

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Clara Wing-See Ho on January 19, 2015 after living courageously through three years of cancer surrounded by loved ones.

Clara was born in Calgary on July 3, 1975. Clara completed her BA at the University of Calgary before moving to Kingston, Ontario to study law at Queen's University. After articling in Geneva with the UN and then a law firm in Toronto, she began her career as a lawyer in 2002 at the Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic.

Clara's commitment to equity and the advancement of justice and equality was reflected throughout her career, including positions she held with METRAC, the College of Nurses of Ontario, the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly and the Clinic Resource Office.

Clara was a prolific poet and writer. She wrote and performed frequently with a style that was passionate, humorous, insightful, wise and whimsical; sometimes all at once. Anyone who knew her well will know her playfulness; she was a kid at heart. She loved to play, and was equally happy among a group of kids playing Lego as she was singing karaoke with friends. Clara was warm-hearted and welcoming; she had a knack for drawing in the person, sitting on the sidelines, or anticipating someone's needs even before they knew what they needed.

Through her love for friends and family, as well as in her career and through her generous volunteer work, Clara distinguished herself as an exceptional advocate, poet, colleague, sister, daughter, cousin, friend; and life partner to Jin. Her work has touched countless people, especially those among the most vulnerable in our society, including refugee women, victims of human trafficking, non-status women, sexual assault survivors, and vulnerable older adults and young people. Though the impact she made on the lives of those around her was profound, she never looked for recognition and in her gentle, quiet and unassuming way, simply did what she saw needed to be done to make the world better.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Clara's life partner, Jin Huh, her parents Peter and Beverly Ho, her brother Vincent Ho and her sister-in-law Carol Yeung.

February 10, 2015