

Naming of Long-Term Care Home at 4610 Finch Avenue East In Honour of Bernice Redmon

Date: June 17, 2026

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: General Manager, Seniors Services and Long-Term Care

Wards: Ward 23 – Scarborough North

SUMMARY

City Council adopted the Commemorative Framework at its July 2022 meeting. The Framework provides guidance to the public, Elected Officials, and City staff regarding the commemorative naming and renaming of streets and City properties, and the consideration of proposals for new and existing commemorative monuments.

The proposal to name the new long-term care home at 4610 Finch Avenue East in honour of Bernice Redmon advances the City's broader equity and commemorative objectives by recognizing the contributions of a historically underrepresented individual, while supporting more inclusive storytelling in public spaces in alignment with the City's Commemorative Framework.

Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, in collaboration with Economic Development and Culture Division and Strategic Partnerships reviewed the application to name the property. The review concluded that the naming proposal complies with the criteria of the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy and aligns with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration, as outlined in the City of Toronto's Commemorative Framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Seniors Services and Long-Term Care recommends that:

1. Scarborough Community Council approve the naming of the new long-term care home at 4610 Finch Avenue East in honour of Bernice Redmon.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on May 28, 2026, Scarborough Community Council adopted Naming Long-Term Care Home at 4610 Finch Avenue East In Honour of Bernice Redmon.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.SC32.26>

At its meeting on July 23 and 24, 2025, City Council adopted 4610 Finch Avenue East - Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Decision Report – Approval

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.SC24.1>

At its meeting on November 12 and 13, 2025, City Council adopted Creating Community Opportunities through the 4610 Finch Avenue East Long-Term Care Home Project

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EC24.8>

At its meeting on July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the City of Toronto Commemorative Framework and approved revisions to the Property Naming Policy.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.6>

COMMENTS

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide property naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy.

The names of City Properties may reflect a given property's characteristics; indicate the unique location, geography, or community where the property is located; commemorate individuals, communities, organizations, events, and ideas of significance to Toronto, Ontario or Canada; and/or recognize Indigenous Peoples' past, present, and future presence on the land.

A formal application was submitted to Strategic Partnerships. Senior Services and Long-Term Care consulted with Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development and Culture to review this proposal. The application included a biography, evidence of community engagement, and letters of support. City staff have confirmed that the proposed naming aligns with the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy.

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) reviewed the application to name the property at 4610 Finch Avenue East, at the corner of Brimley Road, Scarborough, in commemoration of Bernice Isobel Carnegie Redmon (1917–1993). The proposed name is “Bernice Redmon Long-Term Care Home.” While this proposed name reflects the intent to commemorate Bernice Redmon, the final naming of the facility may differ in form. Any alternative name to replace “Long-Term Care Home” such as Lodge, House, Village, or Acres will continue to incorporate Bernice Redmon’s name, while allowing greater flexibility to align with the site’s design, function, and broader community context as part of the planning and development process. As the development moves forward, Seniors Services and Long-Term Care will collaborate with the local Councillor and community on the final name selection.

The following summarizes EDC’s research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City’s Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

As outlined by the applicant and verified through staff research, Bernice Redmon was a trailblazer for Black women in Canadian healthcare. She was the first Black nurse to be registered and to practice public health in Canada in 1945. When Redmon sought nursing education in 1941, Canadian hospitals and nursing schools denied admission to Black applicants. Redmon would leave Canada to attend St. Phillip Nursing School in Richmond, Virginia. Despite experiencing systemic discrimination, Redmon excelled in her studies by earning a Public Health Diploma. Upon returning to Canada, Redmon’s credentials were recognized, and she became the first documented Black nurse in the country.

Redmon’s career spanned both Ontario and Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia, she successfully challenged discriminatory hiring practices to secure her appointment, becoming the first Black Canadian nurse to practice public health. In 1946, Redmon was the first Black woman appointed to the Victorian Order of Nurses, a registered non-profit community health organization that provides home and community care. She worked with the organization until 1968. In 1974, Redmon began her final professional role working in a mental health unit at what is now known as Hennick Humber Hospital. Throughout her career, Redmon navigated racial prejudice with professional expertise, while also volunteering extensively with the Eureka Friendly Club, the Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, and the United Nation’s Association of Canada.

Bernice Redmon was part of Toronto’s Carnegie family, which has a comprehensive family archive that includes Redmon’s oral histories. Redmon is noted for her resilience and dedication to her profession. Redmond was skilled at navigating racial bias. Her role in dismantling barriers within the Canadian medical practice created a pathway for future generations of Black women to pursue careers in nursing. In 1948, Ruth Bailey and Gwennyth Barton became the first Black nurses to graduate from a Canadian nursing program, followed by Marissa Scott, who became the first Black nurse to practice in Ontario in 1950.

Bernice Redmon’s contributions have gained posthumous recognition. In 2025, Redmon was featured in the 52 Project by the Museum of Toronto, a multi-year project paying tribute to 52 significant women in Toronto’s history. Following this recognition, Redmon was added to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

The application demonstrates strong evidence of community engagement. Councillor Myers (Ward 23, Scarborough North) hosted an online petition that garnered 1,035 signatures of support, with broad representation from across Toronto, Ontario, Canada and internationally. Comments on the petition emphasize the importance of reconciling the erasure of Black Canadian history through commemorative actions. The application also contained letters for support from Redmon's family, a community advocate, and Councillor Myers.

In summary, as outlined in the application and confirmed through City staff research, Bernice Isobel Carnegie Redmon was a transformative figure in Canadian healthcare. Her legacy of breaking systemic barriers and her enduring commitment to public health are a vital part of Toronto's history.

Senior Services and Long-Term Care will include interpretive signage within the new long-term care home, featuring biographical details on the life and legacy of Bernice Redmon, so that all who live, work, and visit the facility may learn from and be inspired by her story.

The new long-term care home at 4610 Finch Avenue East will be operated by Seniors Services and Long-Term Care. It will be home to 378 residents in private and semi-private accommodation, and will include specialized care, services and programs for seniors who identify as Black, and/or with the Caribbean and/or African diaspora.

A complete Historical Research Report is available upon request.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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