



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Paula Fletcher**

Seconded by: **Councillor Joe Cressy**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Christoffel (Chris) Gort on April 2, 2019.

Chris graduated from the University of Alberta with a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1968. He spent 23 years as a Development Manager with IBM, which included two years on assignment in Mainz, Germany, before becoming a senior partner at Coutts Gort & Associates.

Chris then went on to become the President of the Institute for Christian Studies and a Board Member of Trinity St. Paul's United Church Centre for Faith, Justice and the Arts.

Chris was best known to us as a long standing Board Member of the South Riverdale Community Health Centre. He devoted 20 years to the Centre and his suggestion upon retirement was that the Centre pick two things and become outstanding in those areas. It is commonly believed that those words lead to the creation of the harm reduction program (COUNTERfit) and the diabetes program (DECNET). Chris continued to represent the South Riverdale Community Health Centre at the Partners for Health table up until two years ago when he was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Chris wrote a blog about what it meant to live with ALS. He covered a wide range of range of topics from the pleasures of family, the joy visitors brought and the interactions with his many caregivers to reflections on his declining physical abilities and the enjoyment derived from observing the activities in his neighbourhood park. Though this documenting, Chris became an advocate to others living with the ALS.

Chris lived by a simple set of principles: to be thoughtful and bold, courageous and humble, reliable and accountable.

Toronto and Canada have lost someone who truly knew the meaning of contributing to his community and his family have lost a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere condolences to the family of Christoffel Gort.

May 14, 2019