

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Pam McConnell

Seconded by: Councillor Shelley Carroll

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sheila Ward on February 17, 2016.

Sheila Ward served as school trustee for the Toronto Board of Education from 1991 to 1993. She was elected again to the amalgamated Toronto District School Board in 1997, where she served as Trustee for Ward 14, Toronto Centre-Rosedale until her death. This time included a term as Chair from 2003 to 2007.

Sheila was a passionate defender of the right to a high-quality education for our children in the public school system, and strived towards achieving excellence in teaching in the schools that she represented and throughout Toronto.

Her civic contributions were informed by a varied career in teaching, journalism and communication before embarking on elected life. These experiences strengthened her advocacy for children and her ability to deftly navigate the newly amalgamated school board.

As an openly gay Trustee, Sheila championed LGBT rights and an inclusive curriculum in Toronto along with the visionary Triangle Program.

Sheila was also a staunch feminist, participating in the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. While serving on the board of the YWCA, Sheila also helped spearhead the Women of Distinction Award, recognizing the contributions of extraordinary women whose work for long-term change positively affect the lives of girls and women in Toronto, across Canada, and throughout the world.

Sheila's contribution to education and civic life in Toronto will be sorely missed.

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

April 1, 2016