

# Local politicians guarded about Patrick Brown sexual misconduct allegations

**JULIE SLACK**

jslack@miltoncanadianchampion.com

Local response has been guarded following the resignation of PC Leader Patrick Brown, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by two women.

The party was left scrambling to find a new leader in the wake of his Jan. 25 resignation. Vic Fedeli has since been selected as interim leader for the Ontario PC Party.

Brown said he "categorically" denies allegations made against him.

"After consulting with caucus, friends and family I have decided to step down as leader of the On-

tario PC Party. I will remain on as a MPP while I definitively clear my name from these false allegations," he said in a press conference Jan. 24.

Requests for reaction from local Liberal MPPs were referred to the premier's statement made Thursday, Jan. 25, at Queen's Park.

Kathleen Wynne gathered reporters in her office shortly before 11 a.m. Jan. 25 to say Ontarians are "shaken this morning" by what they've heard on the news.

"I first want to say that the young women who have shared their experiences are very brave. It was very courageous for them to step forward. In

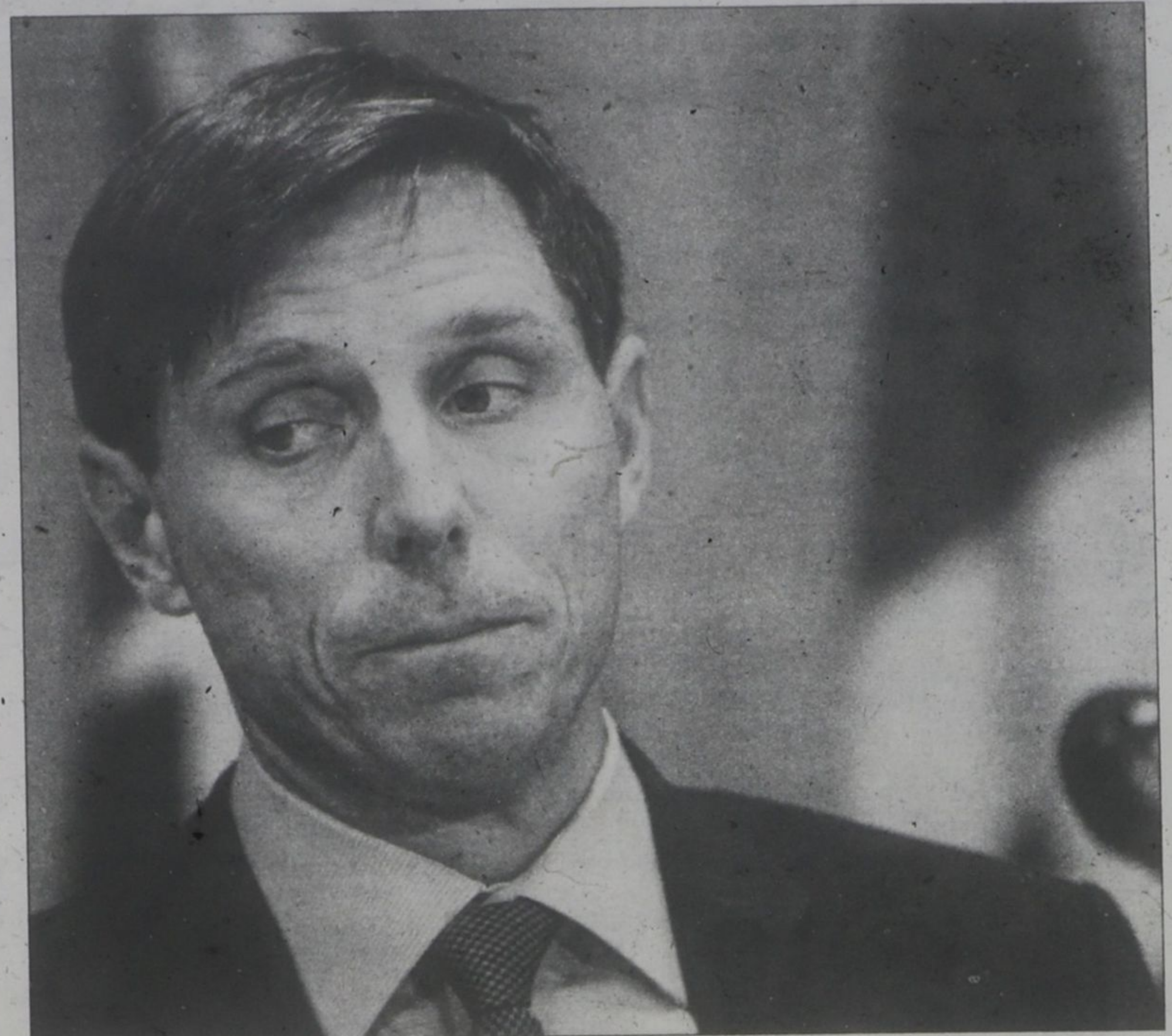
my heart, I hope that they are finding the supports that they need now," she said.

"They did a very difficult thing, and they've been carrying this for years. There's an impact to them. I hope they are safe. I hope they are surrounded by loved ones today.

