Twitter Thread by raina douris



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fascinated by this man, mario cortellucci, and his outsized influence on ontario and GTA politics. cortellucci, who lives in vaughan and ran as a far-right candidate for the italian senate back in 2018 - is a major ford donor...



his name might sound familiar because the new cortellucci vaughan hospital at mackenzie health, the one doug ford has been touting lately as a covid-centric facility, is named after him and his family https://t.co/bNaCYclNpB

but his name also pops up in a LOT of other ford projects. for instance - he controls the long term lease on big parts of toronto's portlands... where doug ford once proposed building an nfl stadium and monorail... https://t.co/weOMJ51bVF

Developer donates

An influential Vaughan developer, who donated generously to Mayor Ford's pre- and post-election fundraising drives, controls a long-term lease on the Port Lands' Hearn Generating Station, which has been proposed as a site for an NFL stadium by the mayor's brother Doug.

Developer Mario Cortellucci, together with various relatives and individuals who listed his company's premises on their donor forms, contributed $30,000 to the mayor's campaign, about half of which was raised following the election as part of a multi-candidate effort to eliminate campaign deficits. He also secured a private meeting with Rob Ford, according to scheduling documents released under access to information laws.

The figures, based on election contribution filings, were compiled by York University political scientist Robert MacDermid. "The important point here is that when a councillor or mayor runs a deficit and wins, every person seeking influence crowds into the subsequent fundraising events."

Adrienne Batra, the mayor's spokesperson, says Mr. Cortellucci wanted to discuss a charitable organization Mr. Ford and his brother Doug "might be interested in getting involved in." Neither Mr. Cortellucci nor Doug Ford responded to requests for interviews. Ms. Batra declined to reveal the charity, saying it was a "private meeting."

cortellucci, who is a developer, also owns a large chunk of the greenbelt. doug ford's desire to develop the greenbelt has been well-documented
https://t.co/d2phLJHrrO

and late last year he rolled back the mandate of conservation authorities there, prompting the resignations of several members of the greenbelt advisory group
https://t.co/udWa1LhIm7

there he is again! https://t.co/dcuWfsFElp

But the NDP questions why so many of the projects getting this provincial green light are run by developers friendly to the governing party.

Two minister's zoning orders issued by the Ford government this year benefited two companies linked to longtime PC party donor Silvio DeGasperis, according to the NDP's research:

- An order issued in April allows TACC Holborn Corp. to develop a property on The Gore Road in Brampton.
- An order issued in November gives the go-ahead to the Block 41 Landowners Group to develop farmland in Vaughan, north of Teston Road and east of Pine Valley Drive.

Another order allowing development in Vaughan, at the southeast corner of Rutherford Road and Jane Street, came at the request of real estate development firm The Cortel Group.

Its president is Mario Cortellucci, who along with members of his extended family, donated more than $12,000 to Ford's PC leadership campaign, according to Elections Ontario records.

back to mario cortellucci's italian senate run -- he ran under berlusconi's coalition that promoted anti-immigration and anti-lgbtq policies, as well as the closure of mosques. https://t.co/JFPwUDQXqJ

Amnesty International recently attributed 95 per cent of the discriminatory, racist and hateful discourse in the Italian election to the vile coalition Cortellucci ran under.

This reckless coalition seeks to normalize anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ and anti-immigrant discourse within Italy, and pretend their prejudice toward women is acceptable. Members of this coalition have been behind the following: demanding the closure of 800 mosques; a pledge to kick out half a million undocumented migrants if elected; a promise to rename a road after a famous Italian fascist.

vaughan mayor maurizio bevilacqua faced an integrity complaint after endorsing cortellucci's run. https://t.co/248XQmifev

while there's nothing illegal about cortellucci's senate run, or his donations - i think this stuff is important to know. ford and his donors rely on no one paying attention to these things so they can keep doing what they're doing.

but citizens should be aware of who is behind the decisions that affect them, to whom our politicians are beholden , and how having deep pockets means you can sway democracy in your favour - while hiding behind 'philanthropy'

this is especially relevant now, as doug ford ignores pleas for paid sick days, which he cut at the beginning of his term. @goldsbie looked into that... https://t.co/9IpiDOFvYI

> I was curious about the people who asked the Ford government to get rid of paid sick days\u2026 pic.twitter.com/rJPW9pXKMz
>
> — Jonathan Goldsbie (@goldsbie) January 12, 2021

and, while he protects the private long-term care home industry from the consequences of their actions during covid-19... for some reason.



i believe it is irresponsible to report on the actions of our leaders without giving context. stories don't happen in a vacuum. @fordnation isn't just sitting in a room making "the best decision" -- he has friends and family -- and favours to return.

and so far we know this is a guy who surrounds himself by far-righters, alt-righters and anti-vaxxers. food for thought. i'm very tired now.

and before you say "but politicians accept donations all the time" - don't forget that the fords have tried to keep this a SECRET since back in the robbie days!

Media relations [edit]

Over his career, Rob Ford frequently criticized and came into conflict with the media. Not long after his election, *NOW Magazine* published a fake nude photograph of Ford on its cover, with a strategically placed fig leaf. The issue (*NOW* is distributed as a free weekly) was initially removed from all locations at City Hall and later returned.[51] While Ford did not ask for an apology, his supporters on council did, but *NOW* refused. The *Toronto Star* and Ford began an ongoing dispute. Several columnists regularly wrote critical articles of Ford.[52] In response, Ford refused to meet with *Toronto Star* reporters and in December 2011, the *Toronto Star* filed a complaint with the City of Toronto's integrity commissioner.[53]



Ford speaking to reporters in April 2011

The doors to the mayor's office that had been symbolically open during Mayor David Miller's term were shut. Ford's press secretary Adrienne Batra kept Ford's meeting schedule secret except to freedom-of-information requests. After reporters asked if Ford had met with one of his campaign donors, Vaughan developer Mario Cortellucci, Batra stopped including the names of Ford's meeting partners.[3] Batra later left the mayor's office to join the *Toronto Sun*.

and if you'd like to start on @Sflecce's ties to vaughan developers... here you go https://t.co/cJpdJ7JdA6