



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Renaming the Toronto Island Ferry Terminal the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Date:	May 29, 2012
To:	City Council
From:	Mayor Rob Ford
Wards:	28 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council's authority to rename the Toronto Island Ferry Terminal to the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal. This honourific naming is to commemorate the late Jack Layton, who made significant contributions to the City of Toronto and its residents as a Councillor, MP and as Leader of the federal New Democratic Party.

The Layton family has been consulted and approves of the re-naming.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor recommends that:

1. City Council waive eligibility requirement 5.2.2 of the Honourific and Street Naming Policy stipulating a two-year waiting period and approve the renaming of the Toronto Island Ferry Terminal to the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal;
2. City Council direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to implement suitable signage at the terminal;
3. City Council authorize the appropriate officials to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.

Financial Impact

The cost of signage and installation will be accommodated within the Council-approved operating budget of Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on November 29, 30 and December 1, 2011 City Council adopted the Honourific and Street Naming Policy. In accordance with section 6.2.3, the Mayor is bringing this report forward. In accordance with section 5.2.2, Council is being asked to approve an exception to the requirement for a two-year waiting period.

The City Council Decision Document for November 29, 30 and December 1, 2011 is available at:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=4422> - EX12.2

The Honourific and Street Naming Policy can be found in:

<http://www.toronto.ca/top/partnership-policies.htm>

COMMENTS

The Honourable Jack Layton was an academic, a political leader and an activist who inspired Torontonians and ordinary Canadians everywhere. Often known by his first name, “Jack,” Mr. Layton has come to be remembered for his positive enthusiasm, and his emphasis on love, hope and optimism.

Jack represented Toronto as a member of Toronto City Council, Metropolitan Toronto Council, and as a Member of Parliament. First elected in 1982, he was a City Councillor for nearly 20 years before becoming leader of the Federal New Democratic Party in 2003. He was elected as Member of Parliament for Toronto Danforth in 2004 and in 2011 became the Leader of the Official Opposition. He passed away on August 22, 2011.

Jack worked tirelessly with his Council colleagues in bringing together communities, residents, businesses and organizations from across Toronto to address the challenges facing the city. Through his political life, academic work and writing, Jack Layton championed solutions to environmental issues, fought to expand access to affordable housing, and generated support across the country for addressing urban issues.

Jack was a leader in meeting the environmental challenges facing Toronto, including cleaner air and reducing the amount of garbage being sent to landfill. He was instrumental in the installation of Canada’s first urban wind turbine at Exhibition Place. He was one of the founding members and a chair of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, a model for green investment that has been emulated by other cities. His work helped the Blue and Green Bin programs become a reality, making Toronto a world leader in waste diversion.

As the first chair of the Toronto Cycling Committee, Jack Layton encouraged alternative modes of transportation through education and cycling infrastructure such as bike lanes.

As Chair of the Board of Health in the 1980s, Jack spearheaded the first-ever comprehensive AIDS Strategy and funding for prevention, education and early treatment.

He also championed measures to improve the health of Torontonians, such as the ban on smoking in public spaces.

Mr. Layton was appointed by Mayor Mel Lastman to lead a task force to address the urgent issue of homelessness in Toronto. Under his leadership, Toronto City Council declare homelessness a national disaster, and was successful in pushing the provincial and federal governments to invest in building affordable housing. In 2000, he authored *Homelessness: The Making and Unmaking of a Crisis*.

As President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mr. Layton helped to promote awareness of the importance of city government in meeting the economic, environmental, and social issues facing all Canadians. The enhanced influence of municipalities and the strong membership of FCM led to the GST exemption and federal gas tax transfer to municipalities. With the federal government, he was able to establish the \$550 million Green Municipal Fund, which was modeled after Toronto's Atmospheric Fund and is administered by the FCM.

As the leader of the NDP, Jack was instrumental in the development of the 2005 federal budget to transfer \$4.6 billion in corporate tax cut to public services, including affordable housing, freezing tuitions for post secondary education students, public transit funding and foreign aid.

The Toronto Ferry Docks were chosen for a renaming due to Mr. Layton's special connection to the Toronto Islands. For many years, he was the auctioneer for the Island Public School and was active in saving the Island residents' homes. In the summer of 1988, he married Olivia Chow on Algonquin Island, and there they planted a commemorative tree that still stands. He also represented waterfront wards as City Councillor for Don River, Broadview-Greenwood, and Toronto Danforth throughout his political career.

The City Solicitor has advised that there are no legal impediments to the renaming of the Toronto Island Ferry Terminal.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

[Signature of division head]

[Name and title]