

INCLUSIVITY CHARTER

The following charter will be used to encourage inclusive environments in government and business.

(Organization's name) commits itself to the process of creating an open, honest and unprejudiced workplace that encourages people to reach their full potential. We will accomplish this by eliminating barriers and implementing

changes so that everyone has unhindered access to services, jobs and positions of leadership.

(Organization's name) values the principles of diversity, equity and accessibility. We will continuously abide by these principles and be accountable to them as we work towards becoming inclusive within all aspects of our operations and our governance.

Our commitment to becoming a fully inclusive (workplace/organization) is grounded in the knowledge that York Region is made up of diverse communities which continue to evolve and change over time. We understand that we are part of this larger community and agree to demonstrate leadership within York Region in a proactive and timely manner, through the sharing of resources, knowledge and best practices.

Immigrant centre planned

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

Recent immigrants could soon be using a one-stop resource centre to help them find the agencies they need to integrate into York Region society.

Members of the York Region Inclusiv-

ity Action Plan announced plans for what's being called a welcome centre during a Wednesday media conference in Unionville.

The centre would help new immigrants directly, different than what a website could provide, said Patricia Robertson, a member of the welcome centre committee.

"Someone needs to go somewhere and get help from a real person," Ms Robertson said.

The welcome centre would provide direct services such as a health clinic and a contact point for social agencies, Ms Robertson added.

Regional studies show York's recent immigration population has a higher level of education than non-immigrants but also that it takes about 15 years for a newcomer to integrate into Canadian society.

"At this point immigrants are frustrated because they have to knock on so many doors for help," said Simon Cheng, a program director in human services planning at the Region.

A resource centre should be central to the immigrant population and accessible by transit, said Markham regional councillor and committee chairperson Frank Scarpitti.

Mr. Scarpitti also unveiled a new logo — a multi-hued pin wheel representing a mosaic of individuals joined at the centre and a slogan, "We are the winds of change."

A York Region Charter of Inclusivity, which spells out how ethno-cultural communities will be embraced, was also introduced.

A three paragraph manifesto, the charter will eventually go to community organizations and even businesses.



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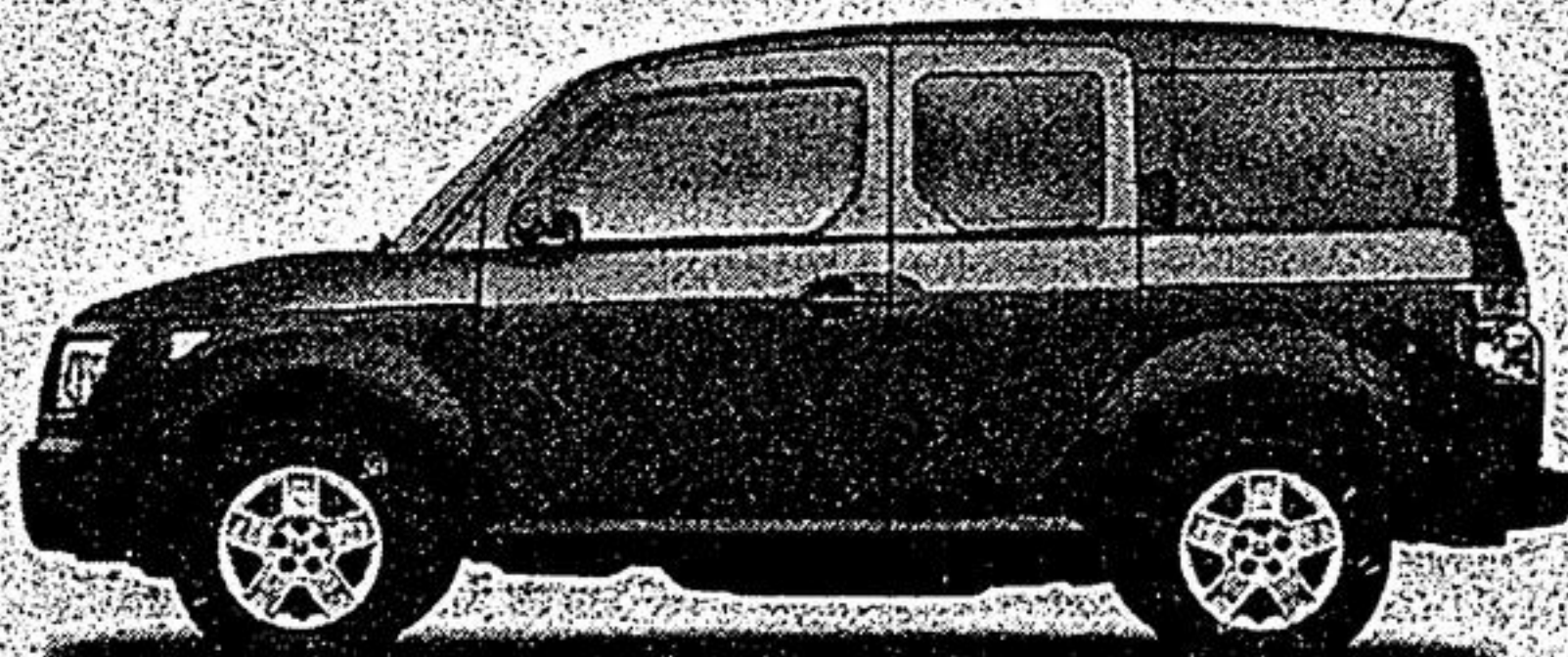
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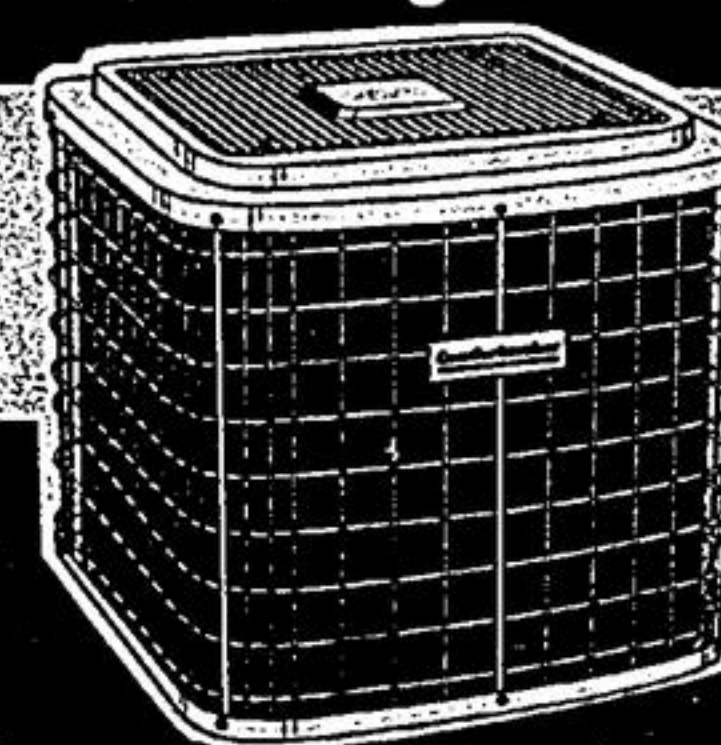
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