

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Joe Cressy

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Graeme Gibson, Canadian author and conservationist, on September 18, 2019.

Graeme Gibson was born on August 9, 1934 in London, Ontario. For the past several decades he lived in Toronto with his partner, Margaret Atwood. Mr. Gibson was the author of the novels *Five Legs*, *Communion*, *Perpetual Motion*, and *Gentleman Death*. Mr. Gibson made his mark with his modernist writing in his first two novels, 1969's "Five Legs" and "Communion" two years later. His style evolved in 1982's "Perpetual Motion," which explores the human desire to dominate the natural world. Eleven years later, he published "Gentleman Death," centring on a writer confronting his own creativity and mortality. In 1973, Mr. Gibson released a book of interviews, "Eleven Canadian Novelists," featuring such literary greats as Margaret Atwood, Margaret Laurence, Timothy Findley, Alice Munro and Mordecai Richler.

In addition to PEN Canada, Graeme Gibson co-founded several organizations to support Canadian writers, including the Writers' Trust of Canada and the Writers' Union of Canada, which he chaired from 1974 to 1975. He was a recipient of the Harbourfront Festival Prize and the Toronto Arts Award, and was a member of the Order of Canada.

A committed conservationist and avid birdwatcher, Graeme Gibson was a council member of World Wildlife Fund Canada and chair of the Pelee Island Bird Observatory.

In the wake of his passing, Graeme Gibson is being remembered for putting his words into action for both cultural and environmental causes.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his partner, author Margaret Atwood, their daughter Jess and his two sons.

October 2, 2019