

# THE BRAMPTONIAN

Issue 1 2026



BRAMPTON  
BOARD OF TRADE

Brampton's business community  
sees milestone wins

The pressure point: An interview with  
Mayor Patrick Brown on how housing has  
become one of Brampton's most pressing issues

Brampton's ambitious bet:  
Will transit save Canada's fastest-growing city?



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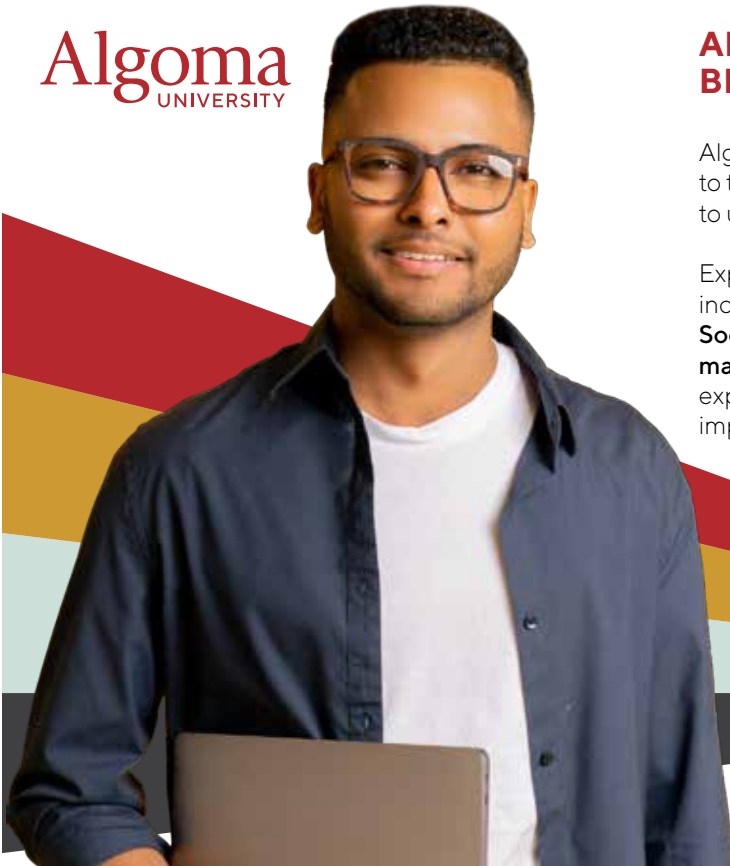
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# INZOLA

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GROUP

*A message from*

# JAIPAUL MASSEY-SINGH

CEO, Brampton Board of Trade



On behalf of the Brampton Board of Trade, I'm proud to welcome you to this inaugural edition of *The Bramptonian* as we highlight a city on the rise.

Brampton is on the cusp of transformative change. Historic investments in education, transit, and critical infrastructure are positioning our community for long-term success. From post-secondary expansion and skills development to enhanced transit connectivity and city-building projects, these investments are not simply about growth, they are about ensuring Brampton remains competitive, accessible, and opportunity-rich for generations to come.

We are now the third-largest city in Ontario and one of the fastest-growing cities in the country. That growth is powered in large part by immigration. For many Canadians, their journey begins in Brampton. They arrive with ambition, talent, and entrepreneurial spirit, and they in turn build businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our community.


Our economy is dynamic and evolving. Built on a strong foundation of advanced manufacturing, food processing, and logistics, Brampton has long been a critical driver of Ontario's economic engine. Today, we are also seeing rapid expansion into new frontiers including space innovation, medical technologies, and the broader tech ecosystem. A thriving start-up community, innovation hubs, and forward-thinking entrepreneurs are redefining what's possible here.

At the Brampton Board of Trade, our role is to champion this momentum. We advocate for policies that foster competitiveness and investment. We convene leaders across sectors to share insight and spark collaboration. And we equip businesses with the tools, connections, and intelligence they need to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape.

But beyond advocacy and programming, we are a community. Our members represent the heartbeat of Brampton: employers, founders, innovators, and changemakers who believe in this city's potential. Their resilience through economic uncertainty, global trade pressures, and shifting market conditions speaks volumes about the strength of our business community.

In the pages ahead, you will see stories that reflect this energy; organizations scaling new heights, leaders investing in people, and businesses that are not only adapting to change but shaping it.

Brampton's future is being built right now. By supporting local businesses, forging new partnerships, and leaning into innovation, we are ensuring that our city's growth is not only rapid, but also sustainable and inclusive.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and globally competitive Brampton. 

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# About Brampton Board of Trade



## Mission

We elevate Brampton's business community by connecting people, delivering results-focused advocacy, and providing trusted support that helps our members grow, thrive, and give back.

## Who We Are

For over 125 years, the Brampton Board of Trade has been where business gets done. We connect entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and professionals to tackle real-world challenges and spark opportunities for growth.

We're not just a business association, we're your partner in progress. When Brampton businesses thrive, so does our community. That's why we convene decision-makers and change-makers to build a resilient, inclusive, and dynamic city.

Our members range from local startups to global enterprises, all looking for meaningful ways to grow. Whether you're navigating red tape, accessing talent, or scaling up, the BBOT is your go-to for actionable solutions and trusted support.

## A Century of Impact: Highlights from Over 100 Years of Community Leadership

- 1887 - The Brampton Board of Trade was originally founded in Brampton, Ontario, in 1887.
- 1950 - Officially incorporated as Brampton Chamber of Commerce.
- 1974 - The Regional Government was formed and re-incorporated as The Brampton Board of Trade. Operated the motor vehicle licensing bureau from 1974 to 2015.
- 1990s - The organization expanded its advocacy mandate, actively engaging provincial and federal governments on infrastructure, trade, and employment issues impacting Brampton businesses.
- 2020s - Evolved into a modern, advocacy-driven organization focused on policy leadership and representing Brampton businesses at all levels of government. **BB**

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# 2025 Event Recaps



## January

### January 9 - In Conversation With Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy

Ontario's Minister of Finance, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, gave a presentation at the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre while touring the province gathering input and ideas for Budget 2025. This opportunity to contribute to the conversation shaping Ontario's economic future was also a fantastic chance to connect with fellow community leaders and stakeholders.

### January 15 – Skilled Labour Roundtable with Dave Cassidy

This invitation-only event assembled local leaders from the automotive, advanced manufacturing, and post-secondary sectors to discuss:

- Talent acquisition, retention strategies, training and upskilling initiatives
- Employer-led solutions to enhance Brampton's skilled workforce,

- Reducing red tape in getting more skilled labour.

The Brampton Board of Trade hosted Dave Cassidy, skilled trades special advisor, to facilitate a discussion with local employers about solutions to address labour shortages.

### January 21 – Tech Forward: Innovation, AI & Beyond

This half-day forum event explored advancements in technology and their impact on business.

