

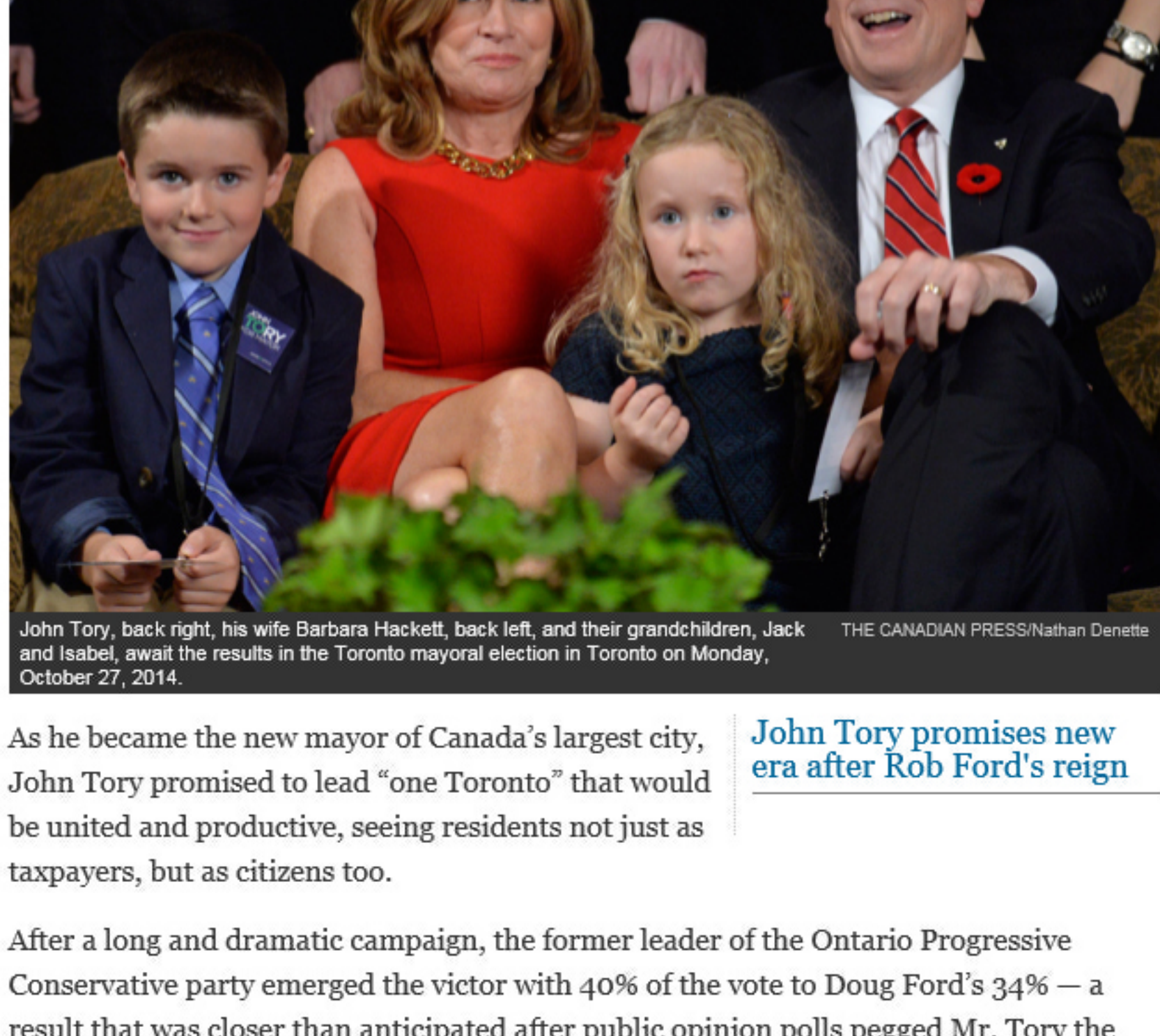
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Election of John Tory puts end to scandal-plagued Ford administration

SARAH BOESVELD AND RICHARD WARNICA | October 27, 2014 | Last Updated: Oct 28 9:33 AM ET

