

Expression of Condolence for Harry Rosen by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Harry Rosen, CM – businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the high-end Canadian menswear retail chain – who passed away on December 24, 2023, at the age of 92.

Harry was the son of Polish immigrants, who was born and raised in Toronto. He spent his early years working several different jobs before partnering with his brother, Lou to secure a \$500 loan to open his first menswear store in 1954 in Cabbagetown.

Harry focused on building his clientele by earning the trust of those who came into his store, one person at a time. In 1961, he moved the original store from Cabbagetown to a new home on Richmond Street. Being in the heart of Toronto's financial district saw Harry attending to the tailoring needs of businessmen. His thriving business also saw the introduction of high-end European fashion such as Giorgio Armani, Ermenegildo Zegna, and Hugo Boss to the Canadian market. He further cemented his reputation in the industry through his "Ask Harry" campaign, where he offered expert advice on men's fashion.

Harry was at the helm for over 50 years as the Harry Rosen brand continued to expand in Canada, until he stepped back from his leadership role in 2005. Today there are 20 Harry Rosen stores across Canada. The retailer continues to be run and managed by the Rosen family with Harry's son, Larry, now serving as chair and Chief Executive Officer.

Throughout his life, Harry was also known for his philanthropy, in many areas including hospitals, healthcare and mental health, cancer research, higher education and more. In 2004, he was appointed to the Order of Canada and in 2012, he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Harry's high attention to detail and the dedicated level of care that he gave to his customers is what helped establish Harry Rosen as a brand with integrity. For nearly 70 years, Harry infused his philosophy of treating customers like individuals into the very core of his business. He will be remembered for his love of fitness, his philanthropy and most notably, for his business sense, whose vision created one of Canada's most

successful franchises in fashionable menswear.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Harry's wife of 68 years, Evelyn; his children, Larry, Andrea, Wayne, and Racheal; his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all those whose lives he touched.

February 6, 2024