

Emotion overcame facts in sewer debate, Klees says

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Toronto last week, some Toronto politicians are concerned the project will cause permanent damage to the water system feeding Toronto's creeks and streams.

Many didn't want to hear his message, said Oak Ridges Tory MPP Frank Klees, who attended the meeting.

"What Bill Fisch and others were attempting was to do was put some factual information forward, so whatever decision city council makes will be based on facts and in context," Mr. Klees said.

"I'm not sure that was heard by the committee. Whenever you deal with environmental matters, there's a great deal of emotion. And when you

deal with only some of the information, there are conclusions (made) that are not necessarily reality."

The region's own problems — some private wells drying up in early stages of the 16th Avenue project — are partly to blame for the stalemate with Toronto council, Mr. Klees said.

"Frankly, the region's initial response wasn't as timely as it should have been; the region has admitted that and it created some polarization," he said.

"Now, there is a full focus on the part of the region to mitigate any environmental damage in a timely manner. I'm hopeful there will be a positive outcome because you can't simply table this project. It's very important for York

Region for the immediate future as well as for the long term."

The conditions and the monitoring process imposed by the province amount to the most significant environmental scrutiny in infrastructure history, region works commissioner Bruce Macgregor said.

"This added level of scrutiny has never been seen before and, if they find we're doing anything wrong, they have the ability to charge us. That hasn't happened," Mr. Macgregor said, adding Toronto could take lessons from the region.

in sewer building. "If you could rebuild Toronto with the infrastructure (we're building) in York Region, their beaches would be open year-round," he said.

Klees ready to fight adoption law

BY ROY GREEN
Staff Writer

Oak Ridges Tory MPP Frank Klees is prepared to go to court to halt the implementation of a controversial bill to open up adoption records in Ontario.

Bill 183, the adoption disclosure legislation, was debated in the legislature Tuesday night and is expected to be voted into law within days or weeks.

"The government is being absolutely stubborn on this issue. There is no indication of

any accommodation on the veto we are seeking," Mr. Klees said yesterday. "If it is passed in its present form, I can guarantee there will be a charter challenge and we will depend on the courts to rule against it."

The bill gives adoptees and their birth parents access to adoption files containing names, medical records and other personal information.

Because it is retroactive, guarantees of confidentiality given decades ago would no

longer apply.

Instead, anyone seeking anonymity would have to prove to a tribunal that revealing their past would cause "significant harm".

The Tories agree with Ontario privacy commissioner Jane Cavoukian, who says the bill fails to protect privacy rights. Mr. Klees said it should contain a retroactive disclosure veto, which would give birth parents and adoptees the right to refuse release of information.



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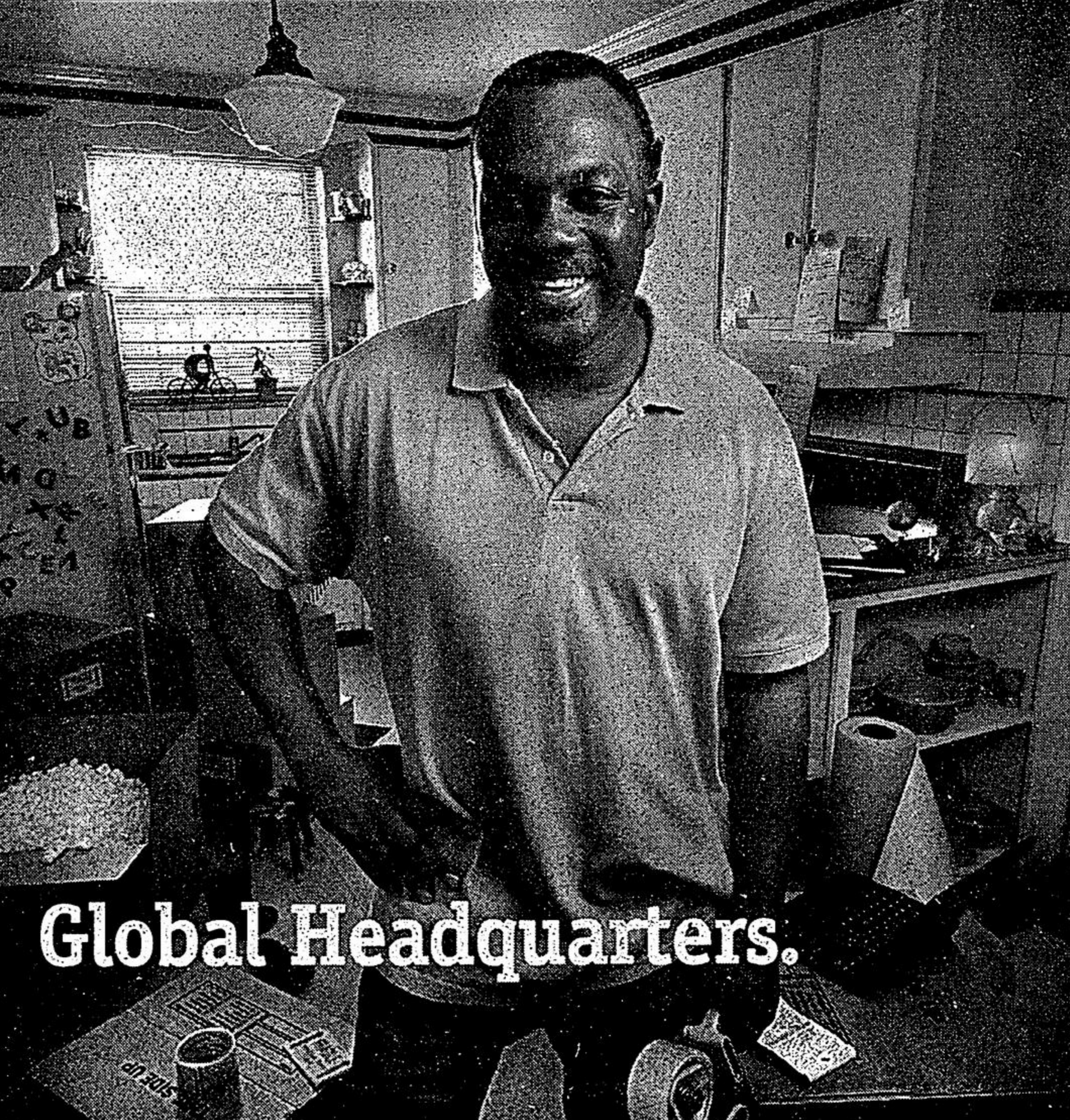
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COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING

Stouffville — The Task Force on Safe Streets and Healthy Communities, co-chaired by MPP Jim Flaherty, is coming to Stouffville, October 29th. Bob Callow, the local CPC Candidate arranged for the Task Force to make a stop in Stouffville. The Task Force has been traveling across the country meeting with a broad cross-section of people to gain a better understanding of the emerging crime issues facing our nation. The goal of the task force is together with communities, find meaningful solutions to the problems we as a nation face in crime today.

A local meeting has been scheduled for October 29th at 10 am at the Community Safety Village of York Region — Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, 3291 Stouffville, Side Road (between Warden and Kennedy). Local parents and their children are invited to come for a fun educational morning. Children will be given the opportunity to tour the safety village and learn about stranger awareness, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety and much more. At the same time, parents will also be given an opportunity to speak with MPP Jim Flaherty, Bob Callow, local politicians and community leaders to give input on how to combat the emerging crime trends across our nation.

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