

Brown Hails ICCC Role In Fostering India Links

TORONTO: Mayor Patrick Brown has applauded the role of the Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce in fostering the bilateral trade and investment between Canada and India.

Interacting with members of the ICCC on December 7, 2018 at a session in the ICCC offices, Brown pointed out that since creating jobs tops his agenda, he would take every step to make Brampton attractive for businesses and investors from anywhere, including India, by keeping the cost of doing business in his city low.

This was his first interaction with a business chamber after taking over the charge as Mayor of Brampton.

Describing Indian and other diaspora communities of his city as its biggest assets, the Mayor said he would use the huge Indian community to pitch his city to businesses in India.

"The ICCC can open doors for Brampton in India during their India Missions. I have been to India 18 times in 11 years and I will do now as Mayor to pitch Brampton to businesses in India," he said.

Mr. Pramod Goyal, who also took the office of the President of ICCC on the same day as Mayor Brown took his oath said that the Chamber has been building business bridges between the two countries for over four decades.

He further said that as the oldest Indo-Canadian business organization with deep reaches within the Indian diaspora, ICCC has successfully harnessed the community's contribution to the growing bilateral economic relations by becoming a gateway to business and knowledge networks. ICCC President assured all the help and support to City of Brampton, in fulfilling its objectives.

Mr. Goyal invited the Mayor



From Left:ICCC board members Sunita Vyas, Devika Penekelapati, Pramod Goyal, Mayor Brown, Abu Baker, Rakesh Joshi and Chirag Shah.



ICCC President Pramod Goyal welcoming Mayor Brown.



Mayor Patrick Brown is 'all ears' at the session.

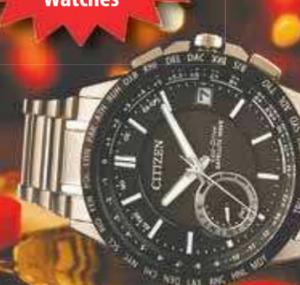


for joining ICCC for its upcoming India Mission 2019 in January. ICCC board members Mr. Abu Becker, Ms. Devika Penekelapati, Mr. Rakesh Joshi, Mr. Chirag Shah and Ms. Sunita Vyas were also present along with ICCC members and past presidents.

U-NAME-IT JEWELLERY SHOP

Repairs to all kinds of Watches and Jewellery

Pre-CHRISTMAS sale 25% off on all Citizen Watches



\$4.99

ea. Installed

All In-Stock Watch Batteries

With this coupon. Exp. December 25.



Moved to a new location:

U-Name-It Jewellery Shop
13, Fisherman Drive Unit NO.7
Brampton ON L7A 2X9

905-454-5970

www.urnameitjewellery.com

Ontario Offers Buyout Packages To Thousands Of Non-Union Staff

TORONTO: The provincial government is offering buyout packages to thousands of full-time and part-time workers with the Ontario Public Service in the new year.

A government-wide memo sent to all staff on Tuesday and Wednesday by Steve Orsini, cabinet secretary and head of the OPS and obtained by CTV News Toronto states that the buyouts are being offered as part of the government's plan to "address its fiscal challenges."

The memo was signed by the Secretary of the Cabinet Steve Orsini and Premier Doug Ford's Chief of Staff, Dean French.

"The government is exploring measures to manage its compensation costs in a way that ensures vital services to citizens are not compromised while avoiding involuntary job losses," the memo states.

"As such cabinet has approved a time-limited transition exit initiative expansion and a new voluntary exit program within the OPS." A buyout program has existed for unionized OPS employees

since 2013, for those represented by five unions, including the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. But effective January 1, the government will be temporarily extending the program to a number of other employees who were not previously included. The 'transition exit initiative' is being extended to the 7,500 to 10,000 non-unionized management level employees.

The memo adds the "the current focus is on leveraging available programs that will allow employees to exit the organization on a voluntary basis."

"To help streamline the size of the Ontario Public Service (OPS), the current focus is on leveraging available programs that will allow employees to exit the organization on a voluntary basis," adds the memo. Employees can apply immediately, but they can't leave until the new year.

Those who choose to take a buyout package will have until Feb. 28 to submit an application and their exits will have to be complete by the end of next year.



We are hiring

PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS

- MORE HOURS
- COMPETITIVE SALARY
- BENEFITS & PENSION

\$500 SIGNING BONUS!

Candidates should be bilingual in English and Mandarin or Cantonese. Positions available across the GTA.

Apply at: spectrumhealthcare.com



Quebec Wants \$300 M To Cover Migrant Costs

MONTREAL: Quebec Premier Francois Legault said he made progress during Friday's first ministers' meeting on his demand that the federal government pay \$300 million in compensation to cover the cost of refugees arriving in the province.

Legault said Ottawa had previously offered to cover only the cost of lodging the asylum seekers _ about half of what Quebec was seeking. "This afternoon they have moved forward a little more to say they are ready to look at other expenses besides lodging," Legault told reporters. "We will have discussions with the bills between ministers and bureaucrats to get as close as possible to \$300 million. It is a lot of money."

Since 2017, there has been an influx of asylum seekers entering Quebec across the United States

border. Legault said it takes more than 18 months for would-be refugees to find out if they can remain in the country.

In the meantime, Quebec pays for their housing, education and health care costs, which have totalled roughly \$300 million over two years, Legault said. He said Ottawa is responsible for the lengthy delays in the system.

"I expect Mr. Trudeau to compensate us," he said before meeting the prime minister and his fellow premiers.

"It's unacceptable for it to take 18 months before (asylum seekers) get an answer. And in the majority of cases, they are refused, because they cannot prove that their life is in danger."

Federal authorities processed 24,745 asylum claims made in Quebec in 2017 _ five times more than the previous year.