

***Expression of Condolence for  
Dr. Robert Bennett by Toronto City Council***

**Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle**

**Seconded by: Mayor John Tory**

Toronto City Council is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert Bennett on July 7, 2021.

Robert earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry and went on to found his own practice in 1963. Throughout his long career, he provided personal care to hundreds of patients before retiring from 2th Dental @ St. Clair Bathurst in 2020. Robert was passionate about dentistry and he was known for his kind, caring, and patient demeanor. Robert would brighten up the room with jokes he would tell and made visits to the dentist a joy for all of the families he helped over the years.

Robert devoted his time to numerous social causes and organizations, making significant contributions to global health. He played a critical role with Dignitas International, an organization dedicated to improving health care for vulnerable communities facing disease with unequal access to health services, and specifically, with the organization's operations in Malawi addressing the AIDS epidemic. Robert helped establish the Dignitas Youth program, empowering young people to become the next leaders to address global health challenges, raising awareness and funds for Dignitas' medical programs. Robert's critical role early on helped Dignitas grow to address health care challenges not just globally, but also in Canadian northern communities.

Robert became a friend and mentor to many and encouraged all young people to pursue their passions and give back to their communities. He was a strong supporter of post-secondary education and mentored generations of students who followed in his footsteps. Robert was a member of the University of Toronto's Governing Council, its College of Electors, and its Faculty of Dentistry Alumni Association for 20 years. In 2013, Robert was recognized by Lakehead University as a Fellow for his work to help establish and grow the University's campus in the City of Orillia, assisting on the Mayor's Task Force which helped establish the campus.

Throughout his life, Robert was a strong champion of the arts, supporting Indigenous art and education as well as young artists just starting out. His collection of paintings that lined the walls of his dental office brought joy to all of his patients that passed through. Beyond his career, Robert dedicated his life to his family and devoted his time to his wife Michelle, their two daughters, and four granddaughters.

Robert will be deeply missed by the City of Toronto.

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

December 17, 2021