

***Expression of Condolence for
Dr. Juana Velarde Gomez (Dr. Juanita)
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Moise

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Malik

The Mayor and Members of the Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Juana Velarde Gomez (Dr. Juanita), a physician and advocate for women's health, at the age of 89.

Dr. Juanita devoted her life to the well-being of women and families, beginning her medical practice in the poorest neighbourhoods of Lima, Peru, in the 1960s. Often working at night to deliver babies and address urgent healthcare needs, she championed the health and rights of women in her community.

In 1962, Dr. Juanita became Lima's first female city councillor, using her role to advocate for women's health and push for systemic change. By the late 1970s, she was instrumental in reforming laws to improve women's independence and access to medical services in a male-dominated society. Her passion for gender equity led her to found Lima's first feminist grassroots organization, a legacy that continues to inspire.

Dr. Juanita shared 62 wonderful years with her beloved husband, Emilio, and they raised five children together, Miguel, Milagros, Myriam, Marianela and Mauricio. She leaves behind eight grandchildren, five in Peru and three here in Toronto, Miguel's children Michelle, Melissa, and Michael, whom she loved visiting.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the members of the Toronto City Council, our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Juanita's family.

December 17, 2024