

## community

## Meeting demands for full-time kindergarten

MISSISSAUGA - Full-day kindergarten (FDK) is the best way to ensure our society moves forward and produces a stronger Ontario for the future, Amrit Mangat (MPP—Mississauga—Brampton South) said on December 9.

Noting the Peel District School Board's offer of 10 additional full-day kindergarten classes this year and subsequent decision to defer launching the program for the 2012-13 school year, Mangat asked the Minister of Education, "What is our government doing to meet the ever increasing demand for full-day kindergarten? Is our government doing enough to support our students? Is the Peel board under funded?"

"There are many things that must be considered and that is why we are proceeding in stages. This was communicated to school boards when we invited them to bring us their ideas on how to roll out – we made it clear what the funding would be and when it would be available," responded Leona Dombrowsky (Minister of Education).

"We have increased funding to the Peel board by 64 million dollars. That is a 70% increase in funding since 2003," Minister Dombrowsky added.

Important progress has been made. In fact, the Ontario government has increased funding in education by 40%. By 2015, all families will have access to full-day kindergarten.

In 2009-2010, funding to Peel was increased by \$64 million, and it is up almost 70% since 2003.

In addition, more than 50 new schools have been built in Peel, about a thousand new teachers have been hired, and we can see more kids in Peel in smaller classes, more kids graduating, and test scores rising.

Full-day kindergarten is an important part of the government's Open Ontario Plan. It provides kids with a strong foundation for future learning, so they can go on to postsecondary education and get a good job. Full-day kindergarten and seamless before- and after-school programs will also help busy parents save time and money.



### Air India ground-breaking

Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism (second from left), on behalf of Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, breaks ground on the final of four memorials dedicated to the victims of the Air India flight 182 bombing, along with Jayashree Thampi, representing the Air India Families Victims Association (left), and Professor Mahesh Sharma, Sunday, December 5, 2010, in Montreal.

# Govt releases Air India action plan

Roadmap to help ensure terrible and senseless act is never repeated.

OTTAWA - The Harper Government to released the Air India Inquiry Action Plan. The Air India Inquiry Action Plan is the Government's response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Investigation of the Bombing of Air India Flight 182. The Plan was announced by Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety and the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism.

"In appointing Commissioner Major to scrutinize the institutional failings that led to the worst terrorist attack in Canadian history, our Government has listened and has acted in the interests of victims when no other government would," said Minister Toews. "The Air India Inquiry Action Plan is a roadmap to help ensure that such a terrible and senseless act does not happen again."

The Air India Inquiry Action Plan responds to Commissioner Major's Report by highlighting six themes where additional action was required before, during and after the time of the terrorist attack in 1985. In ongoing work to address the remaining concerns raised in the Report, the Air India Inquiry Action Plan calls for:

Streamlining of criminal trial processes to better manage the unique complexity of terrorist prosecutions;

Modifying the federal Witness Protection Program to ensure it is appropriately suited to the types of witnesses who need protection in terrorism cases;

Strengthening Canada's framework for combating terrorist financing;

Enhancing cooperation among Canada's law enforcement and intelligence agencies in particular information sharing for national security purposes;

Examining ways to improve how security intelligence is collected and retained, and exploring the process of disclosure and the obligations of security intelligence

agencies; and Strengthening aviation security while always focusing on the areas of highest risk.

"Our government would like to thank the families of the victims in the bombing of Flight 182, which was truly an act of unconscionable cruelty, for their ongoing efforts and consultation with our government on this Action Plan," said Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. "This Action Plan demonstrates our government's ongoing commitment to combat the evil of terrorism so that other families will never suffer the same loss. As we move forward, our government commits to an ongoing consultative role for victims' families throughout the Plan's implementation."

As part of its response, the Government is also committing to an ongoing consultative role for victims' families throughout the Action Plan's implementation and to deliver regular updates on the progress being made on implementation of the Action Plan.