

***Expression of Condolence for
Francisco Rico-Martinez by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Ana Bailão

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Francisco Rico-Martinez at age 63 on August 13, 2021.

Francisco Rico-Martinez was a lawyer and tireless advocate for refugee and human rights in El Salvador. As a result of his work as a defender of human rights, he was forced to leave the country during the El Salvadorian Civil war, coming to Canada in 1990 as a refugee with his pregnant wife and two children.

As an advocate for a just and fair immigration system, he quickly became aware of the plight of migrants in Canada. He helped found what is now known as the FCJ Refugee Centre almost 30 years ago, to help address the needs of migrants. As a result of his hard work and dedication, Francisco became the first refugee to be President of the Canadian Council for Refugees and he was awarded the YMCA Peace Medallion and the William P. Hubbard Race Relations award.

Francisco was also a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather who will be remembered for striving to improve the lives of everyone he would encounter, particularly those who were marginalized.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Francisco's wife Dolores Elizabeth Bolaños De Rico, his children Manuel, Ana and Giovanni and their families and all those whose lives he touched.

October 1, 2021