

# Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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## NO VIVA WITHOUT FEDERAL FUNDING

*Region, province challenge Harper*

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
 Staff Writer

Ante up, Mr. Prime Minister. That was the message York Region and provincial politicians had for Prime Minister Stephen Harper as they announced funding for Viva transit Friday morning in Richmond Hill.

Ontario Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar was at the Richmond Hill Centre Station at Hwy 7 and Yonge Street to confirm \$7 million for design work on the transportation plan.

"We have enough money to start phase 2 but we haven't got enough to finish it," York Region chairperson Bill Fisch said.

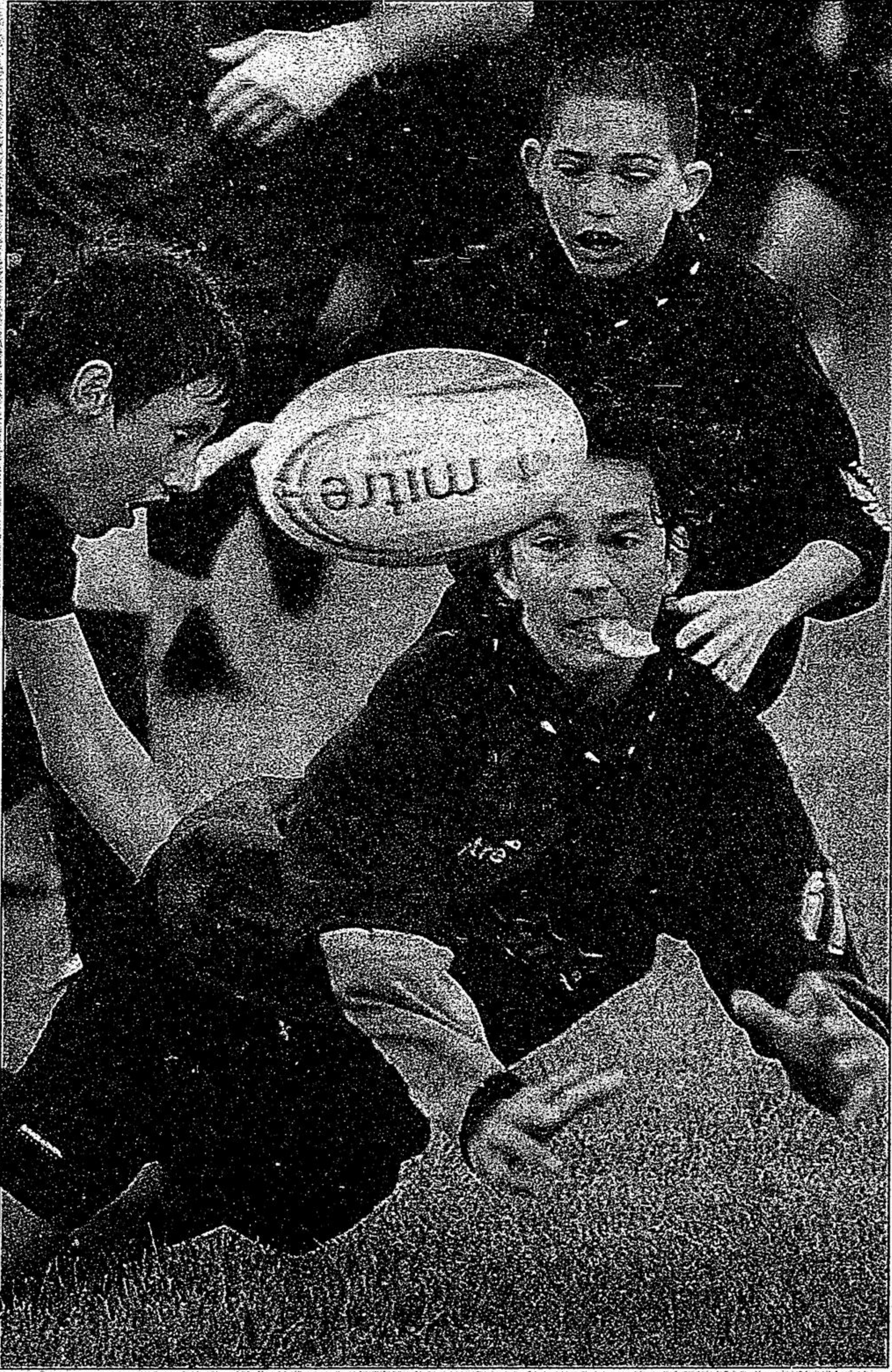
To date, the federal government has not made a specific financial commitment to the second phase of Viva.

Thus far, Mr. Fisch said the only monetary compensation he has heard coming from Ottawa is \$200 million to be divided across the province.

"It's just not going to fit the bill," Mr. Fisch said, adding regional officials will be asking federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty for specific funding.

"As we make this future investment, I want to invite the federal government to make an investment," Vaughan-King

## PASSING FANCY



Stouffville District Secondary School Spartan Lee Averill passes the ball and holds onto his mouthguard during his team's 10-0 win over Streetsville Secondary School Tigers of Mississauga at the Niner Bantam Boys rugby tourney at Fletcher's Field in Markham Thursday.

## New arrivals wait to integrate

*While immigrant population grows, funding has dropped*

BY CAROLINE GRECH  
 Staff Writer

If you are an immigrant who has recently moved to York Region, chances are you can't get into programs to help you adjust to life in Canada.

Between 1991 and 2001, the number of new Canadians in the region ballooned by 132 per cent, compared to just 31 per cent who were born and raised here.

And while the immigrant population will continue to grow by leaps and bounds, funding from the federal and provincial governments for settlement and integration services in York Region declined from \$416 per immigrant in 2001/2002 to less than \$200 in 2004/2005.

In fact, compared to other areas of the GTA, we pale in comparison when it comes to having the money to help our new neighbours.

In 2004/2005, Toronto received funding equivalent to \$873 per immigrant, Peel got \$557, Halton \$417 and Durham received \$502.

Less money can have negative effects on the work groups like Catholic Community Services of York Region does, said Stephen Lam, director of immigrant services and community programs at the Richmond Hill centre.

"We're facing increasing demand with the

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