

Expression of Condolence for Hazel McCallion by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Hazel McCallion, CM, OOnt – the 3rd Mayor of the City of Mississauga and a trailblazing politician who passed away peacefully on January 29 at the age of 101.

Hazel McCallion (née Journeaux) was born in Port Daniel, Quebec in 1921 and was the youngest of five siblings. In her early life, she attended school in Montreal and played professional women's hockey. Hazel became one of Canada's first professional female hockey players, working hard to elevate women's hockey in our country. She began her career in business with Canadian Kellogg, first working in Montreal and later being transferred to Toronto in 1942, helping to establish a local office.

Hazel began her career in public life with her appointment as the Chairman of the Streetsville Planning Board. She was later elected to the position of Deputy Reeve in 1967, becoming Reeve in 1968. She was elected as Mayor of the Town of Streetsville in 1970, serving until 1973. Hazel was first elected as Mayor of the City of Mississauga in 1978, and over the course of her long tenure as Mayor, helped transformed a small collection of rural communities into the seventh largest municipality in Canada.

During a 36-year career in politics that lasted until the end of her final term in 2014, when she retired at the age of 93, Hazel was the longest-serving Mayor of Mississauga, elected an incredible 12 times. In her first year as Mayor, she demonstrated strong leadership in leading her City through a large evacuation of residents after a railway accident resulted in the threat of toxic chemicals being emitted into the atmosphere. Throughout Hazel's tenure, she built the City of Mississauga as we know it today, helping businesses grow and develop, building public infrastructure, and growing services for residents, while overseeing a diverse community with a population that nearly doubled during her time in office.

Hazel was a passionate, strong advocate for women's hockey. In 1987, she served as the honorary chairperson, when the Ontario Women's Hockey Association hosted the first Women's World Hockey Tournament in North York. Hazel was instrumental in bringing the first ever World Women's Hockey Championships sanctioned by the International Ice Hockey Federation to Ottawa in 1990.

After retiring from her career in politics, Hazel continued to serve her community including as the first Chancellor of Sheridan College, and as a special advisor to the University of Toronto Mississauga. She was on the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Board and was a member of several other boards as well.

Hazel was the recipient of many awards and honours including her appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2005, as well as receiving the Order of Ontario in 2020, and the Queen's Golden (2002) and Diamond (2012) Jubilee Medals. She was also honoured with Germany's Order of Merit and Japan's Order of the Rising Sun. Hazel was honoured by the City of Mississauga with the Key to the City and received an honorary degree from the University of Toronto.

Hazel McCallion will be fondly remembered as a fierce advocate for her City who shattered barriers as a strong female role model in politics, in women's hockey and as an advocate for healthy living for seniors. Hazel's tenacity and commitment to her residents defined her career in fighting and standing up for her beliefs, while transforming Mississauga into a world-class community.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy and deepest condolences to her children, Peter, Paul and Linda and their families, as well as the residents of Mississauga and all those whose lives she touched. She will be greatly missed by many.

February 7, 2023