

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by: Councillor Mike Layton**

**Seconded by: Councillor Joe Cressy**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Cox on October 15, 2020.

Bruce was determined to make a difference.

Bruce was a brother, uncle and friend to many. His recent passing has left those who knew him stunned and saddened, especially his partner of many years, Una.

Everyone who knew Bruce has memories of his jokes, stories and antics that lit up any room he was in. Bruce created an infectious fun environment with work and everyday life and brought these intangibles into every space he entered.

At 13, Bruce took the subway to Toronto City Hall to protest the Amchitka nuclear testing. As a teenager, he worked with Youth Group Etobicoke, a high school group that made headlines for uncovering illegal chemical dumping in Mimico Creek. Bruce embodied an attitude and spirit that gave those around him the confidence to dream big. Bruce encouraged risk-taking and inspired belief that we could change the world.

Bruce started his career in politics in 1985 where he worked at City Hall as an assistant to Councillor Joe Pantalone, then moving to provincial and federal politics. Bruce served as the Provincial Secretary in Nova Scotia and Ontario. Bruce managed Jack Layton's campaign for leader and headed up Jack's first federal campaign.

In 2004, Bruce was hired as the Executive Director at Greenpeace Canada, where he worked for 10 years and was an important driver of defending our rights to protest, standing up to dirty oil, and supporting Ontario's bird population. A devoted naturalist, Bruce spent his last summer campaigning against the unregulated cormorant hunt.

Bruce had a unique approach to the spotlight. He was never interested in glamour or fame, but in making a difference. He often dressed in shorts and sandals, but always had a suit jacket tucked away in the office for those moments when the media called.

Bruce was as fiercely committed to challenging the industries destroying our planet as he was to solutions for workers and communities. A former commercial fisherman and longtime labour organizer, this wasn't abstract to Bruce. It was a part of his DNA.

Bruce knew that social change doesn't come easy, so he defended the role of dissenters in our society. He also defended his people as much as he defended our right to protest. Bruce understood the toll that activism takes and how important it is to have someone in your corner, come what may. Bruce always had your back.

Bruce embodied an attitude and spirit that gave those around him the confidence to dream big. He encouraged risk taking and inspired belief that we could change the world, which continued and renewed a culture of attempting the impossible.

Bruce made a difference.

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

October 27, 2020