Highlights:

- Keynote speaker Josephine Yam, CEO and Co-Founder of Skills4Good AI (also a TEDx speaker, globally recognized AI thought leader named one of the Top 100 Women in AI Ethics) shared her insights in her keynote: "AI unlocked: Insights to Grow Your Career and Business."
- The Future of Immersive Technologies: Transforming Training, Business, and Beyond," a panel discussion presented by Algoma University. This discussion



In Conversation with Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy.



Tech Forward.

explored how VR, AR, and XR are revolutionizing industries, from the manufacturing and education to interactive brand experiences. Attendees learned how immersive technologies can transform your business and keep them ahead of the curve.

- "The Future of Cybersecurity: AI, New Threats, and Finding the Right People," a panel discussion presented by Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst. As digital landscapes evolve and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) accelerates, cybersecurity is more critical than ever. This panel discussion explored the future of cybersecurity in an age dominated by AI, highlighting the new and sophisticated threats that organizations face today and will continue to encounter tomorrow.

## **February**

### **February 4 – 2025 State of the City**

The 2025 State of the City luncheon, an annual gathering of Brampton's business leaders, city officials, and key stakeholders, was an opportunity to gain valuable insights into Brampton's economic development, hear directly from Mayor Patrick Brown, and celebrate local business excellence.

This event is highly anticipated each year, and provides networking opportunities and a chance to hear directly from key decision makers in the city.

### **February 19 – Overtime Goals with the Brampton Steelheads**

The Brampton Steelheads, proud members of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and the world's largest development league, hosted a game where local business leaders had a chance to connect.

## **March**

### **March 5 – Moving the Needle: Housing, Affordability, and Economic Inclusion**

Presented by the Brampton Board of Trade and CivicAction, this event was curated for rising leaders focused on housing, affordability, and economic inclusion. Esteemed experts shared their perspectives on these pressing challenges, providing insights from Scarborough to Chinatown to Brampton and more. Events like this are an opportunity to contribute to a crucial conversation about the future of housing and affordability in your community.

### **March 6 – inspiHER Gala**

The inspiHER Gala, a celebration of the achievements of women, is not only a tribute to women's remarkable contributions but also a rallying call to accelerate progress toward gender parity.

The event featured the presentation of the Naseem Somani Memorial Leadership Excellence Award, the Accelerate Growth Through Action speaker series, and showcases from local female artists throughout the evening.



*State of the City.*



*inspiHER Gala.*



*State of the Region.*



*Energy & Environment Forum.*

### **March 18 – Overtime Goals with Skills Council of Canada**

Business meets workforce innovation! The Brampton Board of Trade's Overtime Goals Business Networking Series, hosted by Skills Council of Canada explored how skilled trades training is shaping the future workforce.

### **April**

April 1 – 2025 State of the Region

At the Brampton Board of Trade's annual State of the Region Luncheon, business leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders gather to discuss the key economic and political trends shaping our region.

This event, presented in collaboration with our partners at the Mississauga Board of Trade and Caledon Chamber of Commerce, offered invaluable insights into the economic outlook, strategic investments, and policy priorities that impact businesses in Peel Region and beyond. Attendees heard directly from government officials, industry experts and regional leaders.

### **April 11 – Overtime Goals with Brampton on Stage**

This blend of entertainment and informal networking allowed professionals across a multitude of disciplines to connect before watching an incredible comedy show, *The Distraction*.

This event was geared toward local businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs in this excellent installment of Brampton's best business networking series.

### **April 17 – inspiHER Network – Spring Meeting**

The inspiHER Network Spring Meeting was a chance to learn key nutrition and movement strategies from Dr. Colleen Prendergast, D.C., and discover key networking strategies for building powerful collaborative relationships with Jennifer Beale.

During spring, the season of renewal, this was a welcome opportunity to refresh, recharge, and reconnect.

### **April 24 – 2025 Energy & Environment Forum**

At the 2025 Energy + Environment Forum, hosted by the Brampton Board of Trade, business leaders, policymakers, and innovators came together at Canon Canada's advanced headquarters for a full day of meaningful dialogue on sustainability, energy innovation, and environmental responsibility. From engaging keynotes by experts like Dr. Jack Mintz to panel discussions tackling climate policy, cleantech, and the future of energy, the forum sparked new ideas and built momentum toward a greener Brampton. The vendor showcase added even more value, connecting attendees with cutting-edge organizations and solutions.

### **May**

### **May 6 – Overtime Goals with Rona+**

The Brampton Board of Trade's Overtime Goals Business Networking event, hosted by Rona+, offered an exciting and hands-on opportunity for business owners to connect and collaborate. Whether you're looking to build relationships, discover new opportunities, or enhance



*Business Excellence Awards.*



*Vision for Prosperity.*

your entrepreneurial skills, this event has something for everyone!

Attendees had a chance to network, learn about Rona+, and interact with various suppliers and vendors.

### ***May 22 – 2025 Business Excellence Awards presented by Canon Canada***

The 2025 Brampton Board of Trade Business Excellence Awards, presented by Canon Canada, was a sold-out celebration of the innovation, leadership, and success that define Brampton's thriving business community. Held at the Embassy Grand Convention Centre, the evening featured a lively networking reception, a gourmet four-course dinner, and the presentation of 12 prestigious awards, including the honouring of Bill Kanellopoulos as Business Person of the Year. From emerging leaders to industry pioneers, the event spotlighted the individuals and organizations shaping Brampton's economic future.

## ***June***

### ***June 3 – Manufacturing Insights for a Resilient Workforce***

Brampton business leaders, manufacturers, educators, and policymakers gathered for a dynamic breakfast focused on the future of Ontario's manufacturing workforce. CME's newly released 2025 Ontario Manufacturing Workforce Report—based on 13 regional roundtables and input from 110+ organizations—highlighted key challenges, regional insights, and actionable recommendations.

Guests heard remarks from Mayor Patrick Brown and CME's Vincent Caron, engaged in a panel discussion on the report's findings, and connected with decision-makers to help shape workforce policies and strengthen Brampton's manufacturing community.

### ***June 10 – Overtime Goals with Amica***

June's special edition of Overtime Goals, Brampton's best business networking series, was called Connect with Purpose in a Heartfelt Setting. Hosted by Amica Peel Village, this unique gathering blended business connection with community impact, offering a warm and inspiring atmosphere for professionals to build relationships, exchange ideas, and explore meaningful collaborations.

### ***June 20 – Vision For Prosperity: Brunch with Hon. Doug Ford***

Over 320 business, political, and community leaders gathered at the sold-out brunch hosted by Brampton Board of Trade. Highlights included opening remarks from Patrick Brown followed by a keynote from Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and a fireside chat with provincial ministers about Ontario's economic future. Discussions focused on workforce resilience, infrastructure investment, and support for local industries. The event reinforced Brampton's growing role in shaping provincial policy and economic growth.



