

***Expression of Condolence for Shamsh Kara
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Jon Burnside

Seconded by: Councillor Lily Cheng

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Shamsh Kara.

Shamsh immigrated to Canada with his wife Yasmin from Tanzania in 1973 and was a proud Canadian Citizen by 1977. He was born and raised in Zanzibar, a small Island on the East coast of Africa. Shamsh was a member of the Ismaili Muslim Community and a proud follower of His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V.

For five decades, Shamsh contributed as a volunteer in community service in the City, this Province and in Canada. His good will and dedication to charities and his volunteer efforts have been recognized and appreciated by many in public service. Some of his notable contributions include, being appointed to the East York Multicultural Advisory Committee where he helped establish East York Day; he then chaired the event for 15 years. He spent 12 years as a board member (7 of which were spent as the Chair of the Board of Directors) of the Flemingdon Community Legal Services, 9 years as the director for the then Toronto East General Hospital Foundation, and he organised the first Special Canadian Citizenship Court at the East York Civic Centre in the early 1980s.

Shamsh also received numerous accolades for his tireless work. Due to his involvement in promoting Canadian Citizenship, he was a recipient of an award from the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism in 1988 and Citizenship and Immigration Authorities in 1996. He was also a recipient of the Agnes Macphail Award in 2006.

Through his efforts to assist others and his participation in numerous civic and charitable endeavors, Shamsh has demonstrated a generosity of time and spirit that serves as an inspiration to us all.

Shamsh passed away peacefully, at home, on November 30, 2025, at the age of 82. He and his wife Yasmin were happily married for 54 years, it would have been 55 years in April this year.

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

March 25, 2026