

Expression of Condolence for Ed Broadbent by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Honourable Ed Broadbent PC, CC – a professor, Member of Parliament, and former leader of the Federal New Democratic Party – who passed away on January 11, 2024, at the age of 87.

Ed Broadbent's interest in politics began as a high school student who realized the vital role democratic institutions played in improving people's lives. This idea sparked a lifelong passion of fighting for justice and equality for all that fueled his seven-decade career in politics. He was first elected to Parliament in 1968, as a Member of Parliament for the New Democratic Party (NDP). He served as a Member of Parliament for 21 years, representing the riding of Oshawa—Whitby from 1968 to 1990. He became leader of the NDP in 1975, serving in that role for 14 years and through four general elections. He popularized the NDP as a political party focused on social policy, justice, and the economy. His popularity as a leader as well as his platform resonated with Canadians across the country and helped the party gain a substantial number of seats in the House of Commons.

As a champion for ordinary Canadians, Ed used his tenure as leader of the NDP to stand up for the rights of all Canadians. During his leadership, he argued for the abolition of capital punishment and advocated for the rights of same-sex couples to marry. He also focused on Aboriginal and economic rights, women's equality, child poverty, ethics in government and tax equality. He held the leadership position until his retirement from politics in 1989.

From 1990 to 1996, he served as president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. He returned briefly to federal politics from 2004 to 2006 when he was once again elected as a Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre. During his term, he served as Critic for Democracy, Parliamentary and Electoral Reform, and Child Poverty. Following his career in public life, Ed established the Broadbent Institute, an Ottawa-based think tank dedicated to progressive change focused on income inequality, democratic renewal, green economy, and social democracy. He juggled his instrumental role with the Broadbent Institute with mentoring the next generation, as a political science professor at Canadian universities. He was

also a published author.

In 1993, Ed was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada and was later promoted to a Companion of the Order in 2001. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant whose strong, principled belief in social democracy and justice guided his approach to leadership and brought Canadians together.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Ed Broadbent's family, and to all those whose lives he touched through his work.

February 6, 2024