*Townhall and Summer Social.*



*Brampton in Motion Symposium.*

## **July**

### **July 3 – Business Before Basketball with the Brampton Honey Badgers**

Business Before Basketball: network, cheer, and win! Hosted by the Brampton Honey Badgers, in collaboration with Brampton Board of Trade, Downtown Brampton BIA, Brampton Entrepreneur Center, and Invest Brampton, this event featured a pre-game networking event followed by an exciting game.

### **July 8 – Townhall and Summer Social**

The Brampton Board of Trade's annual Townhall and Summer social was a dynamic evening of community connection, conversation, and celebration. The annual event promises something for everyone — whether you're a local business leader, entrepreneur, or community member looking to get involved and informed.

### **July 17 – inspiHER Network – Summer Session**

The inspiHER summer session continued our journey of empowerment and inspiration. This engaging morning featured focused coaching designed to help you reconnect with your passions, set meaningful goals, and embrace your potential.

## **September**

### **September 23 – Brampton in Motion Symposium**

The second annual Brampton in Motion Symposium was a full-day event focused on the future of housing, development, and transportation in Brampton. This impactful event brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to

shape advocacy priorities and strengthen cross-sector connections.

### **September 25 – Overtime Goals with Brampton Library**

In September, the Brampton Board of Trade and Brampton Library hosted Overtime Goals, a networking event that brought together local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members. Guests explored the Springdale Makerspace, enjoyed live demos, and even created a take-home project, making it a fun and engaging evening of collaboration and connection.

## **October**

### **October 21 – Overtime Goals with Brampton Arts Organization**

This interactive event blended art and networking, bringing together artists, entrepreneurs, cultural leaders, and professionals for a vibrant in-person connection. Attendees experienced a live artist activation that invited participation, reflection, and collaboration.

### **October 23 – inspiHER Network – Fall Session**

Personal strategic planning is one of the most powerful tools for self-development and long-term success. At this event, attendees joined the Brampton Board of Trade for a dynamic, hands-on vision-building workshop, where they stepped back, reflected on what matters most, and crafted personal vision statements.

They left this session with clarity, confidence, and a personal vision statement that aligns values with aspirations, turning inspiration into intentional action.



*Workforce Recharged.*



*Annual General Meeting.*

**October 24 – Inside Amazon: Powering Small Business Growth**

This event, hosted by the Brampton Board of Trade, in partnership with Amazon, showcased how local businesses can leverage Amazon’s platform for growth. It featured a meet and greet and remarks by MP Sonia Sidhu and MP Amandeep Sodhi, a tour of Amazon’s YYZ4 Fulfillment Centre, a fireside chat with a local Amazon selling partner, and the “How to Start Selling on Amazon” workshop, which covered everything from evaluating business readiness, to brand growth techniques.

**November**

**November 3 & 4 – Workforce Recharged: Conference and Expo**

Workforce Recharged, presented in partnership with the Skills Council of Canada, is a bold, two-day experience designed to bring together business leaders, workforce experts, policymakers, educators, and community builders to solve Ontario’s most pressing labour challenges.

Through dynamic programming, inspiring keynotes, TED-style Charge Sessions, and hands-on SME Expo experiences, attendees gained practical insights, strategic connections, and fresh tools to recharge their workforce.

**November 19 – Building a World-Class Research & Innovation Ecosystem: Virtual Panel Discussion**

This virtual panel of national MedTech and healthcare innovation leaders explored:

- What makes a healthcare innovation ecosystem thrive?
- What can Brampton realistically adopt or adapt from successful models?
- What unique assets or opportunities give Brampton a competitive edge?
- How can we attract global talent, entrepreneurs, and MedTech businesses?

The hour-long panel was followed by facilitated breakouts with MedTech leaders.

**November 27 - Annual General Meeting & Winter Social**

This exclusive event brings together Brampton’s business community to celebrate progress, connect with peers, and look ahead to a bold and innovative future.

This year, we combined our AGM with a festive winter social to mark the close of another impactful year and to welcome our 2026 Board of Directors. Whether you’re a long-standing member or new to the BBOT network, this is a valuable opportunity to engage with fellow leaders, gain insight into our achievements over the past year, and be part of shaping what’s next for Brampton’s business landscape.

**December**

**2025 International Trade & Investment Holiday Reception**

This annual event brings together members of the BBOT Trade Network, global and industry leaders, as well as key stake holders from Brampton and beyond to foster global business connections while celebrating the season. **BB**

# Brampton Board of Trade *Testimonials*



## ***Greenwin***

"Our team has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Brampton Board of Trade. BBOT is a tremendous advocate for the business community and true champions of the city.

They are committed to ensuring members are well informed and have access to information that help companies to make the best decisions for themselves. BBOT leadership is passionate about strategically connecting members, ultimately making networking opportunities effective and fruitful."

— ***Jason Green***



## ***TD***

"Our membership with BBOT has been an incredibly enriching journey, providing us with opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive within Brampton's business community. BBOT membership offers us a platform to engage in a meaningful way with the business community, expand our network, and enhance our visibility. The support provided by the BBOT team helps us navigate challenges and find new opportunities. There is significant value in the membership. The networking events allow us to make valuable connections, and the visibility we've maintained in Brampton through BBOT is important to our brand. I wholeheartedly believe that other businesses should connect with BBOT. The sense of community, the wealth of resources, and the opportunities for growth make BBOT an ally for any business looking to be entrenched in Brampton."

— ***Oz Zafar***



## ***Co-operators***

"Being a BBOT member has been invaluable for both my professional growth and our business. The networking opportunities have connected me with like-minded leaders and opened doors to meaningful partnerships. BBOT's advocacy and support give businesses in Brampton a strong voice, and I truly believe any organization looking to grow and make an impact should be part of this community."

— ***Warren Kozonguizi***

# BRAMPTON ON STAGE

## *Brampton On Stage*

"Our partnership has allowed us to showcase outstanding artists at both intimate and marquee Brampton Board of Trade events, host meaningful gatherings in our spaces that connect the arts and business sectors, and deepen our ties with the local business community through member ticket perks. BBOT's network has also helped highlight the role performing arts play in driving both cultural vibrancy and economic impact in Brampton. It's a reciprocal relationship that brings businesses into our venues, strengthens community connections, and supports a thriving local economy."

— *Jocelyn Johnston*



## *Brampton Library*

"After hosting a Brampton Board of Trade Overtime Goals event at Brampton Library, I was struck by how naturally people from different businesses and organizations connected. You can feel the genuine support that runs through Brampton's business community. It was also a great chance to show how small businesses can leverage the library's tools and resources to grow and succeed. These events are a great reminder of how powerful it is to bring people together and the value of a strong, caring network."

