

## ***Expression of Condolence for the Honourable Hilary M. Weston by Toronto City Council***

**Moved by:** Mayor Olivia Chow

**Seconded by:** Councillor Shelley Carroll

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Honourable Hilary M. Weston, CM, CVO, OOnt, the 26<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who passed away on August 2, 2025, at the age of 83.

Born in Dublin, Hilary Weston moved to Toronto with her husband in the 1970s. She was deputy chair of Holt Renfrew and founded the Ireland Fund of Canada, in addition to participating in the W.Garfield Weston Foundation's charitable activities. She was also a published author.

On December 12, 1996, Hilary Weston was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on the advice of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, becoming only the second woman in the province's history to serve in the viceregal role. She served as Lieutenant Governor from 1997 to 2002 and was devoted to celebrating volunteers, youth and women and championing cultural institutions. During her term, she established the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award to honour unsung heroes in the community and student volunteers. She donated her salary as Lieutenant Governor to the Hilary M. Weston Foundation for Youth which provided business internships for Ontario students and job training for less fortunate youth.

Mrs. Weston also contributed to the social, cultural and artistic fabric of Toronto through her charitable and philanthropic work. She helped establish the Winter Garden Show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and was instrumental in raising over 250 million dollars for the Royal Ontario Museum. She also served on the board of the Aga Khan Museum and as a founding director as well as trustee emeritus at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Over the course of her life, Hilary Weston received many awards and honours. In 2003, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, having previously become a member of the Order of Ontario while serving as Chancellor. She also received the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and was honoured to be made Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 2015. She was also awarded several

honorary degrees from Canadian and international universities.

Hilary Weston will be remembered for being committed to public service as well as a business leader and patron of the arts. She shared her vision for creating a better world through her philanthropic leadership with the Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation and the Weston Family Foundation. She also recognized the power of books to inform and expand our collective knowledge and established the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Hilary M. Weston's children, Galen and Alannah, and their families; her siblings, Deirdre, Josephine, and Robert; and all those whose lives she touched through her work.

October 8, 2025