

***Expression of Condolence for  
William Grenville Davis by Toronto City Council***

**Moved by: Mayor John Tory**

**Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Hon. William Grenville Davis, also known as “Bill Davis”, the 18th Premier of Ontario on August 8, 2021 at the age of 92. William Davis was one of Canada's longest-serving premiers from 1971-1985 and was known as Ontario's "Education Premier".

At 15 years of age, Bill Davis' love of politics was born after he attended a federal Conservative annual meeting. While he was a lawyer by trade, his political career began in 1959 at age 29, when he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in the riding of Peel. In 1962, at the age of 33, Mr. Davis was appointed to Cabinet as Ontario's new Education Minister. During Mr. Davis' nine years on the education portfolio and under his leadership, he created the community college system and TVOntario.

Mr. Davis was elected Leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and in 1971, became Premier of Ontario at the age of 42. As Premier, he navigated Ontario through a time of transition using his good judgement, integrity and decency to help it emerge as the vibrant, diverse and modern Province it is today.

This includes historically significant initiatives such as the establishment of the college system, significant expansion of the university system, noted environmental initiatives and a focus on respect for human rights in an increasingly diverse society.

Mr. Davis' influence was reflected in many important national initiatives, most notably his key role in the successful patriation of the Canadian Constitution and the establishment of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Davis willingly gave advice when sought to many Canadian Prime Ministers and several of his successors as Ontario Premier.

Mr. Davis' legacy will include building a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Canada and for his respectful, decent and caring approach to everyone he worked with along the way.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mr. Davis' wife, Kathleen, children Neil, Nancy, Cathy, Ian and Meg and their families, as well as the many friends and colleagues whose lives he touched.

October 1, 2021