

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:**            **Councillor Paula Fletcher**

**Seconded by:**      **Councillor Ana Bailão**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Nicholas Volk on August 10, 2017.

Mr. Volk was a Harvard graduate whose work with the U.S. Foreign Service took him to Cambodia, Thailand and Bangladesh before a posting to the U.S. consulate in 1964 brought him to Toronto. Eventually he took a job in corporate communications for the CBC where he remained for 23 years.

Mr. Volk was the driving force behind the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's very first foray into providing housing and he went on to create the Vincent Paul Family Homes Corporation, a non-profit organization that mobilized the community and raised funds for affordable housing. His extraordinary efforts led to the 1994 opening of Gower Park Place, a 164-unit mixed-income housing development that in 2001 was named the "Best Non-Profit Affordable Building in the Province.

Mr. Volk also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity Toronto where he eventually served on the board of directors from 1994 to 2002, and as chair from 1998 to 2002. He remained a tireless advocate for both Habitat and the families it served. Under his leadership Habitat Toronto significantly increased its capacity to build homes for more families. His service was honoured through a dedication of 14 homes in his name following his board tenure.

Mr. Volk had an unwavering commitment to providing affordable housing and over the years he was Provincial Chair of St. Vincent de Paul, Chair of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, a member of Dixon Hall Community Services, the Ontario Non Profit Housing Association, the Roof Tops Canada-Abri International Board, and the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition.

His remarkable achievements and generosity of spirit have been recognized with the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in 2003, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association International Award in 2013 for outstanding work to advance international collaboration and dialogue among affordable housing leaders around the world.

Toronto and Canada have lost one of our leading housing champions and community builders and his family have lost a loving and devoted father and grandfather.

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

October 3, 2017