

***Expression of Condolence for
Peter Herrndorff by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie

**Seconded by: Councillor Shelley Carroll,
Councillor Alejandra Bravo, and
Councillor Ausma Malik**

The Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Peter Herrndorff, CC, OOnt – reporter, lawyer, media businessman, and arts executive – who passed away in Toronto on February 18, 2023, at the age of 82.

In a career that spanned decades, Peter's relentless passion for storytelling and culture helped transform the landscape of Canadian journalism, media and the arts. Peter was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands in 1940, later relocating to Winnipeg with his family where he was raised. He earned degrees from the University of Manitoba, Dalhousie University and Harvard Business School.

Peter began his career in journalism working with the CBC in Winnipeg, and later in Edmonton, as a reporter, then moved to Toronto to become a current affairs producer. He eventually became Vice President for CBC's English language radio and television services, where he helped launch longstanding programs such as The Fifth Estate, The Journal, and 90 Minutes Live. He was a publisher for Toronto Life from 1983 to 1992. From 1992 to 1999 as Chair of TVO, Peter was primarily responsible for transforming the provincial public service network we know it as today, and was instrumental in establishing flagship programs like The Agenda and The Fourth Reading.

Peter became the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Arts Centre in 1999, a position he would hold for nearly two decades, helping reinvigorate performing arts in Canada to both national and international acclaim. In his role at the National Arts Centre, Peter helped establish the National Arts Centre Foundation and Indigenous Theatre Department, and oversaw the creation of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award.

Throughout his life, Peter was the recipient of many awards and honours including being appointed to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. He was awarded honorary degrees from York University, the University of Winnipeg and Dalhousie University, in addition to receiving the John Drainie Award for his many contributions to Canadian broadcasting. He will be remembered as a passionate advocate for public broadcasting and the arts, whose warm, visionary leadership changed the fabric of Canadian culture for the better. His legacy will live on in the many programs, foundation awards and the cultural institutions he helped establish and nurture.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Peter's wife, Eva; their children, Katherine and Matthew; Peter's brother, Fred; sister, Catherine; and all of their families as well as those working in arts and culture whose lives Peter enhanced through his work.

March 29, 2023