— *Brittney Smith, Manager of Adult and Senior Engagement at Brampton Library*



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# Brampton Board of Trade Testimonials



## **Brampton Arts Organization**

"The Brampton Board of Trade is a valued partner to the Brampton Arts Organization and a vital supporter of Brampton's creative community. Their commitment to collaboration, advocacy, and economic growth extends meaningfully into the cultural sector, where they consistently work alongside us to champion artists, creators, and creative entrepreneurs. Whether through joint initiatives, shared conversations, or broader community-building efforts, the Board of Trade brings leadership, insight, and genuine care to the table. BAO deeply values this relationship and the important role the Board plays in helping build a thriving, confident, and sustainable creative ecosystem in Brampton."

— **Michael Vickers**



## **Adam & Miles LLP**

"Adams & Miles LLP has been involved with the BBOT for more than 15 years. I have personally attended and participated in several business and social events, including golf tournaments, After Hours networking events, inspiHER and ConnectWork. It has been a great experience meeting business owners in the Brampton area and creating many lasting relationships while expanding our referral network. I have been a member of the ConnectWork Group since it began and this is one of my favourite networking events at the BBOT. This group provides a great opportunity to speak with business owners monthly and really get to know them and their businesses. We have shared some great ideas and supported and championed each other. Adams & Miles LLP has been able to assist and advise several clients and business contacts through our relationship with the BBOT."

— **Shanon Hawkshaw**



## **Amdev Property**

"BBOT has created a community that encourages me to think creatively about my work and how to tackle real-world challenges."

— **Saba Haie**



## **Scooty**

"If it hadn't been for the Brampton Board of Trade, we wouldn't be here today. Introductions to decision-makers saved us time and made our launch possible."

— **Shoaib Ahmed**



### ***BSC Solution Group***

"BBOT is a great organization and they have been very supportive of BSC Solutions Group, and clearly are very active in the community. We have enjoyed being involved in the webinar events, including running a few ourselves for BBOT members. I personally like how the events are non-selling events, where business leaders can discuss common goals and issues with our ever-changing work environments. BBOT staff are always there to help with facilitating and offering great meeting events for members. The Open-Door Discussions are a great way to establish new mutually rewarding relationships, which can ultimately lead to new opportunities for both parties."

***— Bill Boisvenue***



### ***Dynacare***

"Being a BBOT member has been invaluable for both my professional growth and our business. The networking opportunities have connected me with like-minded leaders and opened doors to meaningful partnerships. BBOT's advocacy and support give businesses in Brampton a strong voice, and I truly believe any organization looking to grow and make an impact should be part of this community. As a long-standing member of the Brampton business community, Dynacare has benefited from its membership in the Brampton Board of Trade. It has allowed us to collaborate and network with other members of the Brampton business community to address common issues that affect us all. The Brampton Board of Trade brings energy, passion and a strong voice for commercial enterprises operating in Brampton."

***— Vito Ciciretto***



### ***The Printing House***

"Thanks to BBOT for their Ready Brampton campaign—showcasing our thriving community in Brampton. So many types of businesses and opportunities are right here in our community and getting their chance to shine."

***— Jeff Bezbrozh***



### ***Wellspring Chinguacousy Cancer Support Centre***

"As a professional that's new to Brampton, the BBOT events have plugged me into an amazing network of professionals and peers. I look forward to every one!"

***— Rebecca Harrison***



# Brampton's business community sees milestone wins

The Brampton Board of Trade's 2025 advocacy agenda delivered infrastructure commitments, civic engagement, and a growing voice on national policy

In a year defined by political change and renewed investment in Ontario's infrastructure, the Brampton Board of Trade (BBOT) emerged as a leading voice for one of Canada's fastest-growing cities.

For nearly a decade, the organization had pressed for funding and political will behind a tunneled Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension through Brampton's core. In January 2025, the Ontario government formally affirmed its commitment to the project—an

announcement the BBOT called "years in the making".

Months later, the federal government followed suit. The dual commitments marked a decisive shift for Brampton, which has long struggled to secure the same level of transit investment as its Greater Toronto Area peers.

"Both levels of government affirmed one shared message," said Vijai Kumar-Singh, Brampton Board of Trade's manager of policy and government relations. "That Brampton deserves its LRT."

As Ontario prepared for a surprise provincial election later in the year, the BBOT positioned itself as a convener of crucial debates.

Through public forums, it brought together candidates, media, and hundreds of residents seeking clarity and accountability from political hopefuls. The board repeated the effort during the federal election, partnering with CivicAction in March to host a gathering of young leaders, non-profit organizations, builders, and community land trusts—confronting issues of affordability, economic mobility, and regional equity.

National attention followed. CBC's *The National* and journalist David Common visited Brampton to discuss election priorities with the board and its members. *The Local*, a Toronto-based publication, later featured coverage of Brampton

Centre's political landscape, quoting BBOT members on business competitiveness and cost pressures.

Throughout the year, the BBOT pressed federal policymakers to better recognize Brampton's role in Canada's economy. That effort coincided with a number of new local MPs gaining cabinet or parliamentary secretary roles. The board also continued to support Alto, the proposed high-speed rail project between Windsor and Quebec City, advocating for its designation as a project of national interest.

Policy work extended beyond transport and transit. At the 2024 Brampton in Motion Symposium, the BBOT joined economist Mike Moffatt in calling for incentives to accelerate construction of rental housing. By 2025, the City of Brampton announced reduced or waived development charges for purpose-built rentals—an outcome aligned with the board's recommendations.

The organization also lent its voice to partners such as Metamorphosis and Better Way Alliance at Queen's Park, supporting advocacy around commercial rent protections. At the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting in Windsor, the BBOT advanced two resolutions: one proposing that a share of the land transfer tax be directed to municipalities for infrastructure, housing, and transit; the other urging support for Ontario's post-secondary education sector.



Interest in the board's signature Brampton in Motion Symposium surged, with attendance rising by 50 per cent year over year. The event drew students, planners, academics, and business leaders to tackle the interlinked challenges of housing, transit, and livability. Complementing that work, the BBOT released a Transportation White Paper, its first major research report, which laid the groundwork for data-driven advocacy on

regional transport priorities.

As the city positions itself amid record growth and shifting political attention, 2025 has been a year in which advocacy from Brampton's business community measurably reshaped the conversation.

"Businesses, leaders, and community together can advance a future of Brampton that is more liveable and more connected," said Vijai Kumar-Singh. **BB**

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# Brampton Board of Trade *Networks*



The Brampton Board of Trade continues to strengthen its community through dynamic member networks, including the inspiHER Network, which empowers women in business to be proactive, assertive, and aspiring, and the Trade Network, which supports businesses engaged in global commerce. Building on this momentum, we are planning several new networks to launch in the near

future, including a Rising Leaders Network for emerging professionals, a Manufacturing Network to champion Brampton's industrial sector, and an HR Network focused on people and culture excellence. These communities create meaningful connections, shared learning, and new opportunities for members across every stage of their business journey.

