

Expression of Condolence for Sam Wakim by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Mayor John Tory

Toronto City Council is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sam Wakim on December 5, 2022, at the age of 85.

Sam, the son of Lebanese immigrants from East St. John, New Brunswick, was born in 1937 and attended St. Francis Xavier University. While at university, Sam met Martin Robertson and the two went on to raise their family of six children.

While at university in the 1950's, Sam befriended his roommate, future Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whom he would remain best friends with for the next 62 years of his life. Sam graduated with a law degree from the University of New Brunswick before moving to Toronto. He was passionate about politics and public policy, and was successful in becoming the Member of Parliament for the riding of Don Valley East representing the Progressive Conservative Party in the 1979 federal election, a position he served in until 1980. Throughout his illustrious career, Sam was also chief counsel to the Ontario Securities Commission and established himself as a corporate lawyer in Toronto.

Sam was heavily involved in Prime Minister Mulroney's campaigns and was instrumental in the campaigns achieving great success. He helped organize a youth organization which drew new life into the former Prime Minister's campaign and was a critical factor in his friend's bid for leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party in 1983.

Throughout the course of his life, Sam made countless friends and contributed his energy, passion, and ideas to making positive change in the world. He is remembered for his warm spirit, sense of humour, loyalty, and his interest in all things as a "renaissance man". In his later years, Sam devoted his time to his many loving grandchildren.

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

December 14, 2022