



Karen Elizabeth Green

June 9, 1957 – January 10, 2025

"I want to do something worth doing, I want to be someone worth knowing."

(Karen's Grade 8 essay on her life)

It is with deep and heartfelt sadness we announce the sudden passing of Karen at home on January 10, 2025. Beloved mother of Abraham Hill, who was truly the centre of her life and mother-in-law to Emma (d).

She was part of a loving family and cherished sister to Peter, Robert (d), Kathy Leween, John and sister-in-law Dorothy (d), Paul (d) and sister-in-law Sandra, Tom and sister-in-law Donna, and James (d). Daughter of the late Peter and Marion Green from Tyendinega Mohawk Territory, Ontario, she was also a loving auntie and great auntie Karen to many nieces and nephews.

Born in Belleville, Ontario, Karen spent her early childhood in Point Anne, moving with her family to Tyendinega when she started high school. Karen valued education and continued her education journey at Trent University (BA in Political Science) and at Queen's University (law degree), arriving in Ottawa in the early 1980s to article, begin her professional career and make Ottawa her permanent home.

From her early working days in Ottawa, she made a difference as an advocate promoting the rights of Indigenous People throughout Canada, particularly those of Indigenous women and children. She worked for most of her career with the Department of Justice where she held senior positions, most notably as the Executive Director of the Federal Centre for Conflict Management, and the Director of the Diversity and Gender Equality Unit. Karen was the main writer and advisor for the women's chapter of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report. Karen was also the CEO of the Native Women's Association of Canada at a critical time when Canada was coming to terms with missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

After leaving the federal government Karen worked as a Senior Advisor on Indigenous Issues for the University of Ottawa and as the Director of the Equity Office at Carleton University. For the last four years, she was the Relationship Coordinator for the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition where she represented urban Indigenous people at over 30 tables at the city, provincial and national levels.

Karen believed in community and played key roles throughout the voluntary sector. She leaves us as at this time being the President of the Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start Program, Chair of the Kenhtè Midwives Board in Tyendinega, a director on the Board of CHEO, a director on the board of Andrew Fleck Children's Services and a member of the Pow Wow Pitch. On behalf of OAC she was the co-chair of the Housing and Homelessness Governance Committee and recently took up the position of Vice Chair of the Ottawa Community Benefit Network Steering Committee.

She is a past director to the following boards: Ottawa Community Foundation, United Way, Ottawa Children's Aid Society, Children's Aid Foundation, Interval House, Gloucester Non-Profit Housing, First Nations Technical Institute, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Minwaashin Lodge and Odawa Native Friendship Centre.

Despite all of her accomplishments and work, the strongest sense of Karen was one of humble leadership. She wanted to always support Indigenous people, the Indigenous community and the broader community. She truly believed that we are all part of one circle, one world.

In addition to her amazing contributions to her family and community, she was a person who loved life – her gardens, flowers, reading, and collecting beautiful things including her amazing jewelry, sports and her beloved dogs.

A celebration of life will be held to honour Karen's life and legacy on January 25, 2025, at the Ottawa Art Gallery from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Foundation and choose one of the eight Indigenous service organizations she worked to support.

