

## **CONDOLENCE MOTION**

**Moved by: Mayor Rob Ford**

**Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of The Honourable John Gilbert "Jack" Layton, PC on August 22, 2011.

Prior to federal politics, Jack Layton had been a well known, loved and respected Member of Toronto City Council and Metropolitan Toronto Council where he was first elected in 1982. During his years on Council he held many positions including Acting Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Toronto.

In 1991, Jack stepped down from Council for an unsuccessful run for Mayor. During his hiatus from Council he dedicated himself to the environment, establishing the Green Catalyst Group, an environmental consulting firm, and to stopping male violence against women with the now worldwide White Ribbon campaign.

In 1994, Jack returned to Metropolitan Toronto Council from the Don River Ward and resumed his high profile role in local politics. Following the "megacity" merger into the current City of Toronto, he was again re-elected to Toronto City Council.

Jack's work on Metro Council and Toronto City Council was truly groundbreaking. He championed the leading environmental role that cities could and should play, spearheaded innovative energy retrofits and water efficiency, cycling infrastructure, waste diversion and the grey and green bins. He established the Toronto Atmospheric Fund and chaired the City's Environmental Task Force which created Toronto's first environmental plan.

Jack's commitment to HIV/AIDS led to the creation of community grants in 1988 and established Toronto Public Health as a recognized leader in HIV/AIDS.

He was a well known champion for affordable housing and for the poor. Under his leadership, Toronto Public Health created the Healthy Cities Office.

On May 27, 2001, after 20 years of membership, Jack was elected as president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities committing to progress on water, municipal powers, the environment and affordable housing. His work led to the creation of the \$650 million Green Municipal Fund for loans and grants to municipalities to build green infrastructure.

In 2003, Jack Layton was elected leader of the New Democratic Party and led the NDP through the 2004, 2006 and 2008 general elections.

In the May 2, 2011 general election, Layton led the NDP to an historic 103 seats and to Official Opposition for the first time ever.

Throughout his political career, both at the City and in the House of Commons, Jack worked side by side with the love of his life, former Councillor and now MP Olivia Chow. Their commitment to one another and to the many causes they shared is legendary.

Jack was a devoted father to Sarah and Mike and grandfather to Beatrice, a loving son, son-in-law and brother who, despite a rigorous schedule, always made time for his family.

Layton's great-grand uncle, William Steeves was a Father of Confederation. His grandfather, Gilbert Layton was a Cabinet Minister in the Union Nationale government of Maurice Duplessis in Quebec. His father, Robert Layton, served as a Progressive Conservative MP and Cabinet Member under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. The election of Jack's son Mike to City Council in October 2010 continues the long electoral traditions of the Layton family.

Jack Layton lived by the words he left Canadians in his last letter: Love is better than anger, hope is better than fear, and optimism is better than despair, so let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic and we can change the world.

Jack's passing brought an outpouring from Torontonians from all walks of life who lined up to pay their respects as he lay in repose in the Rotunda of City Hall and who chalked their messages of love and respect and awakening on Nathan Phillips Square.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of Jack Layton.

September 21, 2011