

## Stouffville Tribune

Serving the community since 1856  
A Metroland community newspaper  
9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ont. L3P 1M3

PUBLISHER Ian Proudfoot

### EDITORIAL

## Immigrants need co-ordinated service

Imagine setting foot on a busy street in Beijing, with two children in tow, to look for a job and place to live.

No one can understand you and because you look and sound different, have no established credit and no idea about the culture, you can't find help to start a new life.

That's the way many of the 260,000 immigrants now in York Region likely began their first days in Canada.

With about a third of York's 775,000 residents being newcomers, that has to change.

As more people file into Canada over the next two decades, York Region must keep pace with a growing demand for language services, settlement and adaptation programs, affordable housing and job training.

While immigration responsibility lies primarily with the federal government, municipalities and social service agencies must work together to entice skilled workers to the region to offset an aging and dwindling workforce.

You can't provide a lifestyle for immigrants if the services that help them begin new lives are inefficient. York Region needs to co-ordinate with other levels of government to establish a single resource centre for immigrants.

The centre would be a one-stop shopping experience where newcomers could find all the support they need to settle in comfortably and to quickly begin working, paying taxes and contributing to our federal retirement plans.

The main agency streamlining this often isolating process is Catholic Community Services of York Region, which receives funding from Ottawa, Queen's Park, the Catholic church and United Way of York Region.

Settlement counsellor Felina Rezza admits resources in the region are slim to none.

While well-educated immigrant families are waiting to become productive members of society, they are faced with impatient, unco-operative employers, school boards with insufficient English as a second language programs and a lack of affordable housing, she says.

On the bright side, York Region and social service agencies, such as the United Way, are gathering information to change the way immigration is handled and to ensure the area will attract qualified tradespeople and skilled professionals from around the world.

And with Ottawa setting an ambitious new target of allowing an additional 300,000 newcomers into Canada each year, offering opportunities to settlers would benefit York Region.

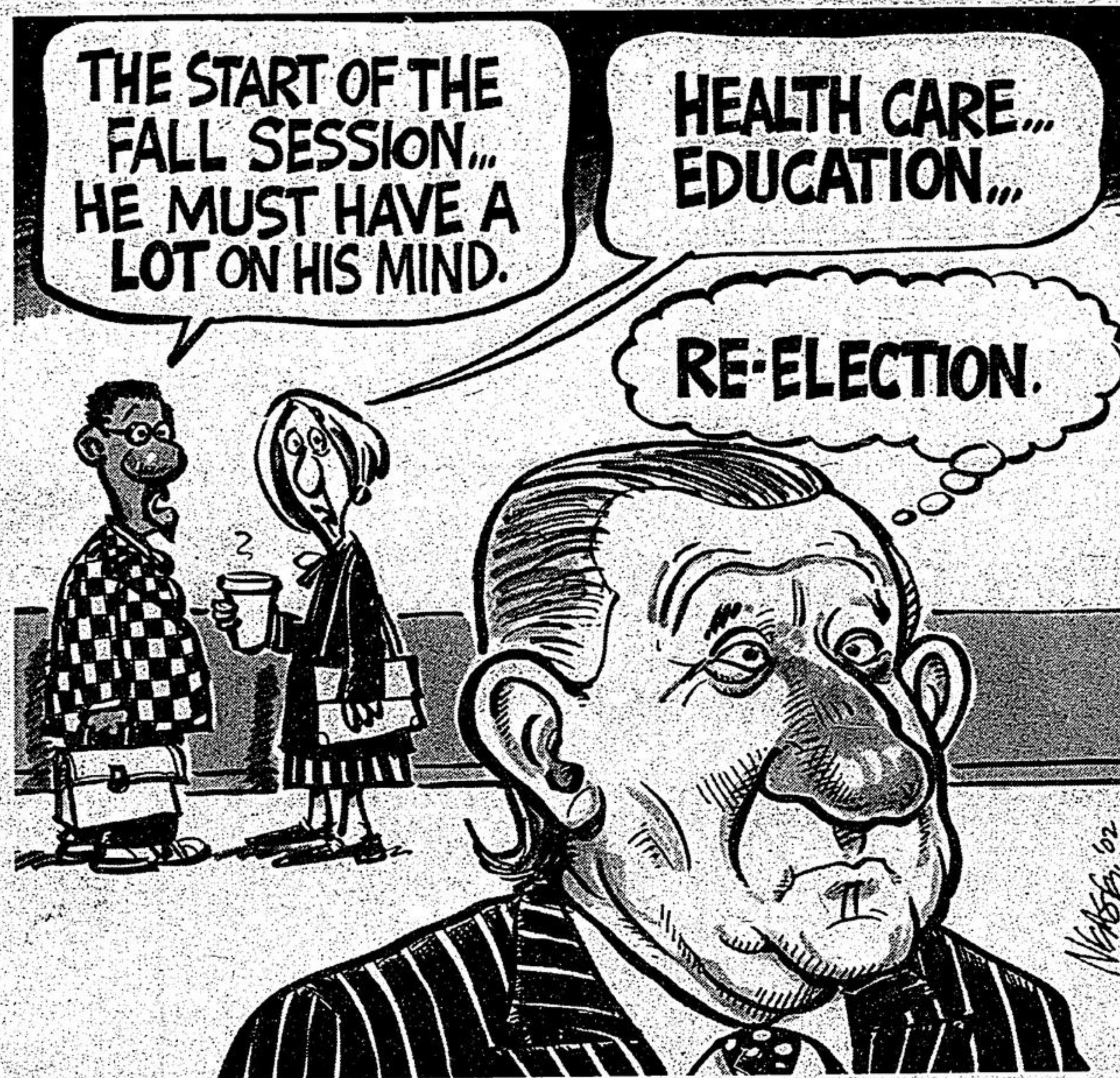
What the region could do to help clear a major job-seeking roadblock is better educate employers on the benefits of hiring new Canadians. Perhaps the provincial or federal governments could offer incentives or tax breaks for businesses providing training.

