

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Neethan Shan

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Ford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Pundit Manuelpillai Selvarajah Alexander on October 15, 2017.

Pundit Manuelpillai Selvarajah Alexander was a leading educator of the Tamil language in Canada who dedicated his life to education, teaching and passing on his knowledge of the Tamil language to the next generation here in Toronto.

Mr. Alexander was an editor of Tamil curriculum books for Grades 1 to 7 for the Toronto District School Board, and he was the chief editor for International language books for Grades 1 to 3 for the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Mr. Alexander was the author of several books on education and the Tamil language, and wrote a book called “Vettri Pera” or “How to Succeed in Life”.

Mr. Alexander was a teacher in Sri Lanka and in Toronto. He taught within the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board. Mr. Alexander was a Senior Tamil Teacher at the College of Technology and Fine Arts, a Tamil lecturer for MS University, Canada Campus, and he worked voluntarily as a teacher for 13 years until his passing for the Association of Canadian Tamil Poets, teaching creative poetry.

Mr. Alexander sought to provide the pedagogical structure needed to teach international languages, conducting several seminars in Canada and the United States about the methods of teaching international language, curriculum for international language and integrating audio-visual aids for teaching international language.

Mr. Alexander received numerous teaching and education awards, and received an honorary doctorate from Arizona University for teaching Tamil.

Mr. Alexander has shared and taught his wealth of knowledge to his co-workers, peers and mainly his pupils.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Manuelpillai Selvarajah Alexander’s family.

November 7, 2017