

Expression of Condolence for Kevin Lee by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Alejandra Bravo

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Kevin Lee on November 29, 2023, at the age of 68.

In his over 30 years in the non-profit sector Kevin was a tireless advocate for equity and inclusion who was widely recognized for his innovative thinking and ability to make things happen. His vision shaped Scadding Court as an organization focused on social justice and continues to inspire our work today.

Kevin was a lifelong advocate focussed on poverty, anti-racism, access to healthcare, and equity issues for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Among his achievements were championing the Office of the Independent Police Review Director which oversees police complaints in Ontario; many years of service on the City of Toronto's Service Equity Committee; and co-chairing the Toronto Mayor's Committee on Community and Race Relations.

As a volunteer, Kevin supported the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, George Brown College Community Business Centre, Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Clinic, and Doctors, Western and Mount Sinai hospitals. In 2007, he received the City of Toronto Access, Equity and Human Rights Award: the William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations.

Kevin was entrepreneurial and tenacious, and believed that creating opportunities for people who experience barriers helps to build a more equitable society. He established the Investing in our Diversity scholarship program that has helped hundreds of youth pursue post-secondary studies, and helped to lead the Scadding Court Bal/hawks basketball program through which hundreds more received scholarships from universities in the United States and in Canada. He also led multiple international exchange and co-operation projects with young people from China, India and Ghana. On the business side, Kevin started the Business Out of the Box social franchise model to create affordable retail space for emerging entrepreneurs. He also created Toronto's first shipping container market, Market707 for small vendors, now a popular city-wide destination for multicultural street food.

By pushing us all to think more creatively, take action on important issues and be persistent in working for a better world, Kevin has left an important legacy. He was a force and will be missed.

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

February 6, 2024