

***Expression of Condolence for Rafia Haniff-Cleofas
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Neethan Shan

Seconded by: Councillor Jamaal Myers

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Rafia Haniff-Cleofas, a respected community leader, educator, and disability rights advocate whose life embodied dignity, inclusion, and service.

For over twenty-five years, Rafia championed accessibility and equity, co-founding Disability Empowerment Equality Network Support Services and playing a key role in organizations such as Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario and the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities. Her work opened doors for persons with disabilities, strengthened employment equity at the City of Toronto, and inspired faith-based inclusion.

Rafia also helped organize the first Global Conference on Disability and Islam, and as an educator at the Islamic Institute of Toronto, promoted lifelong learning and community engagement. Her compassion and leadership empowered countless individuals and advanced a culture of inclusion.

Her passing is a profound loss to Scarborough, Toronto, and all who benefited from her vision and advocacy.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Rafia Haniff-Cleofas.

November 12, 2025