

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Seconded by: Councillor Pam McConnell

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ian Pryce, who died on November 13, 2013.

Born in 1982, Ian grew up in a loving home and had an active social life, playing hockey, and listening to music. Ian was well-loved and loved others. He was soft-spoken, polite and made friends fast and easily. On November 13, in an altercation that is currently being reviewed by the Special Investigations Unit, Ian was shot and killed by a Toronto Police Officer. Ian is survived by his mother, Heather Thompson.

Ian suffered from mental illness - an illness experienced by 20 percent of the Canadian population, but receives less than 6 percent of health care dollars. Mental illness is the second leading cause of disability and premature death in Canada. The disease burden of mental illness and addiction in Ontario is 1.5 times higher than all cancers put together and yet so many receive inadequate or insufficient treatment.

Ian began a slow downward spiral, and ended up, like the two thirds of our street involved population who suffer from mental illness, in shelters and on the street. Ian was at the steps of City Hall trying to access support and was failed by a system that is not equipped to serve his needs or the needs of so many others living with mental illness.

We must do better. Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government. In a City as affluent as Toronto, there are over 25,000 men, women and children who find themselves homeless each year. 66 percent of them suffer from mental illness. Only 6 percent of those are able to access psychiatric care each year. Every year, one in ten attempt suicide, once in three are physically assaulted, one in eight are assaulted by police and one in five women are sexually assaulted.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, sincere condolences to family and friends of Ian Pryce, and to remember the many other individuals and families who continue to struggle with mental illness.

December 16, 2013