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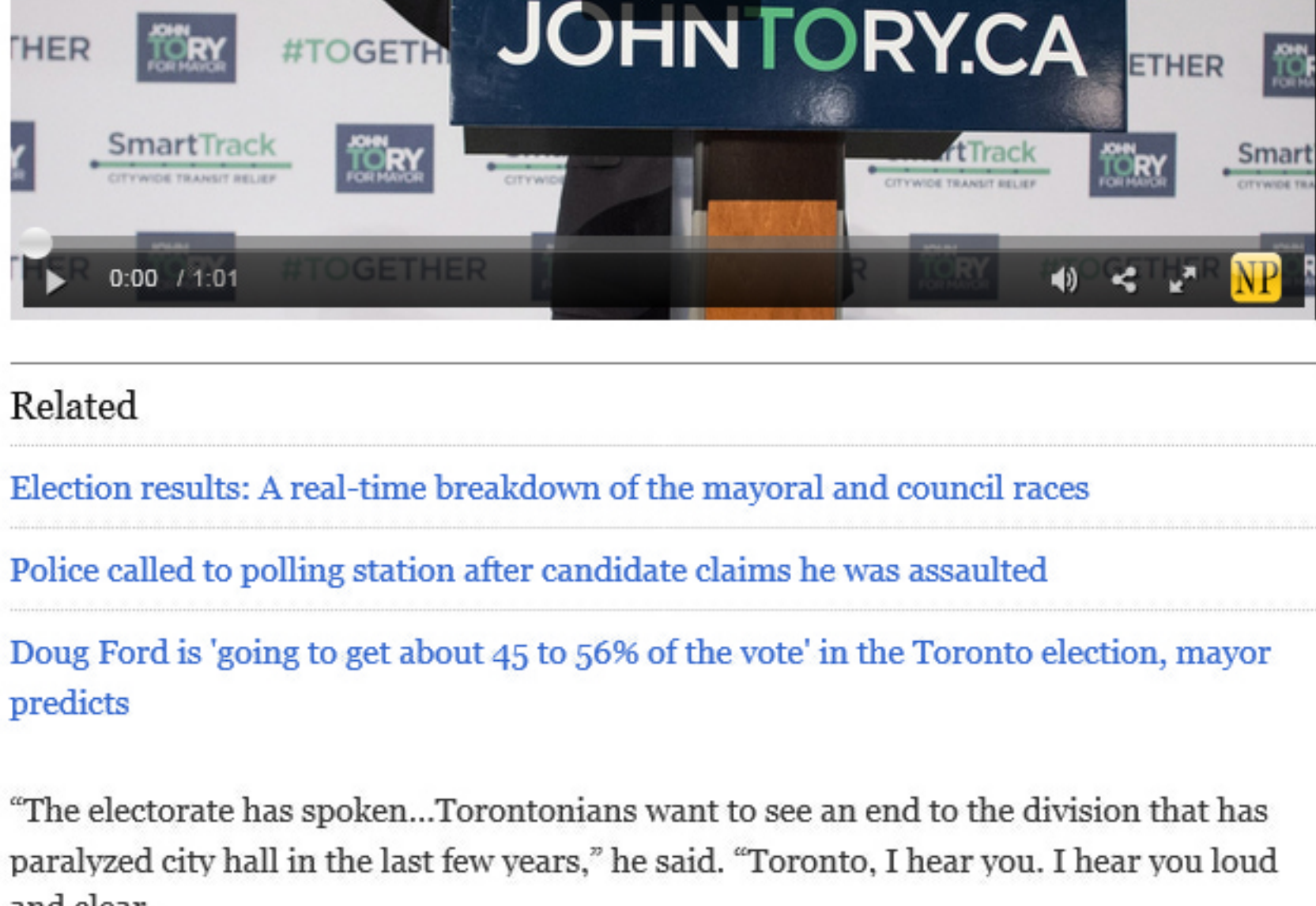


As he became the new mayor of Canada's largest city, John Tory promised to lead "one Toronto" that would be united and productive, seeing residents not just as taxpayers, but as citizens too.

John Tory promises new era after Rob Ford's reign

After a long and dramatic campaign, the former leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative party emerged the victor with 40% of the vote to Doug Ford's 34% — a result that was closer than anticipated after public opinion polls pegged Mr. Tory the clear winner for the past three months. Former NDP MP Olivia Chow trailed with 23%.

It's a change in leadership that officially ends the scandal-plagued Ford administration and aims to begin an era of consensus-building at city hall. Mr. Tory indicated as much in his victory speech before a jubilant crowd at Liberty Grand Monday night, showered by a wave of blue, green and white balloons that dropped from the ceiling.



