

***Expression of Condolence for Joe Hester
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Joseph Colin Hester on January 31, 2025, at the age of 77.

Mr. Hester, also known as Ayimuu Macheshuu (Talking Fox), was the Executive Director of Anishnawbe Health Toronto. He dedicated his life to advocating for and supporting Indigenous communities by creating the foundation of urban Indigenous health in Toronto. Through his work, he ensured Indigenous people in and around Toronto had proper access to both traditional and western medicine delivered in a culturally appropriate way.

Mr. Hester's dedication and commitment to the Indigenous community will live on through Anishnawbe Health Toronto's Indigenous Hub, which he championed for over 20 years. The Hub, the first of its kind in Ontario, provides critical health care, spiritual, employment, training and family support needs for the urban Indigenous community. The site is a gathering place for the Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and a home to support the reclamation of culture and identity.

Mr. Hester was a beloved father and grandfather who will be remembered for his tireless efforts in caring deeply for the well-being of Indigenous communities.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Joe Hester's children, Springwater, Paydahbin, Jon, and Geri, his granddaughter, Waasnoode, his friends and colleagues and all those whose lives he touched through his work.

February 11, 2025