CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Seconded by: Councillor James Pasternak

Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Shira Herzog on August 24, 2014.

A philanthropist, community leader and social commentator, Shira was a vital voice and bridge between Canada and Israel, who championed for the human rights of others with compassion and understanding.

Daughter of a diplomat, as a young child she had lived in Ottawa while her father was for three years Israel's ambassador to Canada. In 1974 she returned to Canada, where she completed an M.A. in English at York University in Toronto. Deeply committed to a democratic and progressive Israel, in 1976 she joined the Canada Israel Committee, first as director of special projects, then as director of research, and finally as National Executive Director. In 1988 Shira became vice president of the Calgary-based Kahanoff Foundation, one of Canada's largest private foundations.

Shira played an essential role in bridging the societal gaps and reconciling the deep divisions in the Middle East.

Shira also worked as an Israel-affairs columnist for the *Globe and Mail*, co-hosted the weekly television program *Our Jewish World*, and served on the boards of the Philanthropic Foundations of Canada, the American-based Council of Foundations, the Institute for Research on Public Policy headquartered in Montreal, and the Tel Aviv-based Israel Democracy Institute.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Shira Herzog.

August 28, 2014