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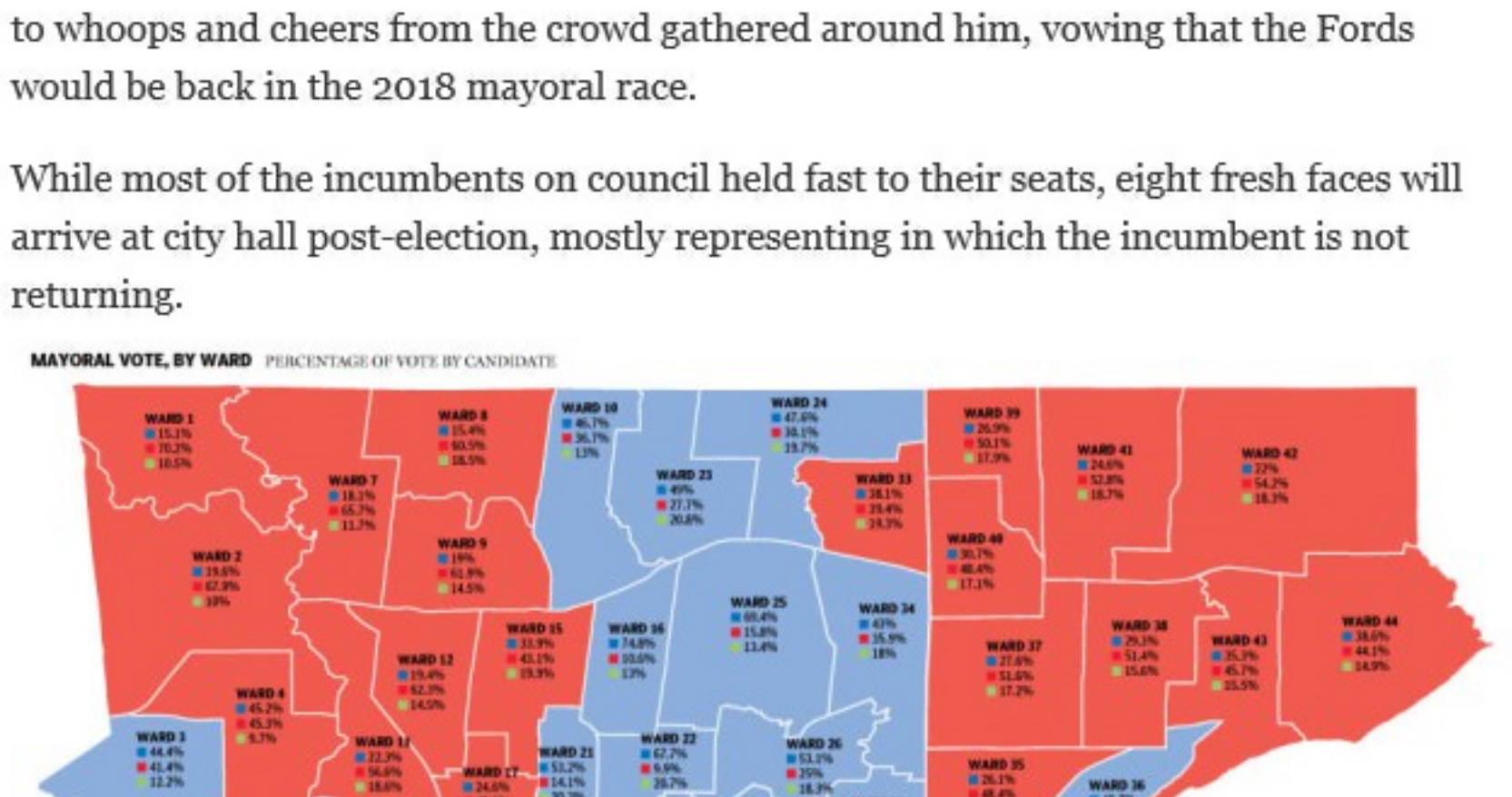
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"The electorate has spoken...Torontonians want to see an end to the division that has paralyzed city hall in the last few years," he said. "Toronto, I hear you. I hear you loud and clear.

"As your new mayor, I will work with the council that you elected tonight in moving Toronto not left, not right, but forward," he told supporters. "I will be a balanced and accountable leader, and we're going to do this together. Tonight is not a victory for any one person. It is a victory for Toronto."

