

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Cho

Seconded by: Mayor Miller

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Major (Retired) Muhammad Abbas Ali- President and Founder of Muslim Welfare Centre of Toronto on April 17, 2009 at the age of 88, which he continued to run until his last breath. He was also known as a Volunteer Charity Walker from Pakistan. His motto was “Service to Humanity is Service to Allah (God)”.

Among numerous milestones he had achieved in the life time, some are listed here:

- He was the founder of Muslim Welfare Centre, Scarborough, with the branch offices located at Mississauga and Whitby that “serve the humanity irrespective of religion nationality, caste or creed.”
- Together with his wife, Sarwar Begum, life companion, established the Muslim Welfare Centre in 1993 and Muslim Welfare Home For needy Women and Children in 1995, both were of the first kind in North America.
- The Muslim Welfare Centre has established three Halal Food Banks, Halal Meals on Wheels in Toronto.
- He sky-dived 10,500 fit in September 1998 at the age of 77 for the purpose of “Support a Child-Save the Nation”.
- He walked 10 thousand kilometers since 1986 in the various parts of the globe for poor and needy and also for various, International Welfare Organizations:
 - The UNICEF, International Islamic Hospitals Society, Canadian Arthritis Society, Society for the Protection of Un-Born Children, Children in Need Program – BBC, the Canadian Association of Pakistani Media and Mohibban o Pakistan.
- He was also honored, as a first person, to walk in the modern history, covering 2,500 kilometres of distance across the Arabian Peninsula to Makkah, Madina for Hajj and Pilgrimage and Charity in the year 1981.

Major Abbas was also the recipient of numerous awards for his services to humanity from various organizations, just to name a few: UNICEF, Ministry of Citizenship – Ontario- Twice, Canadian Arthritis Society, Mayor of Scarborough, Blood Donors Shield, Commendation on Commitment to Voluntarism – The Honourable Michael D. Harris - Premier of Ontario, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Award, Outstanding Asian Canadian Community Award.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife Sarwar Begum, his children, grandchildren and all the family members.

May 27, 2009