## ***Network 2025 Highlight: inspiHER Network***

The inspiHER Network is a members-only women's leadership community within the Brampton Board of Trade that brings professional women together to develop skills, share insights, and build stronger connections. Each session focuses on personal and professional growth through practical workshops, coaching, and expert-led discussions. Whether it's renewing energy and wellness in spring, reigniting passion and goal setting in summer, or crafting a clear personal vision in the fall, the network creates a space where women can reflect, learn, and support each other. The goal is simple: help women in business grow with intention, clarity, and a strong peer community. 



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# Brampton Board of Trade

## *Cost savings*



### ***Brampton Board of Trade Affinity program:***

The Brampton Board of Trade Affinity Program connects members with exclusive savings, value-added services, and trusted partners who support business growth. From cost-reducing solutions to specialized expertise, the program is designed to help organizations operate more efficiently while maximizing their membership benefits. To explore the full range of offerings and discover how these partnerships can support your business, visit our website and learn more about the Brampton Board of Trade's Affinity Program.

### ***ChamberPlan (Affinity Partner)***

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<b>Term</b>	• 1-2 years	• 1-2 years
<b>Build Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member pricing for BBOT events</li> <li>• Complimentary access to member events</li> <li>• Able to join member networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member pricing for BBOT events</li> <li>• Complimentary access to member events</li> <li>• Able to join member networks</li> </ul>
<b>Increase Visibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public listing in Member directory</li> <li>• Welcome post in BBOT newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced listing in Member Directory</li> <li>• Welcome post in BBOT newsletter</li> <li>• Member Spotlight Video on BBOT platforms</li> <li>• Introductory blog post on BBOT website</li> </ul>
<b>Business Savings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to group savings programs</li> <li>• Member rate of document services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to group savings programs</li> <li>• Member rate of document services</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership</b>	• Able to join committees and task forces	• Able to join committees and task forces
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<b>Build Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member pricing for BBOT events</li> <li>• Complimentary access to member events</li> <li>• Able to join member networks</li> <li>• Two complimentary tickets to an educational Forum event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member pricing for BBOT events</li> <li>• Complimentary access to member events</li> <li>• Able to join member networks</li> <li>• Two complimentary tickets to an educational Forum event</li> <li>• Two complimentary tickets to annual State of the City luncheon</li> </ul>
<b>Increase Visibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premium placement in Member Directory</li> <li>• Welcome post in BBOT newsletter</li> <li>• Member Spotlight video on BBOT platforms</li> <li>• Introductory blog post on BBOT website</li> <li>• Recognized as a 'Business Advocate' at all BBOT Events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premium placement in Member Directory</li> <li>• Welcome post in BBOT newsletter</li> <li>• Member Spotlight video on BBOT platforms</li> <li>• Introductory blog post on BBOT website</li> <li>• Recognized as a 'Business Leader' at all BBOT Events</li> </ul>
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<b>Leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to join committees and task forces</li> <li>• Advance access and briefings on BBOT whitepapers and annual Business Confidence Index</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to join committees and task forces</li> <li>• Advance access and briefings on BBOT whitepapers and annual Business Confidence Index</li> <li>• Invitation to CEO Leadership Council</li> </ul>
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# The city of the future

By Owen White



Brampton is a city built on opportunity. Dedicated, hardworking people come from all over Canada and the world to build careers, launch businesses, and raise families. With its strong, resilient, and diverse economy, Brampton continues to grow and thrive, even in challenging times.

Yet, for many who only see the city online or from afar, the full story often remains untold. The Brampton that residents and business owners experience every day is one filled with optimism, creativity, entrepreneurship, and community spirit. And increasingly, Brampton's newcomers and immigrants are the ones powering that momentum: opening businesses, creating jobs, and shaping the future of the city.

Each year, the Brampton Board of Trade surveys local businesses through its Business Confidence Index. In 2024, more than a quarter of respondents said that outdated or incomplete external impressions of Brampton were a top concern, highlighting just how important it is to tell the city's real story.

One of those voices is Amisha Moorjani, owner of The Food Quotient, a catering company grounded in Brampton's vibrant food culture. Moorjani started her Business in Brampton in 2018, then moved there 2019 and never looked back.

"I love the city and love the people," she said.

When the pandemic hit shortly after her move, many small businesses struggled. But Moorjani found something powerful in Brampton: connection. Through Brampton Board of Trade discussions, social media groups, and virtual meetups, she discovered a network of business owners who supported one another through unprecedented times.

"Even though it's such a big city, the feel is like a small town," she said.

Moorjani knows that sometimes people make assumptions about Brampton businesses. But she's quick to point out the truth: newcomers and immigrants bring drive, resilience, and a deep desire to succeed—qualities that strengthen the entire city.

"I was a new immigrant at one point in time," she said. "The

people that come here, they want to work hard. They have that work ethic already".

Bill Kanellopoulos, founder of Kallo Developments, found something similar. Originally from Greece, Bill arrived in Canada in the 1968, and eventually chose Brampton as the place to build his career and raise his family. When he first moved, Brampton had a population of just 49,000, but he saw its potential.

"You cannot go wrong, because you grow with it," he said.

Bill began in the restaurant business with a 600-square-foot pizza shop. As the city expanded, so did he; eventually purchasing land, developing properties, and establishing deep roots in the community.

Today, his sons John and Tom help lead Kallo Developments, continuing the family's commitment to uplifting Brampton's narrative.

John says they're proud to support transformative local projects: William Osler, Peel Memorial Hospital expansion, development at Algoma University and Toronto Metropolitan University, the Brampton Arts Organization (BAO), and ambitious city-building initiatives like transit expansions and the Riverwalk project.

"Brampton is at an exciting stage. Although the city has grown to a substantial size, the central areas are an open canvas ready to evolve into a dynamic urban form," John said. "Time have changed, but opportunities still exist today, as they did when my father arrived in the early '70s."

From Bill's perspective, newcomers are an essential part of what makes Brampton strong.

"Look at new immigrants. They're family oriented. They're not takers. They want to send their kids to university, they don't compromise, they want to be the best," he said. "So that mentality, and that population, is not a liability."

