

Staff Writer

With Mayor Hazel McCallion as an Honorary Chair and Mr. Brian Crombie as Co Chair of Mississauga Summit, the Summit was envisioned with "the big idea" to make City of Mississauga an inclusive city to live in. "The big idea" is to create a Diversity Council that will be appointed by Mississauga City Council. It will also be funded by City of Mississauga and Peel region.

Mississauga Summit set forth five task forces. Talking to Generation Next, Mr. Crombie highlighted the significance of these task forces.

First task force was set up to work on waterfront development and revitalization of 22 kilometers of Mississauga's waterfront. Revitalizing waterfront can attract tourists, building tourism industry in the City of Mississauga.

The second taskforce was to determine how to meet the need for more postsecondary education in Mississauga. With Sheridan College set to open in September 2011 and with University of Toronto - Mississauga campus, the task force is determining how to com-

mercialize science and technology and innovation of the university to a broader level in the City.

The third task force looked into sustainability of human resources and social services. This task force has identified 13 communities with higher poverty rate in the City of Mississauga. This task force is working with 80 community organizations and agencies funded by United Way, municipality, Ontario and the federal government. However, the challenge Mr. Crombie says "there is too much fragmentation among all these groups."

The fourth task force was assigned the task of creating a centre of excellence for diversity and immigration. Mr. Crombie says 53 per cent of resident of the City of Mississauga have come to live in Mississauga in last ten years. Therefore, "inclusivity rather than just diversity is critically important," he says.

MISSISSAUGA SUMMIT SETTING UP DIVERSITY COUNCIL

"INCLUSIVITY RATHER THAN JUST DIVERSITY IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT"- MR. BRIAN CROMBIE, CO-CHAIR OF MISSISSAUGA SUMMIT



Mr. Crombie and other Diversity Council members working with The Diversity Council will be made up of people representative of all different religions, backgrounds,

cultures and economic standing. The Diversity Council will be dealing with settlement, immigration and diversity issues "to make people feel part of Mississauga."

The job of the fifth task force was to come up with innovation ideas of creating jobs in the City of Mississauga. So jobs, and recognition of foreign credentials, upgrading the qualifications and language skills "is critical."

Mr. Crombie recognizes that the focus must not be the economics only, but also to make people feel part of Mississauga culturally. "People do want to keep their culture and to have other people enjoy their culture." What is to be mindful of "too often we end up being organized into our own little group..and not often enough we work together," Co Chair of Mississauga Summit says.

He noted that for cultural collaboration and understanding there can be

many areas of the business. His most recent assignments include GM vice president and general manager of Service and Parts Operations, president and managing director of GM de Mexico, and vice president of quality for GM North America, during which time he also served as Chairman of the GM African Ancestry Network, as well as Chairman of the Funding Board for the Black United Fund of Michigan. Williams is currently a member of the GM Diversity Leadership Team.

Another daunting challenge that Mississauga Summit officials face is media outreach to all the diverse communities in Mississauga. While Mississauga News, Toronto Star and other mainstream newspapers might have reported on the Summit, Mr. Crombie concedes that "we haven't done as good a job in getting them [the ethnic media]."

Individuals like Sanjay Makkar's efforts led to a couple of shows at OMNI, nonetheless Mr. Crombie and others in the Summit look toward "to people in a lead role in Summit to get publicity for the summit also. That's got to be our conduit," Mr. Crombie says, a strategy that definitely needs a revision as in "fragmented communities" people work to serve their own individuals goals as well.

Bridges Award in 2009, Automotive Company of the Year in 2007, and the Trade Advocate Award in 2007. Headquartered in Oshawa, Ontario, General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) employs over 9,000 people across the country and is a recognized leader in green manufacturing. GMCL markets the full range of fuel-efficient Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac vehicles and related services through Canada's largest automotive dealer network, which employs over 23,000 people dedicated to delivering a top customer experience. GMCL also plays a leadership role in automotive design and engineering, engaging in innovative research and development partnerships with leading Canadian universities and research institutes. In addition, through its Canadian Engineering Centres, GMCL conducts development activities ranging from cold weather testing to the advancement of key electric vehicle and green technologies. www.gm.ca.

'TRAILBLAZER AWARD' FOR GM CANADA

Kevin Williams, president and managing director of GM Canada, was recognized today for his innovative leadership and commitment to workplace diversity, receiving the "Trailblazer Award" during the 2010 Global Automotive Summit held by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

"I am honoured to pay special tribute to Kevin's many successes and commitment to helping others," said Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., president and founder of Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

"Despite challenges that prove insurmountable to many, Kevin sets a strong example as an inspiration to us all."

Williams is the first GM executive to receive the "Trailblazer Award" from Rainbow PUSH, a progressive international membership organization advocating for social change. The award is presented to those who have not only



achieved success as corporate leaders, but who have also assisted in paving the way for others.

The youngest of 12 siblings and the first to earn a college degree, Williams began his GM career in 1983 as a reliability analyst at Buick City in Flint, Michigan. Williams has steadily progressed to hold leadership positions across

"While I never expected to be recognized simply for doing the right thing, I hope that we can all use milestones like these to re-focus, re-calibrate, and continue pushing for positive change"

- Kevin Williams, president and managing director of GM Canada