With the United Way holding discussions this fall with various communities to talk about barriers and ways to improve gaps in services, York Region is making a breakthrough.

# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Speed bumps not answer

*Re: Speed bumps: no fun if you're having a baby, Joan Ransberry's column, Sept. 19.*

I fully agree with Joan on the proposed speed bumps or humps in Whitchurch-Stouffville. They are not slowing down the overall speed, just at the location of the bumps. The speeders are burning their tires in between.

Also, I can see the concern for our emergency vehicles, as they are speeding to accidents of an acute emergency. Would you like to see an ambulance racing to the hospital with a patient who has suffered a heart attack having to come to a sudden stop because the front end is damaged due to speed bumps?

We have only one ambulance in Stouffville. When ours is disabled, we have to wait for ambulance service from Markham.

Would Whitchurch-Stouffville council take full responsibility when this happens and the patient dies due to the extra time involved?

I can see the day when, due to the speed bumps, the repair to ambulances will cost us taxpayers an arm and a leg. There's also the family of the deceased, who can then sue the town for millions of dollars.

The planners in our town better take a second look at the condition of some of our roads, like Blake, Manitoba and O'Brien. On these streets, it is impossible to go over the speed limit.

J. VERHOOG  
STOUFFVILLE

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### Smokers have themselves to blame

As a high school student, I know some of my classmates smoke frequently. It is no problem for me talking with them when I see them lighting cigarettes. What confuses me the most is why they enjoy killing themselves so calmly.

I think schools and media provide enough information warning what tobacco will do to users and they all know that, surely.

A right-thinking person cannot watch himself or herself dying for a known reason without prevention.

My friends smoke because of the way they think they look when they smoke.

So the main pusher is not advertising, not peer pressure, not others — smokers make themselves smoke.

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Debora Kelly

## Let's worry about global warming

How was your summer?" people would ask, as the return to routine arrived as predictably as did September.

"It was awesome," I'd reply, a big smile lighting up my tanned face.

"Isn't this weather absolutely amazing?" I'd add in a blissful cadence.

What kind of an ignorant, self-absorbed hedonist am I?

Soaking up the heat and every glorious ray of non-stop sunshine without a solitary concern about global warming.

I should have been worrying.

Don't get me wrong, I worry about a lot of things. Far, far too many things, according to my husband.

I worry my daughter will lose her glasses again.

I worry my son will forget to bring home his homework.

I worry after I yell at them sometimes they don't understand I love them more than anything in the world.

I worry when my husband is an hour late or so and hasn't called to let me know he's still alive. (I worry about that a lot, because he does that a lot.)

I worry we can't save enough money to send the kids to university — just how many thousands of dollars will it cost then anyway?

I worry about the state of the world since Sept. 11.

I worry about a lot of things, but, somehow, not global warming.

I'm not alone. The typical Canadian has been pretty cavalier about climate change if one can judge simply by the parade of SUVs on our roadways.

As Ottawa gets closer to signing the Kyoto Protocol, the focus is on consumers as 80 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions — the gas said to cause global warming — come from consumption, not production, of fossil fuels.

We will have to dramatically alter our energy-burning ways if Canada is to reduce emissions by the required 30 per cent over the next seven years.

Canadians produce more than 22 tonnes of the gas per capita, while in France and Japan, it's less than 10 tonnes per capita.

By getting rid of or reducing the use of our cars, we could half our personal CO2 emissions practically overnight.

Public transit has to become a fact of life for us.

The federal government is expected to provide multi-billion-dollar investments, however, given the importance of developing public transit — Kyoto accord or not — it's difficult to understand its reluctance, as well as the province's, to commit to stable, long-term funding for it.

And until that happens, I'm worrying about that now, too.