

MP recall idea has failed before

RENA GALANIS
Correspondent

The idea of constituents being able to oust or recall their member of parliament, is not one that was concocted out of the recent controversy surrounding MP Jag Bhaduria, say political science university professors.

"The province of Alberta experimented with recall legislation in the '30s and passed it,"

Ian Greene, political science professor at York University, said.

"However, that legislation was eventually rescinded when the province's premier, who had supported the law, was one of the politician's recalled."

Currently, there is no legal recourse constituents can take to oust an MP and force a by-election.

Also, Section 3 of the Charter

of Rights and Freedoms, states that every Canadian citizen "has the right to be qualified for membership in the House of Commons or Legislative Assembly," Greene said.

Five years ago, Nova Scotia MLA Billy-Joe MacLean, who had been convicted under the criminal code during his term in office, used that right to protect his seat, he added.

That right could also protect

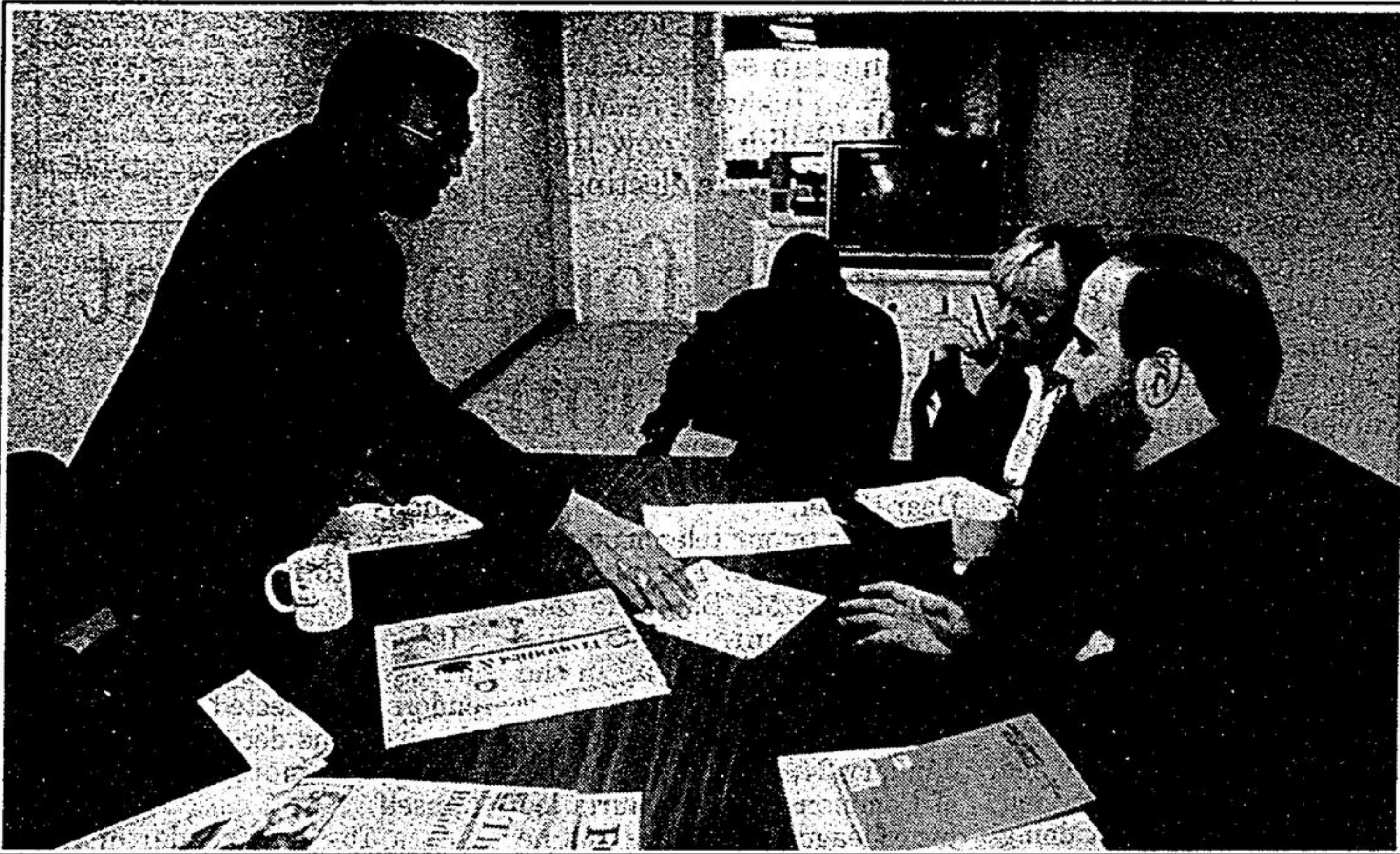
MP Bhaduria if he was forcibly removed from membership.

But the Reform Party will continue to rally for the institution of a recall law and is working in conjunction with the other parties to do just that, said the riding's Reform Party candidate, Joe Sherren in a telephone interview.

York University political science professor, Reg Whitaker, said he doesn't think such a

provision would be legislated because "it's contrary to the whole tradition of parliamentary government."

