

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Mike Layton

Seconded by: Councillor Pam McConnell

Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dan Heap on Friday, April 25, 2014 at the age of 88.

Dan Heap was a former Toronto Alderman, an NDP Member of Parliament, and a social justice advocate.

Dan Heap's lifetime crusade for peace and social justice lives on in the people he touched and through the policies he helped change.

Dan was born in Winnipeg and educated at Queen's and McGill Universities. He began his career as an Anglican parish priest in western Quebec, but moved to Toronto in 1954 to work in a cardboard box factory. He was elected to Toronto City Council in 1972. He jumped to federal politics in 1981 after winning a by-election for the NDP in the old riding of Spadina. He served in Ottawa for 12 years.

Throughout their lives, Dan and his wife Alice, who passed away in 2012, were fervent peace activists who fought for the rights of refugees and aboriginal persons and campaigned against poverty and homelessness. The family's Kensington Market home was a hotbed of student activism around the anti-war, anti-apartheid and social housing movements of the '60s, '70s and '80s.

In the early 1980s Heap helped found the Housing Not Hostels Coalition that resulted in the first provincial housing subsidies for homeless single people. In the late 1990s he co-founded the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee that prompted Ottawa to appoint its first minister responsible for fighting homelessness.

The couple's seven children were with Dan during his final days last week at Kensington Gardens. Dan Heap is also survived by 17 grandchildren.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Dan Heap's family.

May 6, 2014