

***Expression of Condolence for
Grandmother Pauline Shirt by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

Seconded by: Mayor Olivia Chow

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Grandmother Pauline Shirt, also known as Nimikiiquay or Thunder Woman.

Pauline leaves behind many powerful legacies, and the wide-reaching impact of her impassioned leadership is immeasurable. She was a beloved force of nature in the Toronto-Danforth community and brought justice and recognition to its Indigenous members in countless ways.

In 1974 she helped organize the Native People's Caravan to Ottawa to deliver a manifesto to the Federal Government.

In 1976, after fruitlessly searching for a school that would accept and nurture her son's Indigenous culture, Pauline took it into her own hands to found one. In doing so, Pauline gifted our community with the creation of Kâpapâmahchakwêw, also known as Wandering Spirit School, right in the heart of Ward 14.

Pauline was an esteemed Plains Cree Elder from Saddle Lake, Alberta, Red-Tail Hawk Clan and member of the Three Fires Society and Buffalo Dance Society. In 2023, she was appointed to the Order of Ontario.

Pauline's legacy will live on through the many generations to come that will benefit from her impact. She will be deeply missed by all those touched by her wise and loving spirit.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Pauline's family, friends, community, and many loved ones.

May 22, 2024