

***Expression of Condolence for
Ihor Pelech by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Michael Thompson

Seconded by: Mayor John Tory

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Ihor Pelech on April 4, 2021 a week before his 69th birthday.

Born in Slough, west of London, England, Ihor was the son of Stephan and Maria Pelech, who were living in England after fleeing from Soviet-occupied Ukraine. When Ihor was 13, he moved with his family to Canada, settling in Toronto. Ihor attended Bloor Collegiate Institute, then advanced to the University of Toronto, Mississauga campus followed by a year at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Ihor earned a double honours degree in English and history and a Bachelor of Education degree.

In 1975, Ihor began his teaching career at St. Andrew's Junior High School in North York. Teaching was truly his calling. For Ihor, teaching was not a job but a privilege and a joy. He was known for showing up at school in the morning two hours early to prepare for the day. His classes were demanding, entertaining and effective, and after just one year, he was appointed head of the school's English Department. In 1998, Ihor was selected as a finalist for the Province's teacher of the year award. He retired in 2007.

Ihor tried to not only teach the many wondrous aspects of the English language but to guide, inspire and encourage his students to always strive for the best. He was proud of each and every one of them. At his passing, tributes from former students flowed in, many citing him as the best teacher they ever had.

The City Clerk is requested to convey on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, to Ihor's wife of 42 years, Mary, and their three sons and five grandchildren, our utmost respect for his 32 years of service as an educator and deepest sympathy on his passing.

May 5, 2021