

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

Gross Circulation: 30,000
CCNA Verified Circulation: 29,997
Aug 14, 2015
(Printed at Toronto Star)



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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

Ottawa Calls Migration Pact A Major Milestone

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GCM. This includes the majority of the almost 200 action items, which reflect Canadian practices and are aligned with the compact's objectives and commitments.

Following more than a year of negotiations, this is an important milestone and represents the first multilateral framework for the global response to migration.

Hussen said: "Comprehensive national migration systems can help drive innovation, economic growth, and social stability. Our government believes that this Global Compact is not only an effective way to address the challenges that migration can bring, but is also an opportunity for nations to harness the contributions of newcomers and to ensure their successful integration into new countries."

Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said:

"Canada is proud to adopt this Global Compact. The compact is an important international framework to better manage and address global migration challenges, as well as improve co-operation between countries. It contributes to a rules-based international system, and furthers a global approach to migration, which is based on facts, stands up for human rights and works to



An installation depicting migrants is pictured at the UN Migration Conference in Marrakech. At least 16 countries have rebuffed or hesitated to sign the accord. (AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)

eliminate gender-based violence. Canada would especially like to thank Louise Arbour for her leadership and hard work to protect vulnerable populations and migrants all over the world."

In September 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. That Declaration launched separate processes to create 2 non-legally binding Global Compacts: the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Canada's engagement on the GCM has been co-led by Immigration, Refugees and Citizen-

ship Canada and Global Affairs.

The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow and was estimated at 258 million in 2017. This constitutes a 49 percent increase compared to 2000.

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.

Trudeau has defended the pact. "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 effectively "label those who complain as racists or haters, thus stifling any freedom of discussion." Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer strongly opposes the agreement.

Inappropriate Stops And Searches Pointed Out

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upward as the seriousness of the force used increased.

The commission said black people were involved in 36 per cent of police shootings they studied, 61 per cent of police use-of-force cases involving civilian death, and 70 per cent of fatal police shootings.

While 67 per cent of all those involved in SIU cases were unarmed at the time, the commission found white people were more likely than black people to be armed at the time of the en-

counter with Toronto police. In fatal shooting cases, the report found 20 per cent of white people were armed compared to 11 per cent of black people.

The report further found that 54 per cent of white people involved in SIU cases had a criminal record compared to 44 per cent of black people. Data suggested 62 per cent of white suspects allegedly threatened or attacked city officers compared to 44 per cent of black suspects.

The report also suggested black people are overrepresented



This is appropriate - Members of 43 Division and the Toronto Rock Lacrosse Club, team up for a RIDE Spot Check! - Pic: Twitter

in cases of inappropriate stops, searches or charges, adding those issues would be explored more thoroughly in its next report on racial profiling.

The commission made five interim recommendations, including urging the force and its board to acknowledge that racial disparities raise "serious concerns." It also urged the Toronto Police Services Board to begin collecting and publicly sharing race-based data on all stops, searches and use-of-force incidents, a practice the board has not been observing to date.

The force and the board issued a joint statement saying they accepted the commission's recommendations, but noted that the practice of collecting race-based data will require study and consultation. They also said it would be important to "scrutinize" the methodology and data behind the commission's findings.

Input Sought On Alcohol Choices

TORONTO: The Ontario Government is inviting consumers and businesses to share their views on how beverage alcohol choice and convenience can be increased in the province.

"Our plan has been clear when it comes to expanding options for the sale and consumption of beverage alcohol in Ontario. Today, we are moving forward on the promise to improve customer convenience and choice," said Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance.

As part of its commitment to transforming alcohol sales, Ontario wants input on:

- Improving the rules for how beer, cider, wine and spirits are sold and consumed
- Allowing new types of stores, including corner stores and big-box stores, and more grocery stores, to sell these products
- Creating more opportunities for private sector sellers and distributors
- Ensuring communities are kept safe and healthy.

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