

## *Expression of Condolence for Valerie Mah by Toronto City Council*

**Moved by: Councillor Paula Fletcher**

**Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Valerie Mah on February 7, 2021.

Valerie was a dedicated local and City wide champion. She was an experienced community builder and known by many in Toronto-Danforth and across the City.

Valerie was the former Vice Principal of Withrow Public School and the former Principal of Bruce Public School. She was also the Toronto District School Board's first female Asian Vice-Principal. But most importantly, Valerie was "Principal Mah" to many young students. She fought against the closure of Bruce Public School in the early 2000s and was a long-time advocate for education and children's nutrition programs.

Valerie was also a respected and tireless leader with many organizations, including the Toronto Educational Opportunity Fund, the Retired Teachers of Ontario, the Mon Sheong Foundation, the Jean Lumb Awards, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of East Toronto, the Community/Police Liaison Committee for 55 Division and the Toronto Police Service Chinese Community Consultative Committee.

In 2008 Valerie worked with the East Toronto Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the local community to help build the Chinese Archway on Gerrard Street East at Broadview Avenue. With the 55 Division Community/Police Liaison Committee she co-ordinated 7 murals throughout East Chinatown. Valerie was proud to represent the business community as the Vice-President of the East Chinatown Chamber of Commerce in recent years. She helped organize the Lunar New Year Lion Parade and Canada Day Celebration at Riverdale Park each year.

Valerie was known for being energetic, kind, thoughtful and passionate about her work. An avid photographer she documented every occasion and provided photos to all who attended.

Valerie Mah is survived by her son Ian and siblings Alice Hope, Ruth Malloy, Gloria Spoden and Joe Lor. Valerie has touched many lives and will be missed dearly by her community.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Valerie Mah's community, friends and family.

February 18, 2021