

Expression of Condolence for Luzmila Gonzales Burgos by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Frances Nunziata

Seconded by: Councillor Vincent Crisanti

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Luzmila Gonzales Burgos, affectionately known as Doña Luz, who passed away peacefully on May 16, 2025, at the age of 91.

Doña Luz was a cherished community builder, cultural ambassador, and matriarch whose legacy spans generations and continents. Born in Peru, she was the proud mother of nine children, whom she raised with love, discipline, and a deep sense of cultural pride. Her family was her greatest inspiration and a reflection of her enduring commitment to unity, resilience, and generosity.

Together with her husband, Roberto Barreto—affectionately known as “Don Carajo”—Doña Luz was part of the founding families of Ventanilla in Lima, Peru. Settling there in the early 1960s, they helped transform it from a modest settlement into a thriving, close-knit community rooted in mutual support. Her husband’s civic involvement and her own grassroots efforts reflected their shared dedication to cultural identity and progress.

In later years, Doña Luz brought that same spirit to Toronto, becoming a beloved promoter of Peruvian cuisine and culture. Her kitchen was a place of connection—where flavours told stories, heritage was preserved, and friendships flourished. She warmly introduced Peruvian culture to people across the city, helping foster multicultural understanding and appreciation.

Even after settling in Canada, Doña Luz remained devoted to the needs of people in Peru, especially low-income children. Her annual trips and charitable work alongside her son Luis Barreto, founder of a local non-governmental organization, reflect a lifelong commitment to service across borders. Her efforts built bridges between communities and touched countless lives.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of Luzmila Gonzales Burgos and to all who knew her.

June 25, 2025