

DailyBread TO Food Collection



Toronto Mayor John Tory has thanked Gursikh Sabha Canada for helping collect food for those in need this holiday season in support of the @DailyBreadTO. - Pic: Twitter

Mississauga Opts Out Of Private Cannabis Stores

MISSISSAUGA: The City of Mississauga decided at its Council meeting on Wednesday, that it will opt out and not allow privately-operated cannabis retail stores in Mississauga.

"Today, our Council made the decision to opt out as we feel that the recent changes to the retail cannabis model have occurred too quickly and there are too many unanswered questions at this time," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

"The province has not given municipalities any control over where cannabis stores can be located in our City. This is cause for great concern. The City of Mississauga may decide to opt-in in the future however in the meantime; we will continue to consult and engage with our community. It's important we take the time to get this right. I will be writing a letter to the province to explain our Council's decision and will be asking for greater powers for municipalities to have input into the location and number of retail stores that are permitted in our city."

The Government of Ontario gave mu-

nicipalities until January 22, 2019 to decide whether they will opt in or opt out of having retail cannabis stores.

The production, sale and use of recreational cannabis was legalized in Canada on October 17, 2018. Private cannabis stores will be legal starting April 1, 2019 for municipalities who choose to opt in. Until then, residents can purchase cannabis online from the Ontario Cannabis Store. Residents must be 19 years or older to purchase cannabis in Ontario. To learn more about recreational cannabis in Mississauga, visit mississauga.ca/portal/residents/cannabis-information.

Ontario has elected to allow for recreational cannabis to be sold online or in privately-operated stores.

The province will regulate sales through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). The province will continue to consult with municipalities including Mississauga, Peel Public Health and Peel Regional Police on the implementation of the private retail model.

Toronto Needs Help To Deal With Refugee/Asylum Claimants Issue

TORONTO: The City of Toronto's need for federal government support in response to the increase in refugee/asylum claimants arriving in Toronto was confirmed with the release of the 2018 Street Needs Assessment (SNA) results.

The SNA, conducted on April 26, is a needs assessment survey and point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness. The results show that there is an increase in the number of people accessing City-administered shelter services.

Approximately 40 per cent of shelter services users surveyed identified as refugee/asylum claimants. This represents a significant increase over a short period of time (from 11 per cent in early 2016, 25 per cent in late 2017) and continues to

put pressure on the City operationally and financially, and has created an unsustainable situation.

The City has and continues to request:

- the establishment of a federal and provincial co-ordinated regional response to this increasing and acute challenge;

- reimbursement of all costs, including those incurred in 2017 and projected for 2018, which includes an estimate for direct operational costs in excess of \$64.5 million, with an additional \$6.3 million anticipated as a result of using the college dormitories in the summer; and

- ongoing and stable funding of \$43 million a year, starting in 2019, to offset the costs the City will incur responding to refugee/asylum claimants.

Brampton Seniors Interact With Minister Filomena Tassi



BRAMPTON: Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North along with MP Sonia Sidhu invited Filomena Tassi, Minister of Seniors, to Brampton to help the government better understand and make decisions on the needs of Canadian seniors and ensure that programs and services are developed that respond to Canada's aging population.

Minister Tassi visited Brampton for a Seniors townhall to highlight investments, listen to the needs of seniors, and answer questions from the audience.

Seniors in attendance heard that the Liberal government has made significant investments to improve income security, health, affordable and accessible housing and, expand seniors programs. Minister Tassi reinforced that seniors issues are a priority for the government.

The Townhall was attended by over

one hundred seniors, and many took the opportunity to speak directly with the Minister about several issues, including: financing security (increases to CPP, OAS, GIS), seniors' housing and healthcare needs, consumer protection including fraud, seniors programming, poverty, protection of workplace pensions, and how best to move forward with the implementation of national pharmacare.

"The Government of Canada recognizes the remarkable contribution that Canadian seniors have made to our society and economy over the years," said MP Sahota. "We continue to take measures to ensure seniors can enjoy the fulfilling lives that they very much deserve. Seniors remain a top priority for our government, and we are proud to support programs that we encourage them to stay active and involved in their communities."

Mississauga Joins Global Network Of Standardized Data-Driven Cities

MISSISSAUGA: The City of Mississauga has been awarded the International Organization for Standardization 37120 (ISO 37120) platinum-level certification from the World Council on City Data (WCCD) – a global leader in standardized city data. Mississauga is one of ten Canadian municipalities to receive the certification. The City joins more than 60 municipalities that are part of the WCCD global network.

"We are pleased to be recognized with this honour alongside other world-leaders including London, Dubai and Buenos Aires," said Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

"Increasing transparency and fostering innovation are important priorities for us as we continue to create a connected city for the 21st century. Data-driven decision making is vital for us to deliver high-quality programs and services to our citizens."

Mississauga reported 96 out of the 100 indicators, earning platinum-level ranking.

"Mississauga is now part of an international standard," said Janice Baker, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer. "Not only does it show how we are doing compared to other cities, but also serves as a benchmark in our planning process."

"It is important for us to be able to learn from other cities as we continue to build a world-class city."

The standard includes a comprehensive set of 100 indicators that measures a city's social, economic and environmental performance. The Region of Peel, local school boards, utilities and Trillium Hospital contributed data as part of the assessment.

Data now shows that Mississauga is currently ranked one of the top 10 cities in the world and the top city in Canada with the highest number of businesses per 100,000 population.

The City's data was reviewed by an independent third-party as part of the process. This ensures that all of the data is consistent.

"On behalf of the WCCD, it is a pleasure to welcome Mississauga to our global network of data-driven cities," stated WCCD President & CEO, Dr. Patricia McCarney. "Under the leadership of Mayor Crombie, and through the efforts of her team, Mississauga is now WCCD ISO 37120 certified at the highest, Platinum level, joining a group that includes London, Dubai, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, Quebec City, Surrey and Toronto, amongst others. This showcases Mississauga locally, nationally and globally."

Dr. Patricia McCarney and James Patava, Vice-President of Public Affairs & International Relations from WCCD presented the City with its platinum-level certification on Wednesday at Mississauga City Hall.

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