And that, ultimately, is Brampton's story. A city growing with intention. A community shaped by ambition, resilience, and shared belief in what's possible. As Brampton continues to invest in people, infrastructure, and innovation, its future is not something that will simply arrive—it is something built every day by those who choose to call this city home. **BB**

# Brampton's ambitious bet

## Will transit save Canada's fastest-growing city?

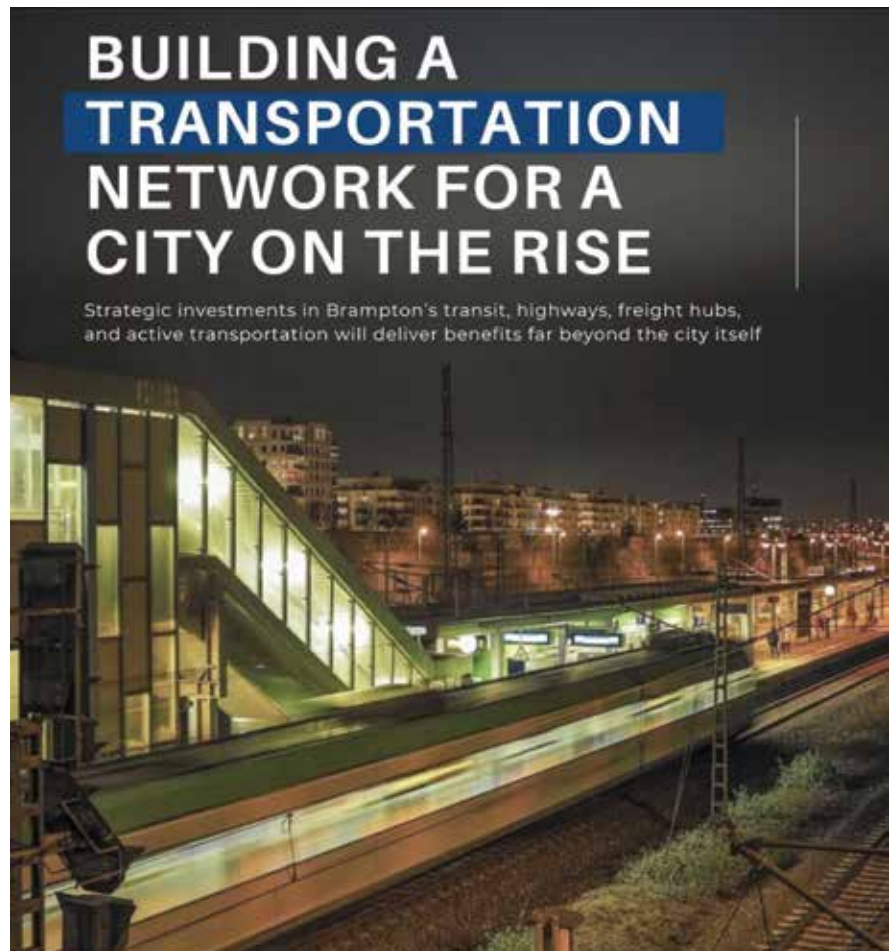
By Shayna Wiwierski

Brampton, a rapidly expanding city on Toronto's northwest border, is emerging as the epicenter of Canada's next great urban transformation—and its fate may well rest on the rails and roads beneath its feet.

That, at least, is the thesis of the Brampton Board of Trade's transportation whitepaper, *Building a Transportation Network for a City on the Rise*, a sweeping manifesto that argues for nothing less than a national reimagining of how the country moves people, goods, and opportunity through its fastest-growing municipality.

Home to 800,000 residents and counting—growing by some 45,000 in just the past year—Brampton is not only Canada's most dynamic growth story, but also a crucible for logistics, manufacturing, and technology development. Yet as the whitepaper details, this runaway expansion is running up hard against legacy infrastructure. Without urgent, coordinated investment, the city faces a future of choked roadways, rising greenhouse gas emissions, and stifled economic and housing prospects.

Brampton's success is not simply a local concern; the whitepaper deftly



positions the city as an irreplaceable node in Canada's economic network. Its vast agglomeration of logistics terminals, industrial parks, and distribution centres depend on fast, reliable movement, of both workers to jobs and freight to market. Its proximity to Toronto Pearson International Airport and national railway intermodal hubs marks Brampton as the linchpin of national and international trade. As major employers and housing developers flock to the area, the pressure on

transit and highways is mounting, with consequences that stretch across Ontario and beyond.

The whitepaper lays out a three-stage roadmap, stretching from immediate improvements to a vision 15 years later.

### ***Short-term (one to three years)***

- Expand Brampton Transit and the Züm rapid bus network.
- Grow micromobility options,

including e-scooters and cycling.

- Launch direct express bus service to Toronto Pearson International Airport, and initiate a shuttle to terminals from Malton GO station.
- Begin preserving corridors for future transit expansions, especially in rapidly developing areas.

### **Medium-term (three to seven years)**

- Deliver the Hurontario LRT extension, bringing light rail deep into Brampton.
- Intensify mixed-use development around stations, knitting transit and housing into cohesive neighbourhoods.
- Complete much-needed upgrades to Highway 410 and advance regional goods movement strategies.
- Integrate Brampton's system with GTA-wide partners like MiWay and GO Transit.

