

***Expression of Condolence for Frances Sanderson
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Frances Sanderson on December 17, 2025.

A member of White Fish First Nation, raised in East York and most recently residing in Scarborough, Frances devoted her life to community. As Executive Director of Nishnawbe Homes, she championed dignified housing and supports for Indigenous peoples in Toronto. She also served as Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee, helping build structures that bring Indigenous leadership into municipal decision-making and fostering strong relationships across Council and the public service.

Frances' commitment reached across many tables, including as a member of the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, member of the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Community Advisory Board, Chair of the Toronto Police Service Aboriginal Consultative Committee, and Chair of the Aboriginal Education Council at George Brown College. In all of these roles, Frances was a bridge builder; steady, wise, and focused on practical, lasting change.

In accordance with her Ojibwe traditions, a Sacred Fire will be lit at 4:00pm today and will be tended by community for the next four days. Her family welcomes all who wish to come and remember her, share stories of how she touched your lives, and offer ceremonial tobacco to the fire.

We are grateful for Frances' leadership, her mentorship, and her unwavering dedication to community.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Frances' family.

December 17, 2025