

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Michael Thompson

Seconded by: Councillor Gary Crawford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Hopelin (Hope) Walters on December 23, 2019, at the age of 86.

Hope was born, raised and married in Jamaica, lived for eight years in England, and immigrated to Canada with her husband and three children in May, 1970.

Hope's life was filled with gratitude, generosity, constant learning and personal growth. Unlike many new immigrants to Canada, the Walters arrived with enough money to buy a house. Grateful for her fortunate circumstances, Hope responded by sharing her home with many less prosperous and homeless new Canadians, inviting them to stay with her family for free. This generous spirit remained with her for the rest of her life.

Hope was also ambitious and hard working. During her first three years in Canada, she worked as a seamstress, looked after her family and studied for a diploma in office administration. When she completed her diploma, Hope sought out jobs that accommodated her children's school schedule. In the late 1970s and into the 1980s, this meant taking jobs as a temporary worker, and eventually a contract with Revenue Canada.

Hope went back to school in the 1980s to study Social Work, however, and when hard times forced her to drop out, she took a clerical job at the YWCA's Woodlawn Residence. At Woodlawn, she is remembered for inspiring hope in many women in need of assistance, encouraging them to overcome their difficulties and reinvent their lives.

Hope never stopped evolving. In her 60s she studied Fashion Design at Seneca College. In her 70s she travelled, and in her 80s she studied piano. Hope remained a woman of steadfast faith who was an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Highland Creek, and a member of the Catholic Women's League.

The City Clerk is requested to convey to Hopelin Walter's family, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our deepest sympathy on her passing.

February 19, 2020