

***Expression of Condolence for
Borje Salming by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Anthony Perruzza

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Borje Salming on November 24, 2022, at the age of 71.

Borje was born on April 17, 1951, in the village of Salmi, Sweden, and is survived by his wife, Pia, his children Theresa, Anders, Rasmus, Bianca, Lisa and Sara and his brother Stieg.

After a successful early career in the Swedish professional league, Borje was scouted and signed as a free agent by the Toronto Maple Leafs on May 12, 1973, and made his National Hockey League debut later that year in the 1973-1974 season.

Borje went on to play 16 of his 17 seasons with the Maple Leafs during which time he was selected as an All-Star six times, received the Charlie Conacher Humanitarian Award in 1982, and holds holds six career and single season team records including most career points and goals by a defenceman and most career assists at any position.

After a stellar career of 1148 regular season games, in November 1996, Salming became the first Swedish player to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. In 2017, the National Hockey League named him one of the '100 Greatest Players' in league history. His number 21 hangs in the rafters at Scotiabank Arena as he was one of only 19 players to have their number retired by the Maple Leafs.

Borje was a pioneer in the National Hockey League and acted as a trailblazer for European players. He showcased not only his great skill but also his unbreakable spirit and toughness that shattered stereotypes and paved the way for generations of new players to help make hockey a truly international game.

Borje identified as indigenous Sámi and shared his experiences growing up as indigenous in his native Kiruna and supported the struggle for Indigenous peoples' human rights on national TV at home in Sweden.

In February 2022, Borje began to experience symptoms that led to a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Throughout his life, Borje made countless friends and fans around the world and defined himself both through his play on the ice and his contributions to the community and was affectionately nicknamed "the King".

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

February 7, 2023