

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Pam McConnell

Seconded by: Councillor Janet Davis

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Muriel Collins on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

Muriel Collins was a loving mother and grandmother, a dedicated employee at the City of Toronto, and a tireless union activist. She devoted much of her life to improving the lives of Torontonians and building healthy and safe communities for everyone.

Muriel Collins was a long time employee in the Homes for the Aged, providing care for elderly residents. As a member of CUPE Local 79 and shop steward, she advocated for workers and for improved care and living conditions for seniors in City facilities.

Muriel Collins continued her union activism as a member of the Local 79 Executive Board, the Bargaining Committee, and Status of Women Committee. She also served as Membership Secretary and Chair of the committee on the Homes for the Aged.

In addition to her work with Local 79, she made important contributions to the provincial and federal labour movement, as a member of CUPE Ontario's Executive Board, Co-Chair of CUPE Ontario's Women's Committee, and Chair of CUPE National's Women's Task Force. Muriel Collins also became the first woman of colour elected to the CUPE National Executive, serving as Regional Vice-President for Ontario.

In 1989, her achievements were recognized with the YWCA Woman of Distinction award. Muriel Collins's work was further acknowledged in 1995 with the opening of Muriel Collin's Co-op, a Local 79 sponsored housing co-operative in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. In 1999, she was named to the Ontario Federation of Labour Honour Roll, with an OFL student scholarship named in her honour.

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

November 15, 2013