"The notion that constituents could pull back their elected representative is something the government in Ottawa would be loathe to do," Whitaker said. "Potentially, that kind of power could be used to have a party lose their majority. It's not law now and it isn't likely to be."



PHOTO/S. JOERD WITTEVEEN

Markham Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Jag Bhaduria explains the documentation he brought with him in an exclusive interview with the Weekender staff including, from left, reporter Roger Belgrave, Editor in Chief Jo Ann Stevenson and correspondent Mike Ruta.

Bhaduria defends law designation

MIKE RUTA
Correspondent

Jag Bhaduria said on Friday he never told the Liberal party he was a lawyer.

Bhaduria said the designation LL. B. (INT.), which appears on his resume, indicates a partial completion of his law degree, the bracketed letters standing for "intermediate." This designation, he said, is "an accredit-

ed qualification given by the University of London."

The Liberal Party, said Bhaduria, never asked him about this and therefore he did not misrepresent himself.

The University of London could not be reached at press time.

But councillor and lawyer Dave Tsubouchi said the designation is not in the Black's Law

Dictionary and that he's never seen it before.

"You either have a degree or you don't," he said, "it's like being pregnant."

Bhaduria said he is expecting a fax from the university which will indicate his correct use of the designation.

"At no point in the past 20 years have I represented myself as LL.B.," he said.

MP prepared to sit as independent

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done nothing wrong," he said.

"I categorically deny any falsification of documents has been done," he added.

Although he would not identify them, Bhaduria said he discussed the matter with high-level party officials.

Withdrawal from the caucus was a mutual agreement. "It was not forced on me," he insisted.

"I did not want... uncalced for embarrassment to my leader," Bhaduria explained.

Despite the present political climate, thoughts of resignation seem far from Bhaduria's mind. Bhaduria said he was given a mandate by the voters and is still competent enough to represent them.

"Within the laws of the parliament I am representing the

people," he continued. "I have done nothing illegal... for people who need me to speak on their behalf I am still available and will be available for the next four years."

He plans to remain in parliament as an independent back-bencher. This will allow him to work in parliament free of politi-

cal strings, he explained. As a back-bencher he intends to speak out much more forcefully.

According to Bhaduria, high-ranking members of the Liberal party have been well aware of his background for some time. Copies of the letters were mailed to party officials last September. He discussed the documents with officials prior to the election.

"I was told to campaign and win the riding," he said.

He concedes the letters were an error in judgement. But insists they were never meant to be threats.

Bhaduria feels he and his family have been "persecuted" by the Toronto Board of Education. Now, a trial by media has been based on insinuation.

The Ontario Court of Appeal is still scheduled to hear Bhaduria's wrongful dismissal case against the board.

In a press release sent out late yesterday, Bhaduria defended his credentials. The release was faxed to various media organizations, which had been anticipating a news conference all day.



Jag Bhaduria was jubilant at his victory reception after the federal election in October

Bhaduria's wife ran for trustee as Dr. Pam Power

JULIE CASPERSEN
Staff Reporter

Markham/Whitchurch-Stouffville MP Jag Bhaduria's wife ran in the last municipal election using the name Pam Power but was included on the voters list under both names.

Pushpa Bhaduria vied for the seat of public school trustee in Markham Wards 4 and 6 but did not attend any all-candidates meetings or talk to the press about her campaign.

The MP told the Weekender yesterday his wife "felt persecuted" and wanted to distance herself from the Bhaduria name after being turned down for jobs and promotions at work.

"She has applied for more than 1,200 to 1,500 applications. She has not got a job," Bhaduria said. "She tried for four years to get an interview with the (York Region Board of Education) superintendent of education."

He said his wife legally changed her name to Pam Power some years ago because of the stigma attached with his name. "I know the reason she has not got a job is because she's Mrs. Bhaduria, the troublemaker's wife," Bhaduria said. "She said 'I wash my hands of you, I'll change my name.'"

The Town of Markham clerks department confirmed this week that Pushpa Bhaduria was listed as a homeowner at 4 Westmoreland Ct. on the initial voters list. Pam Power was added to the supplementary list of voters compiled closer to the November 1991 election. Power's

address is also 4 Westmoreland Ct. and is categorized as the owner's spouse.

A call to the house Thursday was answered by Bhaduria's daughter. She told the Weekender that no one named Pam Power lived at the address and she had never heard the name. Even the people the Weekender contacted who had signed Power's nomination form said they had never met anyone with that name although they admitted knowing Jag Bhaduria.

Harry Ramnarine said he "can't recall" anyone named Pam Power but added he "signed so many forms for him (Bhaduria)."

Parakash Khanna "had no clue" about Power's identity. "I don't remember anything," she said.

Town of Markham Clerk Bob Panizza said it will never be known if Pushpa Bhaduria voted twice. "All the records were destroyed after 90 days (including) the voters' list and the ballots," he said.

Panizza said a complaint of double voting can only be lodged within 90 days after an election.

The clerk also confirmed that Jag Bhaduria is listed as Power's financial officer who witnessed her statutory declaration stating that she spent less than \$2,000 on her campaign.

Power's opponent Bill Crothers, who won trustee seat, said Pushpa Bhaduria's actions during the campaign were inappropriate. "It's a complete disrespect for the whole process. It's very very dishonest."

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