

Expression of Condolence for Robert Barnes by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Brad Bradford

Seconded by: Councillor Jon Burnside

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert Barnes on June 25, 2025, at the age of 83.

Born on April 10, 1942, Dr. Barnes lived a rich and purposeful life defined by intellectual curiosity, community service, and a deep love of both family and history. Educated at the University of Melbourne, where he earned his BA, MA, and PhD in History, he also completed a Master of Letters at the University of New England. His academic achievements reflected a lifelong fascination with the past, culminating in the publication of *An Unlikely Leader: The Life and Times of Captain John Hunter*.

Dr. Barnes enjoyed a long career in pharmaceutical marketing with Pfizer and Imperial Chemical Industries before transitioning to a series of impactful leadership roles. He served as CEO of the Australian Institute of Bankers, the Municipal Association of Victoria, and the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Barnes was deeply committed to public service and civic engagement as President of the Legend Park Branch of the Liberal Party and a member of the State Council.

His personal passions were many. An avid sailor, Robert spent his early years navigating the waters of Lake Macquarie and Honiara. He held a pilot's license and flew light aircraft across Papua New Guinea and Tasmania during the 1960s and 70s. He was also a proud member of the 1st Mayfield Scout Troop and the 21st Flight Air Training Corps in his youth. A passionate rugby player, history buff, and a deeply engaged member of several scholarly and historical societies, he brought energy and curiosity to everything he pursued.

Robert was a devoted father to three children: Phillip, Murray, and Laurece, and a proud grandfather to Nolan, Harrison, Lachlan, TK, and Corbyn. He also leaves behind a great-grandchild, Ripley. His legacy lives on through his family and the many institutions and communities he helped shape.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Dr. Robert Barnes' children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, as well as his extended family, colleagues, and friends who mourn his loss.

July 23 ,2025