

Tecla Lin

Born in Hong Kong, Tecla-Lai Yin Lin was a dedicated and highly skilled health care worker with more than 35 years experience as a registered nurse in Hong Kong and Canada.

Described by many as compassionate and generous, Tecla began her nursing career in 1968 in Kowloon, Hong Kong, after graduating from the Government School of Nursing the year previous. For the next five years, she worked as an operating room nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

In 1973, Tecla moved to Canada with her husband and two sons. From 1977 to 1998, she worked at the Doctor's Hospital in Toronto where she went on to develop specialized skills in monitoring intensive and critical care unit patients. During that time, Tecla enhanced her already competent nursing abilities by earning a *Bachelor of Applied Arts in Nursing* and completing a *Certificate in Critical Care Nursing*, both from Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto.



Since October 1999, Tecla worked part-time as a registered nurse at West Park Healthcare Centre, the designated adult rehabilitation centre for the western Greater Toronto Area and a local provider of complex continuing and long-term care services. Working mainly in West Park's renowned respiratory services, Tecla provided a unique mix of skilled nursing and unwavering compassion for her patients and fellow staff members. Popular, hard working and beloved by many, she would even sometimes bring lunch for her colleagues.

Prior to the SARS outbreak last March, Tecla also worked on a part-time basis at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, a fully affiliated teaching and research hospital of the University of Toronto specializing in adult rehabilitation and complex continuing care. Since April 2000, she often worked the night shift in the hospital's Complex Continuing Care Program. Tecla exemplified the qualities of an outstanding nurse: she was dedicated to the needs of the patients she cared for and was a supportive and respected colleague to those with whom she worked.

In March 2003, Tecla demonstrated once again her desire to help others by becoming one of the first health care workers in the province to volunteer to care for patients stricken by severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). She worked with a dedicated team of health care workers on West Park's interim SARS unit on R4, where 14 staff members from The Scarborough Hospital, Grace Division, had been transferred after falling ill with the disease. She, like everyone else who had worked to contain SARS and care for patients under stressful and extreme circumstances, was considered a **Hero**.

Tecla passed away July 19, 2003, after a courageous and lengthy battle with the disease that had affected so many of her colleagues in health care. She was 58. Tecla Lin is survived by sons Wilson and Michael Tang, her mother, a sister and two brothers in Hong Kong.