

Expression of Condolence for Claude Cormier by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Claude Cormier, the acclaimed landscape architect and public space designer of many of Toronto's most iconic parks and spaces. Claude passed away at his home in Montreal on September 15, 2023.

Claude was born in Princeville, Quebec in 1960 and began his post-secondary education at Laval University in Quebec with the intent of one day taking over his family's farm. In the 1980s, Claude earned an undergraduate degree in Agronomy at the University of Guelph and went on to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Toronto. In 1994, he graduated with a Master's degree in the History and Theory of Design from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. In 2020, the University of Toronto established the Claude Cormier Award in Landscape Architecture.

For 25 years, under the helm of Claude's visionary prowess, Claude Cormier et Associés (now CCxA) have created some of Canada's most beloved and critically acclaimed public spaces, receiving more than 100 awards along the way. Claude had an incredible talent for bringing the most creatively ambitious ideas to life, using his magic and detailing and executing them to perfection.

Claude was passionate about bringing a sense of joy and playfulness to urban spaces and Toronto has been the beneficiary of his vision. Some of the most meaningful public spaces in Toronto are from his portfolio: HTO Park, Sugar beach, the redesigned Berczy Park, the recently opened Love Park, and the soon-to-be-opened Leslie Lookout Park. His work has enhanced our quality of life, made us smile and set the standard of for the possibilities of park design.

Claude's impact and influence extends beyond the parks and whimsical public spaces he designed. Throughout his career and through his generosity Claude inspired generations of landscape architects, many of whom have worked at the City of Toronto.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Claude Cormier's family, friends, associates and to residents and visitors alike, who have enjoyed the beauty and curiosity of his indelible designs, which will live on for all to delight in.

October 12, 2023