

***Expression of Condolence for John Honderich
By Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Councillor Joe Cressy

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Honderich, former publisher of the Toronto Star on February 5, 2022 at the age of 75.

John Honderich was born into a well-known Canadian newspaper family. His father, the late Beland Honderich, ran the Toronto Star from the mid-sixties until he retired in 1988. After graduating from the University of Toronto with a B.A. in political science and economics and earning a bachelor of laws degree, John Honderich began his newspaper career as a copyboy with the Ottawa Citizen in 1973.

He had a distinguished 30 year career at the Toronto Star and was known for upholding the values of founding publisher Joseph Atkinson and unfailingly supporting the need for strong journalism. He started as a reporter in 1976, eventually becoming Chief of the Star's Ottawa and Washington bureaus. After serving as deputy editor, John Honderich was appointed Business Editor in May 1984. He became editor of the Toronto Star in 1988 and was appointed publisher in 1994, a position he held until 2004. John Honderich also served as Chair of the Canadian Press from 2001 to 2004.

In 2004, John Honderich became a special envoy to the Mayor, working on a new City of Toronto Act for Toronto. He had a passion for the City and truly loved Toronto, serving as a volunteer City builder in a previous City of Toronto administration and dedicating himself to building a better and fairer City at every opportunity.

In more recent years, John Honderich took on the role of senior statesman and spokesperson for the Canadian newspaper industry. He felt vigorous, investigative journalism was essential for a strong and thriving democracy. John Honderich stood behind and beside journalists and their work, both inside and outside the Toronto Star.

John Honderich was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2004 and appointed a member of the Order of Ontario in 2006. He received honorary degrees from Victoria University, Ryerson University and the University of King's College and was inducted into the Canadian News Hall of Fame in 2014.

John Honderich also served on the boards of the Atkinson Foundation, the Michener Fellowship, the Martin Goodman Fellowship, the Mowat Centre, Seneca College and The Nature Conservancy.

John Honderich was an extremely dedicated supporter of The United Way and its work building up and supporting communities of people facing special challenges in our City. John Honderich will be fondly remembered for his humanity and as a storyteller and City builder who cared deeply about his City, his country and about democracy. He will be deeply missed but his legacy will live on in the many journalists who benefitted from knowledge and from the scholarships he created.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his children Robin and Emily, his grandchildren, his sister and brother and extended family, as well as friends and colleagues.

February 17, 2022