

MADD
MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
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Klees finds resistance from insurance industry in safety campaign

From page 3.

Back Group or CFGB, who hope this technology will one day be mandatory in all auto collision shops.

"This is a third party, neutral, inde-

pendent inspection facility," explained CFGB co-founder Chris Murphy. "Too many cars are being repaired without proper analysis and that can be dangerous."

MPP Klees agreed and said his bill is

the first step in regulating what is now a standard-less industry.

"When I started looking into this about five years ago I was shocked to find there are no standards at all. Anyone can open up a shop and there are no standards governing the kind of equipment used," he said.

Mr. Klees has spent two years conducting hearings with the public and industry representatives, he said.

"This is a serious safety issue, a serious business issue. The bill will introduce a framework within which standards will be introduced province-wide," he said. "There will be a system of accreditation and every collision repair shop will have to be accredited."

He admitted he's getting resistance from the insurance industry — "we're aware the insurance industry is, to a large degree, controlled by collision repair shops" — and expects opposition from shop owners as well.

"But the industry has problems. My focus is consumer protection. I'm not saying my bill is the answer to everything, it's not, but it's a beginning," he said. "I'm confident we're going to get the thing in place, perhaps using the kind of technology you have here."

CFGB co-founder Larry Behrens pointed out insurance appraisers, who often direct repair shop work, don't have the right equipment to properly assess damage to a car.

"He's the front-line guy. He decides whether the car needs a scan like CAD-SCAN or further investigation on what repair work is needed," he said. "And if he decides a scan isn't warranted, the consumer is more or less forced to take a vehicle that may be unsafe."

"It's not so much the money, it's the principle of it."

"That car was not fit to be driven. We're dealing with children, we're dealing with lives. It's very upsetting."

Meanwhile Mrs. Francisco, in full support of any additional consumer protection, will continue to fight the auto shop in court.

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For more information on Bill 165, search the Province of Ontario website at www.gov.on.ca or call MPP Klees at 1-905-707-3160.

To learn more about CADSCAN, call 1-800-918-9838 or the Markham Centre at 905-472-4507.

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