### **Long-term (seven to 15 years)**

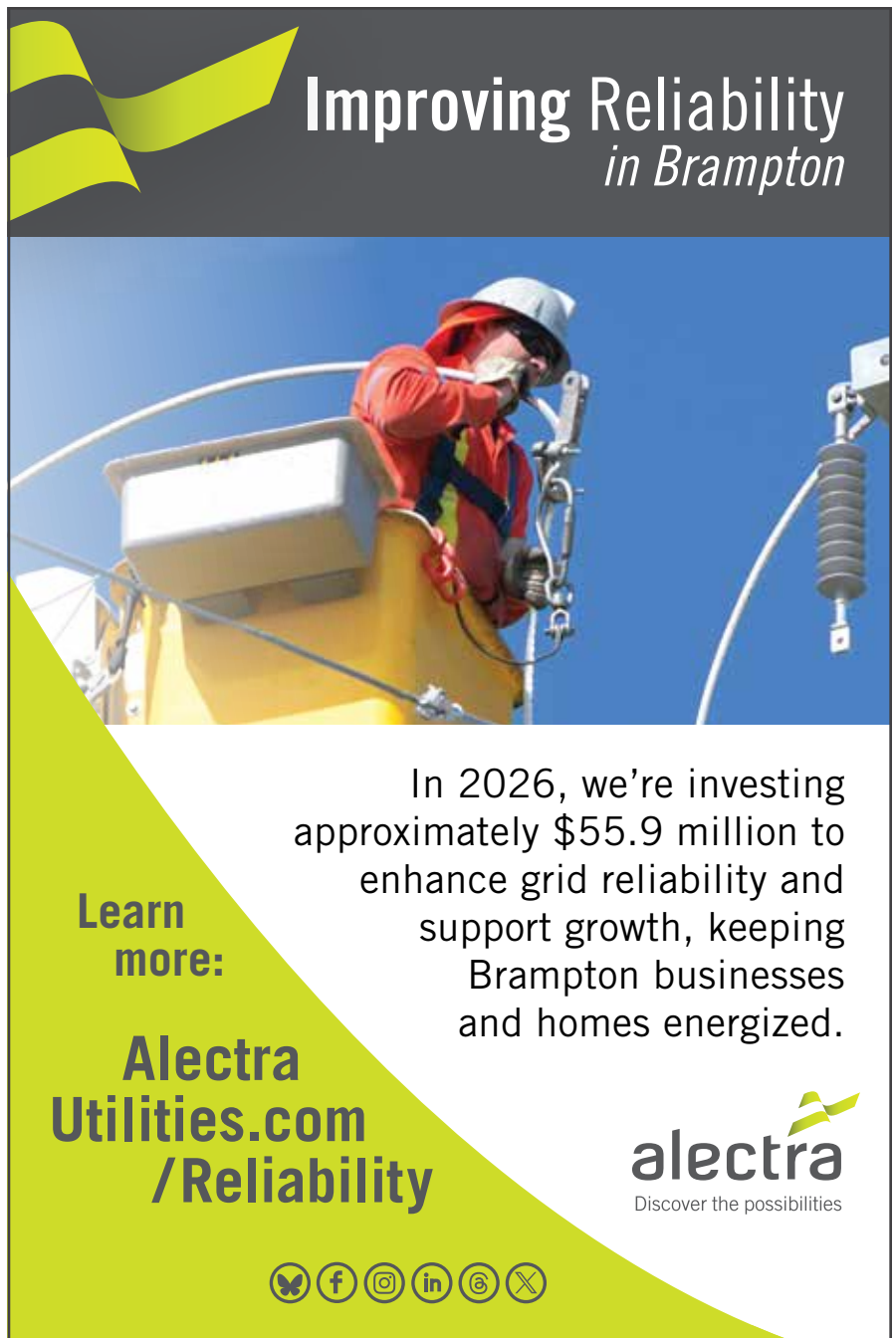
- Realize a world-class regional rail network via the Kitchener GO corridor, offering all-day, frequent train service.
- Advance Brampton's bid to be a key stop on the ambitious Alto high-speed rail project, linking Toronto, Brampton, Kitchener, and beyond.
- Develop new mixed-use, transit-oriented communities, especially at Heritage Heights and along major corridors.
- Build Highway 413 with attention to

design mitigations, including green deck "lids" to support walkable communities.

Beyond traffic delays and inconvenience, the Brampton Board of Trade points to billions in annual lost productivity from regional congestion, citing that the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area suffers

an economic drag estimated at \$4.7 billion each year because of gridlock. Unlocking Brampton's full potential thus becomes a matter not just of local pride, but national interest.

Public transit is held up as a Canadian, and even North American, success story. Brampton's ridership




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has exploded by 288 per cent since 2004, dwarfing similar U.S. regions despite its car-centric legacy. The report notes that Brampton accomplished this with prudent budgeting and a focus on building demand first with a reliable, frequent bus network, before investing in splashy capital projects.

Yet, the whitepaper pulls no punches: buses remain crowded, cross-city journeys are unforgivably slow, and highways back up daily. Regional integration, enabling seamless connections to Toronto, Mississauga, Vaughan, and points beyond, is still a work in progress.

The report's recommendations are both imaginative and clear-eyed. On GO Transit, for example, it rejects costly new "missing link" freight corridors in favour of maximizing existing rail infrastructure. The vision is for a bi-directional, all-day, every-15-minute train service that can anchor both citywide and regional commutes.

It also calls for a 24-hour bus network, which is an essential, equity-driven fix in a city where warehouses, hospitals, and the airport never sleep. Expressways, meanwhile, would get smarter, not merely wider, through advanced traffic management technologies to ease bottlenecks.

For commercial goods movement, the whitepaper urges dedicated truck corridors and incentives to shift freight off the overburdened 401 and 410 toward Highway 407. Modernizing connections to

Brampton's intermodal freight terminals would keep national and continental supply chains agile.

Land use and transportation, often planned in silos, are joined in the whitepaper's vision for Brampton's future. The city's development trajectory—traditionally car-dependent, single-family sprawl—is giving way to denser, walkable, and more diverse neighborhoods. New "transit villages" will rise around GO rail and LRT stations, modeled after global examples in Washington, D.C., Stockholm, and Copenhagen. Residents, the report insists, must have the choice to live and work in communities where a car is optional, not required.


The report is candid about challenges, such as the "last-mile" problem for workers navigating inhospitable pedestrian environments, and the urgent need for better cycling, micromobility, and winter sidewalk maintenance. Modest investments, such as more direct walking routes and safe cycling networks, could yield enormous gains in access and equity.

Crucially, the whitepaper stakes Brampton's case within provincial and federal priorities. Its blueprint aligns with Ontario's Goods Movement Strategy, the 2051 transportation plan, and national climate and trade goals. Funding, the Brampton Board of Trade argues, should not be seen as a mere local ask, but as vital to meeting Canada's commitments on housing, trade, emissions, and inclusive growth.

Perhaps the most ambitious plan is Brampton's inclusion in the Alto high-speed rail corridor. This project, still in its planning stages, envisions linking Toronto, Brampton, Kitchener, and London with fast, frequent trains, shifting business and leisure travel off congested highways and short-haul flights onto electric rail. The whitepaper argues Brampton is uniquely positioned—with its proximity to the airport and huge population base—to become a signature stop connecting local jobseekers and businesses to the global economy.

The Brampton Board of Trade's whitepaper does not hide from the city's daunting growth curve, nor from the pitfalls of past mistakes in North American infrastructure planning. But its synthesis is unmistakably forward-looking: if Brampton can leverage its moment—aligning municipal leadership, business ingenuity, and senior government partnerships—it can not only outpace gridlock, but become a blueprint for 21st century urban mobility in Canada.

As the city braces for another transformative decade, the message from Brampton's business community is clear: the window is narrow, the stakes are high, but with the right investments, Brampton can become not just a success story, but a catalyst for a more connected, climate-smart, and competitive Canada.

To read the full report, please visit <https://issuu.com/bramptonbot/docs/> 

# The pressure point



## An interview with Mayor Patrick Brown on how housing has become one of Brampton's most pressing issues

By Shayna Wiwierski

Brampton's skyline tells a story of both ambition and strain. Tower cranes rise beside older suburban blocks, evidence of a city growing faster than it ever expected to. With population growth reshaping nearly every aspect of life in the city, we reached out to Mayor Patrick Brown to discuss how Brampton is responding to this rapid change.

According to the latest Statistics Canada data, Brampton's population has surged by 10 per cent—enough to surpass Mississauga in size, a milestone that wasn't projected to happen for another three decades.

Brampton is now the seventh largest city in Canada—and the fastest-growing among the country's largest municipalities within that peer group.