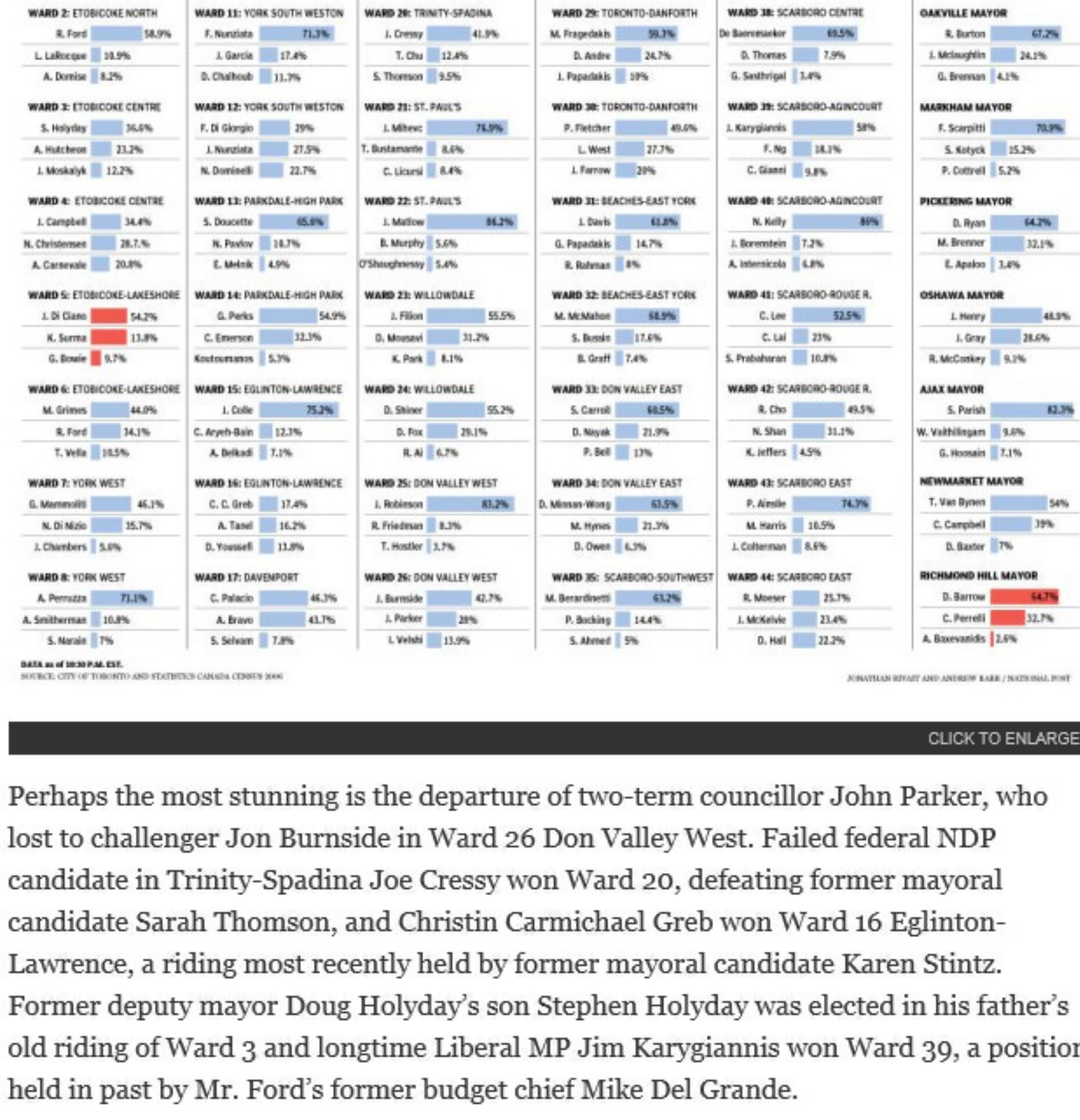
Though the Fords would not continue in leadership at city hall, outgoing Mayor Rob Ford handily won back Ward 2 Etobicoke North, the seat he held for a decade before being elected mayor. His nephew Michael Ford won the school trustee position in the same ward.

Bald following chemotherapy, Mr. Ford seemed energetic and upbeat despite his brother's loss to Mr. Tory.



"If you know anything about the Ford family, we never, ever, ever give up," he said to whoops and cheers from the crowd gathered around him, vowing that the Fords would be back in the 2018 mayoral race.

