

# Flaws in health system: report

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grams delivered by local units are funded entirely by the province to avoid the current patchwork of health services.

- Reducing the number of health units from 37 to about 20, and

- Hiring more full-time nurses.

The report was critical of leaving public health standards up to local communities that may not have the funding or political will to provide adequate services.

Ms Frustaglio couldn't agree more.

"What (the current system) means is residents are totally at the mercy of whatever the public health agency in their community can afford," she said.

"That is wrong. Public health should be accessible and accountable to residents, regardless where they live."

She accused provincial and federal governments of ignoring public health for decades.

"Between the federal and provincial governments they have dropped the ball on public health."

Ms Frustaglio was impressed with the report's recommendation to establish a powerful Ontario public health agency.

"I think we need one here

similar to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta," she said.

"Why do we need to go to Atlanta? This is Canada, not a Third World country. Why don't we have a centre like that here?"

The report comes only two months after another prominent call to overhaul Canada's public health system to control infectious disease outbreaks.

*"Why don't we have a centre like that here?"*

A federal advisory group, headed by University of Toronto dean of medicine, Dr. David Naylor, handed down 75 recommendations following an investigation of how the SARS crisis was handled.

The group suggested a new Canadian Agency for Public Health.

At the same time, it demanded Ottawa invest \$700 million in new public health spending by 2007.

Dr. Naylor's report found the health system response during SARS was marred by political infighting, lack of leadership and miscommunication.

"It is long past the time for all levels of government to take action on these issues," Dr.

Naylor said.

"There is no question our ability to manage this outbreak nationally was impeded by inter-provincial squabbling and a refusal to share data."

The recommendations released in October were applauded by two York Region medical experts at the centre of the SARS outbreak in the region.

Dr. Richard Schabas, chief of staff and York Central Hospital, and the region's associate medical officer of health, Dr. Hanif Kassam, both urged politicians to move quickly to implement the report.

Dr. Schabas wasn't surprised Dr. Naylor found fundamental flaws in the health system during the SARS crisis.

"I'm not at all surprised he would find things to criticize. The key weakness was a lack of strategic leadership," he said when the report was released.

"I think everybody involved tried their best. Mistakes were made, but we can learn from them."

Dr. Kassam said implementing the recommendations would improve public health in Canada.