"When I heard these allegations, I was shocked. And when I came to work this morning, I wanted to talk to people around the province who are reading this news and wondering what is going on."

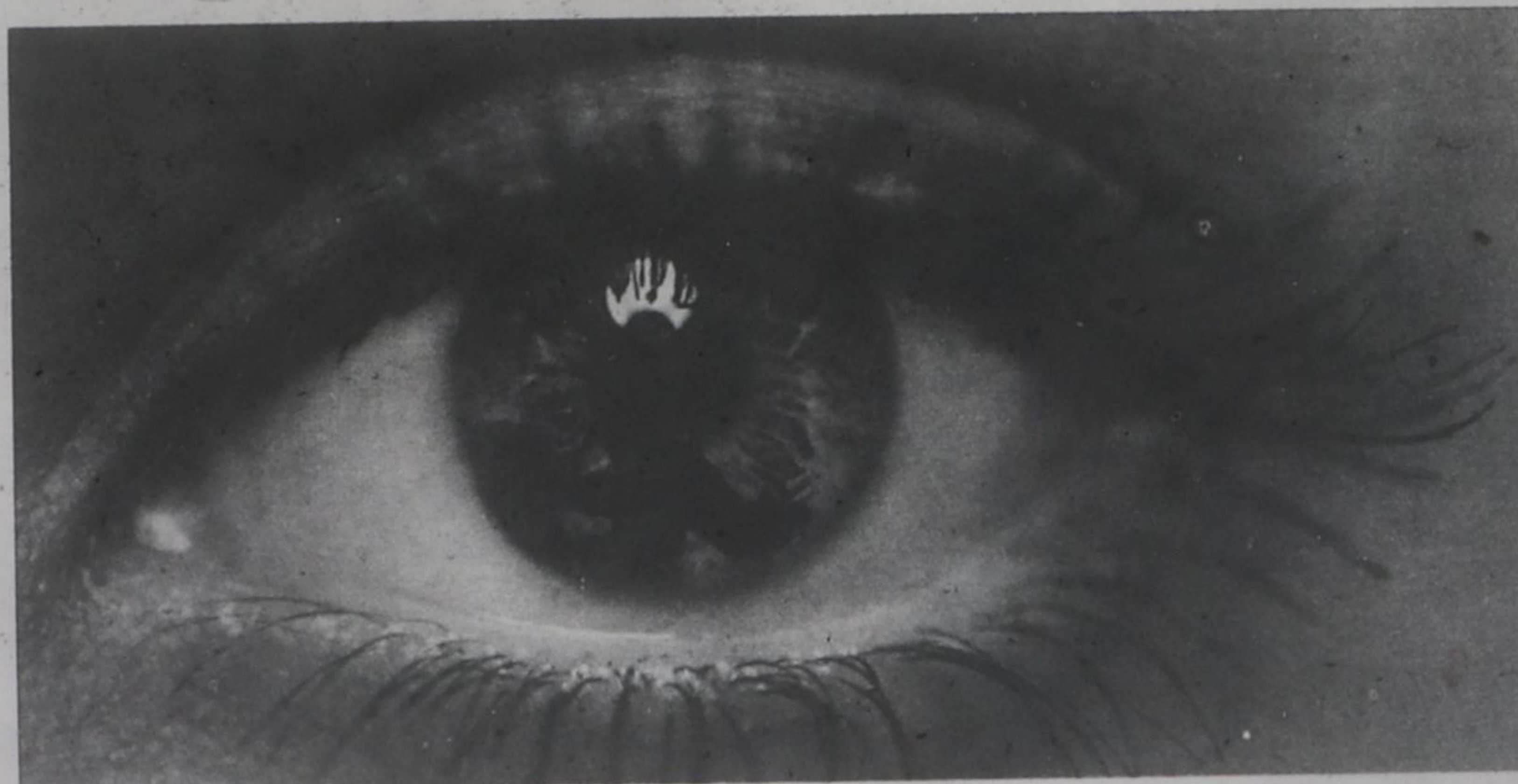
Milton PC candidate Parm Gill agreed with Brown's decision to resign, tweeting the follow-

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Rick Madonik/Toronto Star

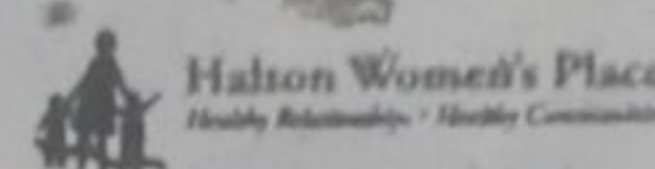
PC Leader Patrick Brown begins to leave the PC Caucus room for the late night press conference. The Ontario Progressive Party held a late night press conference to discuss possible issues around Leader Patrick Brown.



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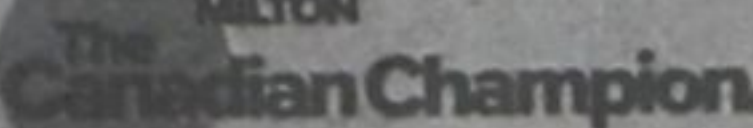


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