



CAMILE ARLENE ROWE

A TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF
THE OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION (OUR)

BY

ANSORD E. HEWITT, DIRECTOR- GENERAL

2021 January 11

This morning, more than ever, I hope that Alfred Lord Tennyson's assertion in *Ulysses* - "I am a part of all that I have met" is correct. For if it is so, it means that some of Camile Arlene Rowe's: graciousness, generosity of spirit, intellectual rigour, unassuming humility, impeccable work ethics and engaging personality is a part of me and my colleagues with whom she shared herself since 2018. To say that we at the OUR miss and will miss Camile is one of the greatest understatements I will utter today.

Even though, I speak with a heavy heart on this occasion, I deem it a signal honour to be given the opportunity to say a few words about my experience with a woman who I can only describe as a rare find in terms of her combination of intellect, grace, humility and judgment. I first met Camile when she worked for the other side, so to speak.

Before that, I knew her brother Duane who had been lured to work with us at the OUR. If you know Duane, his IQ is off the chart and he is by no means - a shrinking violet. I was, therefore, bemused to learn that he said his sister Camile was his teacher and that she was in his words "**brighter than him and the giant on whose shoulders he stood**".

Then I met Camile as she appeared for JPS on a number of regulatory matters before us. It did not take long to see that this quiet, unassuming, polite and articulate professional was, as we say in common terms, "**a brain box**" and one who had neither the need to broadcast it or to have it acknowledged. Her work of course spoke volumes on that score.

She was eclectic: – moving fluidly and adroitly between engineering, economics and finance; seamlessly merging theory and practice; and astutely negotiating the egos of those who always needed to show they were the brightest in the room. She combined these with an ability to simplify complex equations and concepts while maintaining the patience of a real teacher.

She also disarmed all with her warm and all-embracing smile.

So, we decided we wanted her on our side but we could not pay her. Nor did we think we have a title that could attract her. Truth, however, is that Camile was about none of those. She was interested in what we did and the opportunity to contribute to what she deemed a wider national cause. That, more than ever was what drew her to accept our overtures.

At the OUR she quickly became central to and a leader on various electricity initiatives: tariff modelling, productivity analysis; marginal cost modelling, developing a regime for wheeling, helping to chart the Integrated Resource Plan, advising on Petrojam pricing, formulating policy advice on renewables and working as a key member of our Electro-mobility Working Group on a nascent electric vehicle plan. Her work was not limited to the electricity sector as she also found time to offer her talent and advice on water and sewerage as well as telecommunications sector issues.



In fact, Camile was always willing to offer advice to help us formulate our goals and she would see solutions beyond what “us” normal folks could see. Thinking of all she did in just under a three-year stint is enough to make one’s head spin.

Camile was also one of my “go to” persons when I needed sound objective advice. No fluff, no vested interest, no grand-standing. She would tell you what her thoughts and ideas were and if you were asking about a colleague, she would be honest but would ensure that she cast the person in the best light. I would volunteer her to represent the OUR in any forum and be assured that she would carry the day. She prepared talking points and slide presentations for my participation in regional and international events that made me sound like a genius. Fortunately for me, there are still a few people at the OUR on whom I can rely to maintain that façade.

But, I was not the only member of the Office who was completely impressed by her. Carlene Dunbar, our super-efficient Administrative Assistant who takes the Office Minutes once remarked to me - in passing, – Ansord, do you notice how the Members of the Office all light up whenever Camile is making a presentation? It was not lost on me. Truth is, she made all of us better at our jobs by pulling us along in her brilliant slipstream.

I also admired from afar how she mentored – and by the way this was not just the persons younger than her – I dare say I got a fair bit of mentoring and coaching here and there as well. But she took a number of young professionals under her wings and I am expecting that they will do her memory justice by continuing to shine and emulate her best features.

Needless to say, learning of her illness made us most disconsolate. Camile, however was courageous, optimistic and committed. When I spoke to her to get a sense of her progress she did not complain. She expressed the hope that she would get over this and return to work soon – in her own words – “I like working at the OUR so I hope I get the chance to continue”. Providence, however, has dictated otherwise.

So recently while thinking of how much I had factored Camile’s presence in the future of the OUR, – I thought to myself – “and she had so much to contribute” and then it came to me – But she has contributed and will continue to do so. She will continue to contribute in the body of work and practices she has left us. She will continue to contribute in the persons she has mentored; in the exemplary work ethics she displayed and which I am confident some will emulate; and in the words of our Chairman, “ *We will hear her voice speaking to us and guiding us through some of our difficult tasks*”.

While we are deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague Camile, we are comforted that when things get rough in the weeks, months and years to come we will be helped by remembering her fortitude, grace under pressure and analytical logic; and in this too, she will continue that contribution. Indeed, by her life Camile has shown that our years do not have to be extended for us to make a seminal contribution to serving our generation.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the members of the OUR family to express our heart felt condolences to Camile’s family and to say to Nia, Devon, Duane, her mom and her other siblings and close relatives that we grieve with you.

We miss our esteemed colleague and shall bear her memory with us as we continue in this cycle of life. Nia, please do not forget that you have an extended family at the OUR.



Camile Rowe

**Sunrise: December 6, 1972
Sunset: December 22, 2020**