

## ***Expression of Condolence for John Piper 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 John Piper on July 25, 2025, at the age of 82.

John arrived in Toronto in the late 1960s and settled in Cabbagetown, where he quickly became a prolific community and political organizer. He was instrumental in leading many political campaigns, including those for Gordon Cressy, David Reville, Jack Layton, Joanne Campbell, Bob Rae, John Sewell, Barbara Hall, Kathleen Wynne and David Miller.

John made extensive contributions to the City of Toronto. He worked as a senior advisor to Dr. Sheela Basrur, Medical Officer of Health during the SARS outbreak. He also worked with Dr. Basrur to initiate Canada's first Health Inspection for Restaurants, devising the green, red and yellow signage system still used in restaurants today. Former Mayor David Miller appointed John as his point person on the Waterfront. John also worked with former Councillor Olivia Chow and others on student nutrition initiatives and school breakfast programs. He worked with former Councillor Gordon Cressy to lead the transformation of the United Way to reflect the changing demographics of Toronto.

The struggle to end Apartheid became a driving force for John. He played a key role in each of Nelson Mandela's three visits to Toronto. In 1998, John was instrumental in helping a new generation learn more about Nelson Mandela, working to bring 45,000 school children to the then Skydome to hear Nelson Mandela speak as part of the Mandela and the Children event. This event was broadcast across Canada and became known as Canada's largest classroom.

Outside of his professional career and community work, John was known for being an exceptionally talented musician. He was a vocalist and a pianist who was able to write, score and play every instrument in the orchestra.

Over the last 12 years, John lived with Alzheimer's disease. He was lovingly cared for by The Meighen Residence of the Salvation Army, CAMH, and at Kensington Gardens.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to John Piper's family and all those whose lives he touched.

October 8, 2025