"It speaks to the fact that Brampton is a destination of choice," says Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown. "When it comes to living here, whether it's great recreational

amenities, vibrant diversity, or opportunities for employment, there's a lot that Brampton offers."

The same factors drawing people in have made housing one of Brampton's most contentious issues, touching everything from affordability to infrastructure and long-term fiscal sustainability. Growth, in other words, has become a double-edged sword.

After years of escalating condo prices and soaring demand for single-family homes, the city has seen a dramatic correction. Brown notes that the condominium market, once driving the housing boom, has sharply declined, prompting Brampton to refocus its efforts on purpose-built rentals.

That strategy appears to be paying off. The city currently has roughly 7,000 rental units in the development pipeline, marking one of its strongest pushes yet to

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Rising interest rates, persistent inflation, and a national housing shortage have combined to make homeownership increasingly difficult for many residents.

diversify housing options. The mayor describes the shift as both a response to market realities and a proactive step toward addressing unmet demand in the rental sector.

"Housing prices are high in Canada, and that's not something any single city can change," he notes. "A lot of this will follow international trends."

Rising interest rates, persistent inflation, and a national housing shortage have combined to make homeownership increasingly difficult for many residents. Brown points out that while cities can do their part by streamlining approvals and encouraging construction, these broader economic forces are largely set at national or even international levels. With inflation easing and rates starting to fall, he sees signs of progress, but remains cautious, noting that global trends, including rising prices in the United States, could still influence Canada's market.

"In the U.S., inflation is going up again," says Brown. "We could see that replicated in Canada, particularly with the trade war causing costs to rise in both countries."

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Brampton's rapid growth has also created what Brown calls a "financial weight". Provincial limits on development charges mean cities can't fully recover the costs of adding new infrastructure. As a result, existing residents often end up subsidizing new growth, from roads and recreation centres to policing and fire services.

To manage these pressures, the city has streamlined its approvals process, making it one of the fastest in southern Ontario for new housing projects. City officials see that efficiency as a crucial step in helping the market respond more quickly to demand.

"We want to do well in the portion that is our responsibility," Brown says. "So, making sure there's no red tape and approvals move quickly is something we do well."

The move was designed to attract new investment into a rental market that had long lagged behind, and early results suggest it's working—developers are showing renewed interest in multi-family projects built for long-term tenancy rather than rapid resale.

That focus aligns closely with Brampton's broader planning goals, which emphasize connecting housing growth to transit. Recent projects like Church & Main, a partnership between Fengate Asset Management and The Hi-Rise Group near a downtown transit station, and the Daniels MPV community near the Mount Pleasant GO Station, reflect this approach.

"That's what we want to see—a livable, walkable city," says Brown.

While funding support from higher levels of government has helped—through programs such as the Ontario Building Faster Fund and the federal Housing Accelerator Fund—the city's needs far exceed these contributions. Brown says that Peel Region alone faces an estimated \$1.5 billion gap in infrastructure servicing costs. Grants of \$20 million or \$30 million, he says, are helpful, but not transformative. Still, they've supported progress on projects such as Habitat for Humanity builds and the Home Opportunities program, expanding access to affordable housing bit by bit.

Looking ahead, Brown's vision for Brampton centres on sustainable growth that balances new development with

livability. To him, a thriving city is one where housing growth happens alongside transit, recreation, emergency services, and education investments.

"As we build housing, we want to build the services that support that housing at the same time," he says. "You can't do one without the other."

And as he often reminds provincial and federal partners, housing is only one part of the equation.

"We're a leader in building housing," Brown adds. "But you've got to make sure the dollars come at the same time for the health care and educational investments that are required to have a complete community." **BB**

The advertisement features a dark background with the text "WORKFORCE" in large, bold, orange and white letters on the left, and "PEOPLE AT WORK" in smaller white letters below it. To the right, the text "TEMPORARY, CONTRACT & PERMANENT LABOUR SOLUTIONS" is displayed in white. Three octagonal images are arranged vertically: a yellow forklift in a warehouse, a woman smiling at a desk, and two construction workers in hard hats. At the bottom, contact information is provided: "201 County Court Blvd. #307 Brampton ON" with a location pin icon, "work@peopleatwork.ca" with an email icon, and "1-905-507-3222" with a phone icon. A QR code and a Canadian flag logo with the text "Canadian owned and operated" are also present.



# The Chicken Shop retail store and restaurant now open at original location

Maple Lodge Farms is proud to announce that, after much anticipation, the newly constructed The Chicken Shop retail store and restaurant is now open at its original location, 8175 Winston Churchill Blvd., Brampton.

Proudly Canadian, family-owned, and a fixture in the Brampton community for more than 40 years, the new The Chicken Shop now has an expanded retail offering and in-store dining experience.

"We're incredibly proud of this beautiful new space, but even more proud of what it represents—a thank you to the community that has supported us for more than 40 years. Our goal was to create a warm, welcoming place where our neighbours can count on fresh, local, exceptional quality products as a tribute to the farmers, families, and loyal customers who made this possible," said Fred Marques, CEO, Maple Lodge Farms.

## *The new store features:*

- A full-service poultry counter with fresh, locally sourced chicken, available in convenient trays and ready-to-cook, pre-marinated options
- A full line-up of Maple Lodge Farms and Zabiha Halal branded products
- A Grab-and-Go counter with rotisserie chickens, sandwiches, and salads

In addition to its chicken offerings, The Chicken Shop showcases a carefully chosen selection of locally made retail products, reinforcing its commitment to supporting Canadian suppliers and the Brampton business community.

For local businesses and customers seeking bulk


purchases, The Chicken Shop Outlet provides cases of fresh chicken in a wide variety of cuts, including Halal options, all at outlet pricing, along with popular Maple Lodge Farms and Zabiha Halal products suitable for both families and foodservice.

A key highlight of the reopening is The Chicken Shop Kitchen, a new, family-friendly restaurant within the store where comfort and flavour come together. At The Chicken Shop Kitchen, you can enjoy the inviting glow of our fireplace with plenty of comfortable seating, perfect for dining in with family or friends. Our Halal-certified menu features all your favourites, including our famous Fried Chicken, Crispy Wings, and Golden Wedges, plus exciting new menu items like our Spicy Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Chicken Tenders, and slow-roasted Rotisserie Chicken. Dine-in, takeout, for lunch or dinner, all our Kitchen menu items are made fresh daily with the same quality and care you'll find throughout The Chicken Shop.

"Walking into this new space really feels inspiring—



the atmosphere is inviting, friendly and truly made for our community," said Andrew Sanchez, Senior Manager, Retail. "Our team is committed to delivering an experience that surprises, delights, and keeps people coming back time after time."

We look forward to seeing you at the all new The Chicken Shop soon! 

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**Together, we are building Brampton and Canada Strong."**

*- Sonia Sidhu*



**SONIA SIDHU**

**Member of Parliament  
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