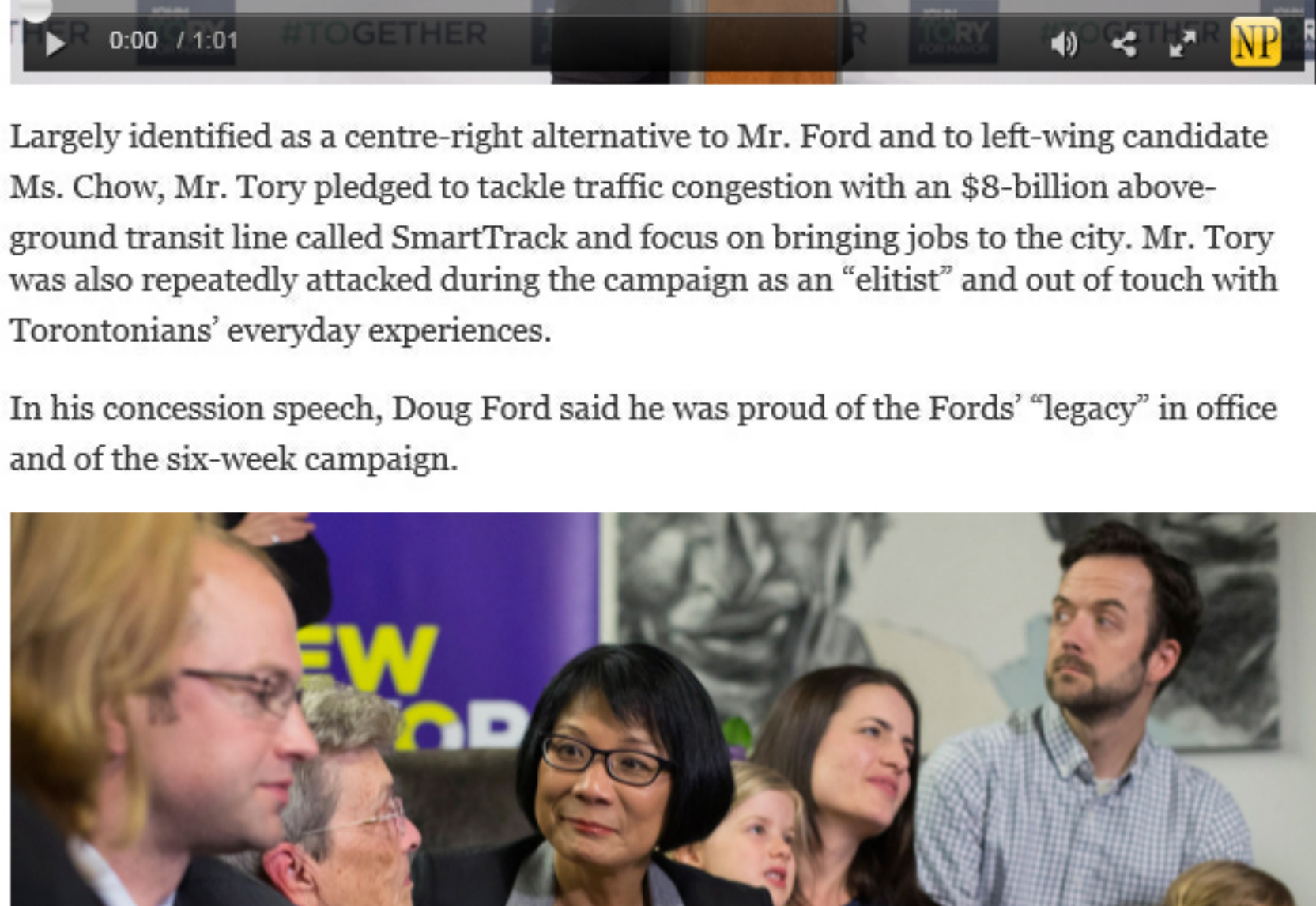
While most of the incumbents on council held fast to their seats, eight fresh faces will arrive at city hall post-election, mostly representing in which the incumbent is not returning.



Perhaps the most stunning is the departure of two-term councillor John Parker, who lost to challenger Jon Burnside in Ward 26 Don Valley West. Failed federal NDP candidate in Trinity-Spadina Joe Cressy won Ward 20, defeating former mayoral candidate Sarah Thomson, and Christin Carmichael Greb won Ward 16 Eglinton-Lawrence, a riding most recently held by former mayoral candidate Karen Stintz. Former deputy mayor Doug Holyday's son Stephen Holyday was elected in his father's old riding of Ward 3 and longtime Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis won Ward 39, a position held in past by Mr. Ford's former budget chief Mike Del Grande.

