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**Tuesday, February 10, 1998**

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**The Tribune**

# York Region students rally at movement to end child labour

**MIKE ADLER**  
 Staff Reporter

Child rights advocate Craig Kielburger spots Maya Dattani in the front row and he makes her stand up.

"This is Maya," Kielburger said, waving the student's arm for her.

Then, in front of teachers and dozens of her peers, the tall 15-year-old who has toured continents and met prime

ministers for this cause, told Maya to name an issue. In seconds, she did.

"Maya's 11 years old and she wants to start a group on children's rights," announced Kielburger.

He asked who would help Maya. Immediately, every person in the gym at the local school stood up.

Founder of Free the Children, Kielburger is a gifted speaker with more than two years of gruelling experience.

## EDUCATION

Half-awake — he returned from Switzerland the night before — he deftly produced news clippings and other items, at one point snatching a Nike cap off a boy's head to make a point.

Every person has a gift, and knowledge is power, he stressed at Free the Children's leadership conference for York Region students held in Markham Friday.

His slides told compelling stories, ones that have pushed the world to end child labour.

One showed a boy, 14, liberated from servitude in northern India but still bearing scars from hot irons on his throat.

That's where he was branded for trying to escape, Kielburger said. "His master wanted to show him that he would forever be a slave."

Another slide showed an eight-year-old girl in Madras, India, who works, without gloves or shoes, to separate plastic from used syringes.

"She earns two and a half cents American per hour," Kielburger told his audience after inviting them to guess her pay.

"Research," he said, impresses adults, who at the beginning patted Kielburger's head because they thought his crusade for rights was cute.

Yesterday, he had teachers standing as well as children. He had them shouting that they could change the world, and then shouting it louder.


"They always say that exact same thing," Kielburger said later. "Yes, I want to become involved."

But as an older member of Save the Children, he added, he's already "passing the torch" to other members, like Laura Hannant, 12, a conference goer from Ottawa.

"It's an organization of children helping children. We want to keep that," Kielburger said.

Dattani, willing to sacrifice most of her magazine subscriptions to help, thought the group's mission was cool.

"I want to do what they do and what Laura does. It's really important," she said later.

 **Ministry of Transportation**  
 Ontario

**INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**HIGHWAY 48**  
**AURORA ROAD TO MOUNT ALBERT SIDE ROAD**  
**W.P. 301-97-01**

**THE STUDY**  
 The Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) has initiated a detail design study to examine improvements to Highway 48, from Aurora Road to Mount Albert Side Road. Various alternatives are being considered to carry out this work. Subject to the final outcome of the study, the Ministry is proposing to resurface this section of highway, and construct a southbound truck climbing lane from south of Mount Albert Side Road to Davis Drive.

**THE PROCESS**  
 This study will follow the Provincial Highways Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Process approved for highway projects of this type. There is opportunity at any time during the Provincial Class EA process for public input. If any person feels, after consulting with project staff, that serious environmental concerns remain unresolved, it is their right to request that the project be subject to an Individual Environment Assessment. The decision rests with the Ministry of Environment. Reduced Documentation may also occur if no significant environmental effects are anticipated. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE**  
 A Public Information Centre (PIC) for the project will be held in Summer 1998. Further notification will be forthcoming closer to the scheduled date.

**COMMENTS**  
 For further information or to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact:

Mr. Russell Barr, P. Eng Consultant Project Manager Dillon Consulting Ltd. 100 Sheppard Avenue East 3rd Floor North York, Ontario M2N 6N5 Phone: (416) 229-4647 ext. 341 Fax: (416) 229-4692	OR	Ms. Sheri Graham, P. Eng Project Manager Ministry of Transportation 4th Floor Atrium Tower 1201 Wilson Avenue Downsview, Ontario M3M 1J8 Phone: (416) 235-5519 Fax: (416) 235-4008
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