

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Mike Layton

Seconded by: Councillor Josh Matlow

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Agustin (Gus) Ashawasega on March 15, 2012.

Gus worked as the Aboriginal Liaison Consultant with the former City of Toronto. He assisted Aboriginal organizations and supported many individuals in the Aboriginal community with concerns regarding employment and access to services.

He was one of the members of the Aboriginal employees that developed the First Nations City Celebration. First celebrated in 1995, this event brings awareness and better understanding of the diversity of Toronto's Aboriginal community with a focus on artists and craft persons in the Aboriginal community, thereby exposing their work to the broader community.

Gus spent many years of his life in service to Toronto's Aboriginal community. He was an advocate for human rights and race relations. Through his leadership and knowledge he provided guidance in the founding of three needed Aboriginal agencies: Anishnawbe Health Toronto, Canada's first urban Aboriginal health centre; NA-ME-RES (Native Men's Residence), a shelter for homeless Aboriginal men in 1984 - of which he was the executive director from 1988 to 1993; and he was the founding president of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, which opened in 1985.

Gus also sat on numerous committees of local agencies, services and societies including the United Way, Aboriginal Legal Services, Diversity Committee, and Canadian Cancer Society (Central Toronto Unit).

Gus's humour, quick wit and commitment to the Aboriginal community of Toronto will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Gus Ashawasega's family.

March 21, 2012