

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Pam McConnell

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Marvyn Novick on June 21, 2016.

Marvyn was a leading thinker and contributor to the social policy field in Toronto, Ontario and Canada.

In 2007, Marvyn was awarded a lifetime honorary membership in the Social Planning Network of Ontario for his visionary leadership on a poverty reduction strategy for Ontario. Marvyn visited communities across the province on a speaking tour to urge all provincial parties contesting the 2007 election to adopt timelines and targets for poverty reduction in Ontario. Combined with other community advocacy campaigns, aroused public interest and support led to a pre-election commitment by Premier McGuinty to develop a poverty reduction plan within a year of his government's re-election.

Subsequently, Marvyn led the framing of a blueprint for a poverty reduction strategy in Ontario and took it on a "PRS road show" in several tours of 25 communities across the province for feedback and input. Bringing disparate parts of the advocacy community together around several common themes and goals had an impact on the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy released in 2008.

Marvyn made his mark as a brilliant policy thinker and community activist in his professional life. He researched and wrote major national reports on child poverty in Canada, addressed issues of work and family life, focused public attention on the social responsibilities of local governments in Ontario, conducted a widely cited two volume study on changing social conditions in Toronto entitled, *Metro Suburbs in Transition* (1979), and is the author of working papers on the life chances of children. Indeed, his research and sage professional advice was instrumental in the development of the first Toronto Report Card on Children in 1997.

The federal government's reformulated National Child Benefit projected to bring 40 percent of low income children out of poverty in Canada was originally inspired and put in place in the late 1990s as a result of the work of the Child Poverty Action Group and CAMPAIGN 2000, in which Marvyn was a driving force and leader.

Marvyn was a moral compass for inclusion, equity and social justice and we are charged with continuing the struggle in honour of his lasting legacy. Members of City Council and residents of Toronto are committed to doing exactly that through the continued implementation of *TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy*

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

July 12, 2016