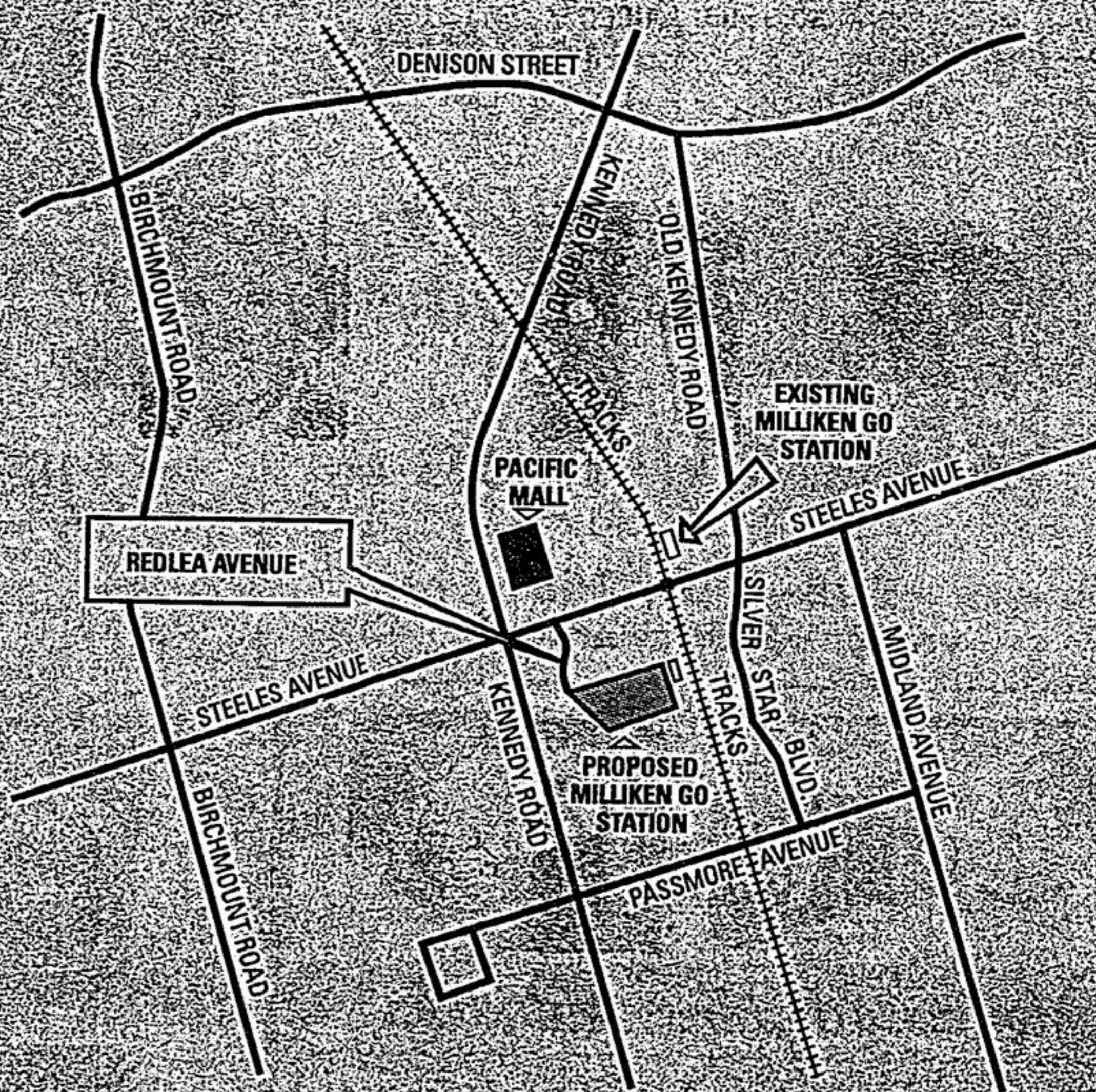
But at the same time, he cautioned no strategy can guarantee an end to infectious diseases.

## NOTICE OF COMPLETION

Milliken GO Station, Kennedy Road and Steeles Avenue  
City of Toronto

### THE STUDY:

GO Transit, the Province of Ontario's interregional public transit service for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas, has completed the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) of the Milliken GO Station in the City of Toronto. This study is in support of a relocated station including a new platform, station building, commuter parking and a passenger pick-up/drop-off area. The proposed site is south-east of the intersection of Kennedy Road and Steeles Avenue East (see map) and will include a realignment and southerly extension of Redlea Avenue, as well as traffic signals at the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Redlea Avenue.



This project has been classified as a Group B project according to GO Transit's Class EA Document. The Environmental Study Report (ESR), which documents the planning and design process for the Environmental Assessment, will be filed on the Public Record for a 45-day comment period from Friday, December 19, 2003 to Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

The Environmental Study Report may be viewed at the following locations:

Milliken Mills Community Library 7600 Kennedy Road, Unit 1 Unionville, ON L3R 9S5	City Clerk's Office City of Toronto Scarborough Civic Centre 150 Borough Drive, 3rd Floor Toronto, ON M1P 4N7
Mon.-Thu.: 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Mon.-Fri.: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fri.: 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
Sat.: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
Sun.: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	

GO Transit  
20 Bay Street, Suite 600  
Toronto, ON M5J 2W3  
Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For further information, contact:

Mr. Scott Thorburn Project Manager URS Canada Inc. 75 Commerce Valley Drive East Markham, ON L3T 7N9 905-882-4401 telephone 905-882-4399 facsimile email: scott.thorburn@urscorp.com	Mr. Greg Ashbee, P.Eng. Senior Project Engineer GO Transit 20 Bay Street, Suite 600 Toronto, ON M5J 2W3 416-869-3600, ext. 5211 telephone 416-869-1563 facsimile email: grega@gotransit.com
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Your comments about the Environmental Study Report may be forwarded to the two contacts listed above before Tuesday, February 3, 2004. If you feel that serious environmental concerns exist, you may write to the Minister of Environment, 135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5, copy to GO Transit, to request that the project be subject to a Part II Order requiring an Individual Environmental Assessment. This may result in a formal government review and process being undertaken.



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