

Expression of Condolence for the Honourable Ken Dryden by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

**Seconded by: Councillor Mike Colle, Councillor Stephen Holyday and
Councillor James Pasternak**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of the Honourable Ken Dryden, PC, OC, who passed away on September 5, 2025, at the age of 78. Mr. Dryden was a former federal Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament, lawyer, author, sports executive and professional ice hockey player.

Mr. Dryden was deeply connected to Etobicoke. He grew up in Humber Valley Village, graduating from Etobicoke Collegiate Institute. He played hockey for Humber Valley; a thriving hockey club connected to the Etobicoke Central Area. In 1994, Mr. Dryden was inducted into the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame and was well known in Etobicoke for his contributions to his local community.

Mr. Dryden was first elected to the House of Commons in 2004 as the Member of Parliament for the riding of York Weston, representing the riding until 2011. He served as Minister of Social Development from 2004 to 2006 under Prime Minister Paul Martin, where he advocated for a national daycare program. Prior to elected office, Mr. Dryden was a professional ice hockey player, who served as goaltender for the Montreal Canadiens in the National Hockey League from 1970 – 1979, helping lead the team to six Stanley Cup Championships. He was also an important member of Team Canada during the 1972 Summit Series.

At the height of his hockey career, Mr. Dryden stepped away from the 1973-74 season to finish his law degree at McGill University.

Following his professional hockey career, Mr. Dryden pursued several other ventures. He became a sports commentator throughout the 1980s and served as President of the Toronto Maple Leafs. He was passionate about head safety in hockey, writing extensively about the links between hockey, concussions and head trauma. He advocated for more to be done to protect players from chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). He was also a published author.

Throughout his life, Mr. Dryden was the recipient of many awards and honours. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2012 and in the same year, received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. As a professional hockey player, he received the Conn Smythe Trophy, Calder Memorial Trophy, and was a five-time winner of the Vezina Trophy, which all recognized his skill as a goaltender. He was inducted into several Halls of Fame and held honorary degrees from many universities across Canada. Mr. Dryden will be remembered as a principled and thoughtful parliamentarian who leaves behind a legacy as someone who had a passion for public service and who was a strong advocate for meaningful change.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife, Lynda, his children Sarah and Michael, his grandchildren, and all those whose lives he touched.

October 8, 2025