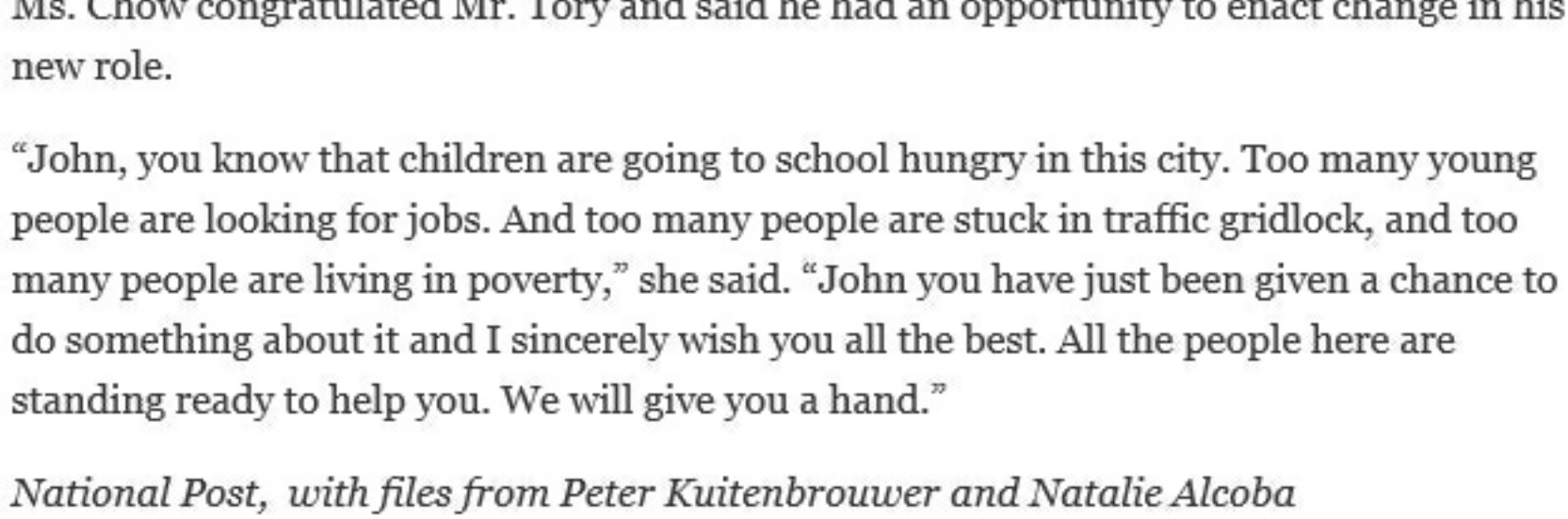
Mr. Tory, both a lawyer and a businessman, positioned himself as someone who would unify a council severely fractured during Mayor Ford's time in office — one that saw international late-night talk shows poke fun at the city's chief magistrate, who admitted to smoking crack, made graphic comments about his wife and a fellow mayoral candidate, was investigated by police and was stripped of many of his powers during his time in office. Only a cancer diagnosis would pull Rob Ford from the race, leaving his older brother Doug to leap in at the eleventh hour.

Mr. Tory ran on a platform of uniting not just the council, but also multiple levels of government, with a focus on getting things done. Being elected mayor counts as a significant victory for Mr. Tory, who famously failed to bring the Ontario PCs to victory in 2007 after his campaign's promotion of faith-based school funding flopped and he lost his seat. He also ran for mayor in 2003 and lost to David Miller.



Largely identified as a centre-right alternative to Mr. Ford and to left-wing candidate Ms. Chow, Mr. Tory pledged to tackle traffic congestion with an \$8-billion above-ground transit line called SmartTrack and focus on bringing jobs to the city. Mr. Tory was also repeatedly attacked during the campaign as an "elitist" and out of touch with Torontonians' everyday experiences.

In his concession speech, Doug Ford said he was proud of the Fords' "legacy" in office and of the six-week campaign.



"Win or lose, we always said we would run a campaign that would make us proud, and tonight we can hold our heads high," he told his gathered supporters.

Ms. Chow congratulated Mr. Tory and said he had an opportunity to enact change in his new role.

"John, you know that children are going to school hungry in this city. Too many young people are looking for jobs. And too many people are stuck in traffic gridlock, and too many people are living in poverty," she said. "John you have just been given a chance to do something about it and I sincerely wish you all the best. All the people here are standing ready to help you. We will give you a hand."

National Post, with files from Peter Kuitenbrouwer and Natalie Alcoba