

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Right Honourable John Turner, PC, CC, QC, 17th Prime Minister of Canada on September 19, 2020.

John Turner was a gifted athlete, scholar and politician. He earned the title of the fastest man in Canada in 1947 for the 100 yard dash and a spot at the 1948 Olympic Games. In 1952 he became a Rhodes Scholar, graduating with a law degree from Oxford University.

His political career began in 1962 when he was elected to the House of Commons.

In 1965 he became a cabinet member in the Pearson government, during a cabinet shuffle. He was appointed Registrar General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in 1967.

In the government of Pierre Trudeau, he was appointed Solicitor General and then Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in 1968, a post in which he made significant changes to criminal law in Canada as well as the administration of justice. A number of these changes advanced the personal and human rights of Canadians. In 1972, he became Finance Minister until his resignation from parliament in 1975. In 1984, he was elected as leader of the Federal Liberal Party and he became the 17th Prime Minister of Canada on June 30, 1984.

Following the 1984 election, he became the Leader of the Opposition, and fought another election in 1988, an election during which he played a key role within the context of democratic accountability as it applied to the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

He resigned as leader of the Liberal Party in 1990, remaining as an MP until 1993. Over the course of his career, he represented constituencies in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, before making his home in Toronto when he left elected office.

After leaving public life he resumed his law career with the firm Miller Thomson LLP. He also sat on the boards of many corporations during this time and focused his attention on Canada remaining a healthy democracy, international issues and Canadian geography.

In 1994, John Turner was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada. In 2012, he was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for Canada.

He will be remembered as a proud and loyal Canadian who passionately believed in the democratic process and the importance of serving in public life.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife Geills, their children, family, friends and colleagues.

September 30, 2020