

***Expression of Condolence for  
the Honourable David Onley by Toronto City Council***

**Moved by: Mayor John Tory**

**Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie**

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of The Honourable David Onley, CM, OOnt, the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who passed away on January 14, 2023, at the age of 72.

David Charles Onley was born in Midland, Ontario in 1950 and was raised in the West Hill neighbourhood of Scarborough. As a child, David suffered a bout with polio that left him partially paralyzed and required the use of a mobile scooter throughout his adult life. David was a pillar of his community, province, and country, and started off earning his post-secondary degree in Political Science at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

David began his career in broadcasting as a radio host, moving onto television and eventually anchoring his own show focused on science, education, and technology reporting. He advocated for disability issues, serving on several advisory bodies, including as Chair of the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council, which provided recommendations to government.

On September 5, 2007, David Onley was sworn in as Ontario's 28th Lieutenant Governor, becoming the province's first representative of the Crown with a disability. As part of his mandate, he worked to expand education and literacy programs in Indigenous communities and continued to champion universal accessibility for people living with different abilities. As Lieutenant Governor, David served as Colonel of the Regiment of The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) and as Honorary Colonel of 25 Field Ambulance. David served seven years as Lieutenant Governor until 2014. He then took on the role of special lecturer at the University of Toronto Scarborough while also continuing his advocacy for people with different abilities.

David was the recipient of many awards and honours including the Order of Canada in 2014, both the Order of St. John and the Order of Ontario in 2007, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. He was awarded numerous honorary degrees, in

addition to being inducted into the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame and the Scarborough Walk of Fame.

David Onley will be fondly remembered as a warm and personable public servant, whose tireless advocacy and dedicated efforts helped to bring accessibility issues to the forefront across the province. He firmly believed in the power to effect change for the betterment of all Ontarians. David's legacy will live on in generations who have had access to opportunities thanks to doors opened, and held open, by David as a leader and advocate for persons with disabilities. His legacy will also live on in the many journalists who benefitted from his knowledge and mentorship, as well as from the scholarships that were created in his name.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife Ruth Ann, their children Johnathan, Robert, and Michael and their families, and all those whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed.

February 7, 2023