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Letters to the Editor

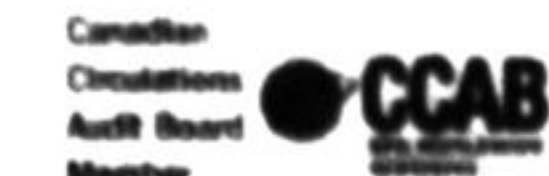
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# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Try European transit models

*Re: Frustrated transit users demand better way, Feb. 21.*

Why does everyone have to work downtown and at the same time? Why is everyone going in one direction — either to downtown or from downtown?

Long term solutions I believe we all seek are not rocket science inventions that need experimentation and money wasted to develop. The infrastructure setup I suggest is seen all over the world, especially in Europe and Asia and some American cities and has been working for centuries. I believe they're called "mega-city hubs" or "transit city hubs".

Instead of wasting money building, rebuilding, or expanding parking lots around each and every GO station, build a transit city hub directly surrounding the GO station stop.

How will this be funded?

Developers pay develop-

▶ What do you think of this issue or others? E-mail letters to the editor to [jmason@yrmg.com](mailto:jmason@yrmg.com)

ment charges/fees to build and the cities collect taxes for each project. Now add GO Transit into the mix, all deciding how the money should be spent and divided.

Investors and developers welcome this kind of future building platform and partnerships. Incentives and trade-offs can be achieved to make it a win-win situation for everyone.

I hope these ideas can be conveyed to the decision makers.

KEITH LY  
RICHMOND HILL

You can read letters, columns and stories from The Sun-Tribune on [yorkregion.com](http://yorkregion.com)



# Feminism should be goal for both genders

**F**eminism is advocacy for equality between men and women.

For the past 100 years, women in Canada have been working toward achieving the rights and freedoms that men have enjoyed, because they are men.

The right to vote and own property was one of the first steps to gaining a voice. Women strove for equality and, in 1918, Canadian women won the right to vote.

Yet in 2013, women are still vastly underrepresented in politics. Fifty-three per cent of the population of Canada is female, while 21 per cent of politicians are female.

The news that Kathleen Wynne is the first woman premier of Ontario is positive. We must take note that in her cabinet, a female minister is responsible for "women's issues". Is that not a red flag that many women's issues still need to be addressed? There is no minister for "men's issues".

Laurel Broten, minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, we hope one day to meet with you in York Region to discuss "women's issues".

Feminists are people who speak up, write and create venues to raise aware-



Angel Freedman

ness to the inequalities that women continue to face.

One of the most pressing issues remains violence against women and domestic violence; we are building more women's shelters in York Region, not tearing them down. Feminists are people who believe that abuse thrives in silence — and silent we will not be if we work together.

International Women's Day has been celebrated all over the world for 102 years. It is celebrated every year to raise awareness of women's gains and women's struggles for the equality that is their

right. Richmond Hill was the first town in York Region to proclaim the day on March 8, 2009.

In 2009, we celebrated by viewing *Iron Jawed Angels*, a film about Alice Paul and women's suffrage, when women attained the vote. In 2011, we received the rights to the award-winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*, real stories about real women.

I thank Richmond Hill MPP Reza Moridi, the only government representative to faithfully attend and speak at all four International Women's Day events in Richmond Hill. Dr. Moridi spoke about the proclamation of the first International Women's Day in Richmond Hill in 2009 at Queen's Park and remains a staunch supporter for women's equality.

We celebrate International Women's Day in Richmond Hill every year on March 8 and we will do so again this year. The other 364 days of the year, we are set to work on the many issues we still face today.

Some of those issues remain violence against women, stereotyping of women, the beauty myth, women and aging, sexualization of women, rape, reproductive rights, pay equity, poverty and the list goes on. These issues are real, right here in our communities.

This year, we present the musical, *SPIN*, about the first woman who rode her bicycle around the world, at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. with a reception and silent auction, then the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 at the box office.

*SPIN* sold out during its premiere in Toronto in 2011 and a review in The Toronto Star described it as: "part theatre, part musical gig, part spoken word poetry and part documentary ... whatever it is, it is brilliant".

The Social Services Network hosts its International Women's Day celebration Friday, March 8 at 8 Shadlock St., Unit 5A, in Markham from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

I call on women and men to join me in declaring feminism is what is needed here, in all our York Region communities and all over the world. Inequity must be addressed by breaking the silence and educating, advocating and celebrating each success, now and into the future.

I am a feminist.

Richmond Hill resident Angel Freedman, co-organizer of the annual International Women's Day event in Richmond Hill, is an individual, couple and group counsellor; visit [angelfreedman.com](http://angelfreedman.com)