



## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:** Councillor Anthony Perruzza

**Seconded by:** Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of Ben Rothman's passing on January 9, 2021.

Ben was born in Uzbekistan, where his parents fled the Holocaust at the end of WWII. His family ended up settling in nearby Ottawa. Ben was committed to social justice. As a student activist at the University of Ottawa in the 1960's, Ben ventured to Mississippi, where he participated in voter registration drives. In 1967 he went to Israel to become a Rabbi but instead ended up in the middle of the Six-Day War where he organized volunteers.

When he returned to Canada, Ben joined the United Food and Commercial Workers' Union as an organizer and later joined the New Democratic Party to organize several election campaigns across the Country. In 1972, Ben served as an assistant to Michael Cassidy, the Ontario New Democratic Party leader at that time. Michael was both an Ottawa City Councillor and an MPP. Ben managed his City Hall office in Ottawa.

Ben was kind, and his contributions to the world were extensive and meaningful. In the years he spent at Toronto City Hall, he was known for his generosity, wisdom, and understanding of the political process. Ben was someone you could always go to for a solution to a difficult problem. Ben was calm, thoughtful, and liked by everyone. He was a voice of reason in turbulent environments.

After living with health issues for a number of years, Ben passed away. Ben will be deeply missed by his partner, Cynthia Fisher, family, friends, and all of us here at City Hall and the City of Toronto.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Ben Rothman's family.

February 2, 2021