

Expression of Condolence for Michelle Ross by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Seconded by: Councillor Paul Ainslie

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Michelle Ross on March 28, 2021.

Michelle Ross was the Queen of all drag queens, a visionary, a legend, a pillar in Canada's LGBTQ2S+ communities.

Michelle Ross was a role model and mentor to many and she fiercely paved the way for queer BIPOC performing artists to take the stage. She was a remarkable performer who possessed the ability to make her audience feel noticed, valued and filled with great joy. She delighted and inspired audiences in the Church Wellesley Village and during the annual Pride Festival, regionally, nationally and internationally for more than four decades.

A native of Jamaica, Michelle Ross started her drag career in 1974 and performed on stages around the world with iconic artists like Dionne Warwick, Tina Turner and Diana Ross. In 1977, she was featured in one of the first gay-themed films ever to receive a widespread theatrical release in North America, *Outrageous!*

Michelle's passing marks a significant loss in our community. We will always remember the love, liberation, and legacy that Michelle Ross left in our hearts and souls. Her spirit will live on forever.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of City Council, our sincerest sympathy to Michelle's family members who have lost a remarkable loved one.

April 7, 2021