

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Janet Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Sarah Doucette

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Fraser Mustard, on Wednesday November 16, 2011 at the age of 84 years.

Dr. Mustard was an internationally recognized medical researcher, thinker, clinician, and speaker who raised awareness and improved understanding of early childhood development. In 1999 he co-authored the seminal Early Years Study that called for parenting centres to provide support from pregnancy to age six including health services, preschool programming, parenting resources and child care. These supports set the stage for wellbeing throughout the rest of life. He argued that investments in children can reap billions in savings and their neglect could result in tremendous expense. The 3rd part of the Early Years study, which Mustard also co-authored, was released last week, sadly after his passing.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Mustard studied blood platelets, arterial disease and the effects of Aspirin in preventing heart attacks. In 1967, he helped develop McMaster University's groundbreaking Faculty of Medicine. In the 1970s, he served on government councils and committees, looking into health planning and education. Dr. Mustard was founding president of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and worked there for 14 years. His work earned him both the Order of Ontario and the Order of Canada.

The impact of Dr. Mustard's legacy on children's lives cannot be overstated. He started a conversation that spread throughout the world. His impassioned and relentless call to invest in early childhood and brain development during the crucial first years of life inspired economists, educators and politicians around the globe.

His unprecedented insight was matched by an incredible drive. He maintained a relentlessly heavy schedule of speaking engagements in centres all across the globe. He was still working as recently as one month ago. His commanding presence challenged and inspired a generation of children's advocates including medical researchers, child care specialists, and economists to work ever harder to improve the lives of children, for the benefit of us all.

Dr. Mustard will be missed by his six children, nine grandchildren, many colleagues and friends.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Dr. Fraser Mustard's family and friends.

November 29, 2011