

THE WEEKLY VOICE

EDITOR
Bala Menon

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Preeti Thandi
Harj Chaggar
Amitabh Saxena

Graphic Design
Tamarind Tree

Classifieds
HarSimrat Panfer

ACCOUNT MANAGERS
Manu Ramachandran
G Prasaad
Rohit Malhotra
Maha

ONLINE MARKETING MANAGER
Amitabh Saxena

ACCOUNTS
Asha J Singh

PHOTOGRAPHER
Manohar Sagoo

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The Weekly Voice
7015 Tranmere Dr, Unit # 16
Mississauga, ON L5S 1T7
Phone: (905) 795-0639
Fax: (905) 795-9801

www.weeklyvoice.com
Email: info@weeklyvoice.com

Agreement # 40025701

US, Australia, Austria & Others Pull Out Of Pact

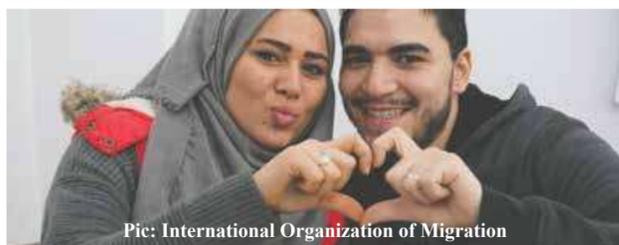
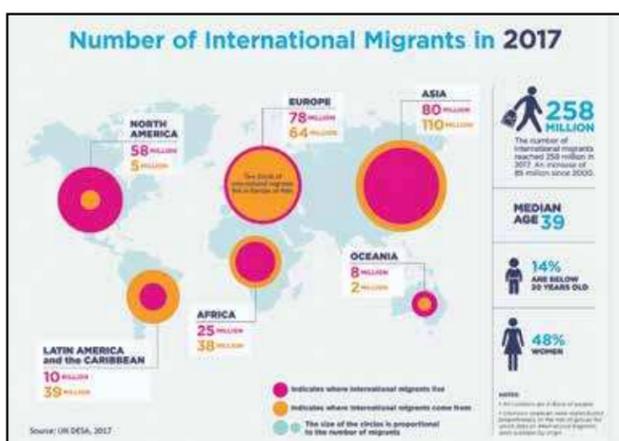
Continued from page 1
cy” and People’s Party Leader Maxime Bernier also saying it would “normalize mass migration.” Scheer, Rempel and Rebel Media have further raised concerns about the compact legally binding Canada to the provisions within the agreement – a claim the Liberals say is false.

Consensus on the final version of the Global Compact on Migration was reached this summer in New York at the sixth round of negotiations on the proposed international policy document.

Initially, only Viktor Orban’s hardline anti-immigration government in Hungary said it would not adopt the agreement but now a growing number of EU countries have rejected the deal.

Among the countries that have also pulled out of the agreement are Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, the Czech Republic and Austria, which currently holds the EU’s rotating presidency. Non-EU countries Israel, the USA and Australia also rejected the pact.

The agreement itself contains 23 objectives and commitments, each focusing on a different dimension of migration, from the moment a migrant decides to flee their country due to violence or persecution through to the time they return to their home country. Canada played an active role



Pic: International Organization of Migration

driving the agreement forward, although the government has indicated it will closely review the text before formally signing the document, according to a senior official.

On Monday, Hussen said Canada will sign the agreement and on Tuesday, Trudeau defended the plan. “Welcoming people through a rigorous immigration system from around the world is what has made Canada strong,

and indeed something the world needs more of,” Trudeau said.

However, the government has been flooded with form letters from Canadians asking that it delay signing the agreement until a national debate is held.

The letters, an example of which was provided to The Canadian Press, claim the UN agreement is attempting to eliminate criticism of the accommodation of migrants and would effective-

ly “label those who complain as racists or haters, thus stifling any freedom of discussion.”

Objective 17 of the agreement does ask countries to commit to eliminating discrimination, as well as to “promote independent, objective and quality reporting of media outlets, including internet-based information, including by sensitizing and educating media professionals on migration-related issues and terminology.”

However, it also says commits signatories to protecting free speech, “recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration.”

The Liberals say they are proud of the leadership role Canada has played in this initiative, especially at a time when millions of people in the world have been displaced by wars and violence.

Mathieu Genest, Hussen’s press secretary, said he believes Sheer’s comments demonstrate the “lengths the Conservatives are willing to go to win over supporters of the People’s Party of Canada,” referencing the upstart party founded by former Tory Bernier.

“The Conservatives have been inconsistent on this file, and it is a shame to see them promote conspiracy theories to spread fear and division.”

Atwal Was Not Considered A Security Threat To PM

Continued from page 1
briefing of senior officials: neither the Protective Detail nor officials were notified,” the report says.

During closed-door testimony, the RCMP acknowledged that mistake and a failure to follow up on direction to determine Atwal’s whereabouts. It says a senior officer asked a national-security unit in British Columbia to determine whether Atwal was in Canada, through a voicemail to an officer who was on leave.

Several days later, in an ex-

change whose details are redacted for security reasons (all the six findings with respect to alleged “foreign interference” have been removed from the report), the same unit received some sort of information on Atwal, but because it was the end of a shift, the team “decided that it would wait until the next day.”

Still, the RCMP told the committee that Atwal was not considered a physical threat to the prime minister, and that the protective detail would not have changed its security stance even



Sophie Gregoire Trudeau pictured with Jaspal Atwal in Mumbai in February Pic: Jaspal Atwal/CBC

if it had known of his presence at the Mumbai event. The committee report says this assertion “was questionable, at best,” adding the conclusion of security and intelligence officials that Atwal posed no danger “was based on a narrow interpretation of risk.”

The report singles out a Feb. 12 RCMP assessment that the prime minister and his family might be perceived as attractive targets for terrorists. Trudeau’s national-security adviser, Daniel Jean, suggested during a media briefing that factions in the Indian government had sabotaged Trudeau’s trip.

Jean advanced the theory that rogue elements in the Indian government arranged for Atwal’s presence in a bid to prevent Prime Minister Narendra Modi from becoming too cosy with Canada’s government.

Data Breach At Flowers.ca

TORONTO: Floral and gourmet food retailer 1-800-Flowers.ca says hackers may have gained access to customer data from 75,000 Canadian orders, including names and credit card information, over a four-year period.

The company says the security breach of its database of customer information spanned Aug. 15, 2014 to last Sept. 15.

It began notifying affected customers at the end of November, and to date, it has not received any reports of unauthorized use of customer information. Since becoming aware of the breach, the company has fully redesigned its Canadian website and implemented more security measures.

Kathleen Waugh, a company spokeswoman said: “Any customers who may have been potentially impacted have been notified and advised to closely review their payment card statements for any unauthorized charges.”

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Tel: (905) 794-7744

SOUTH BRAMPTON
900 Ray Lawson Blvd., Brampton
(South of Steeles Ave. on Mavis Rd.)
Tel: (905) 874-8664