

***Expression of Condolence for
Coreen Joan Lewis by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie

Seconded by: Councillor James Pasternak

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Coreen Joan Lewis—a sister, an aunt, a cousin, and an exceptional friend—who passed away on June 9, 2023, at the age of 65.

Coreen was born in the sunny isle of Trinidad and Tobago on August 6, 1957, to Evans and Virginia Lewis. She was the fourth of 11 children to her parents, who migrated from Grenada to Trinidad in their youth. As a child, Coreen attended Gaines Normal AME School until the age of 6, when she suffered a brain injury that led to a developmental disability. She went on to attend the Lady Hochoy School for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities until she migrated to Toronto in 1991, along with her mother, sibling Lynette, and her son Sterling.

After the passing of her mother in 1999, Coreen began attending Corbrook, a non-profit, charitable organization that provides support to adults and youth with developmental disabilities in Toronto and York Region. Her time at Corbrook provided her with a great sense of purpose and boosted her self-confidence. She enjoyed going to work and engaging with her peers. Coreen developed deep friendships during her time there and met her close friend, Vanna.

Coreen believed in justice and equality, and never hesitated to speak up for those who were unable to do so. She became a strong advocate for herself and others, both at Corbrook and through Toronto Community Housing. Coreen's dedication and leadership led her to win many awards during her time at Corbrook.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Coreen's family, as well as everyone whose lives she touched through her longstanding advocacy.

July 19, 2023