

Expression of Condolence for Eugene Melnyk by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Mark Grimes

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Eugene Melnyk on March 28, 2022 at the age of 62.

Eugene grew up in Toronto to parents from Ukraine. In 1989, he founded and served as Chair of one of Canada's largest pharmaceutical companies, Biovail Corp., and later rose to prominence when he became the owner of the Ottawa Senators in 2003 and is credited with saving the team that faced the possibility of bankruptcy.

Eugene was a passionate hockey fan and was committed to seeing the team through to winning the Stanley Cup. Under his ownership, the Senators appeared in the NHL playoffs nine times and reached the Stanley Cup final in 2007. His dedication to the team and determination to win was unwavering and he loved nothing more than donning the team's jersey and cheering them on. Prior to purchasing the Senators, Eugene was an owner of the Belleville Senators of the American Hockey League and the Toronto St. Michael's Majors of the Ontario Hockey League that played in the St. Michael's College School arena.

Eugene never forgot to give back to the community and help those in need, evident through his support of numerous philanthropic initiatives. He supported a wide range of charitable organizations including St. Joseph's Health Centre (where his father worked as a family and emergency room physician), St. Michael's College School (his alma mater from where he graduated in 1977), and Help Us Help the Children, an organization supporting hundreds of thousands of children living in orphanages throughout Ukraine. Later in his life while residing in Barbados, Eugene founded the Providence Elementary School for pre-kindergarten to Grade 10. He was also the lead donor of Anna House, a childcare facility in Belmont, New York, and Roger Nielson House, a pediatric palliative care facility in Ottawa. Over the years, Eugene donated hockey equipment and jerseys to hundreds of underserved children through the annual Skate for Kids event. He was also recognized as an Honorary Colonel of the Canadian

Armed Forces and visited troops in Afghanistan and delivered hockey equipment and souvenirs.

In 2015, Eugene was only days away from passing due to liver complications when a match was found for a life-saving liver transplant. He later launched The Organ Project to promote public awareness of organ donation.

Beyond the hockey arena, Eugene was also known as one of the country's leading horse-racing breeders with his horses winning all three legs of the Canadian Triple Crown. In 2017, he was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Eugene's optimistic and courageous spirit and his commitment to community will forever be remembered.

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

April 6, 2022