audit from University of Delhi, and a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern and York University. He is an Associate of the Institute of Canadian Bankers and a member of the Institute of Corporate Directors. He has served on several professional, private and non-profit boards, and committees of various organizations.

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), founded in 1977, is a premier, not-for-profit, member and sponsor funded business and diaspora organization.

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