

Expression of Condolence for Gregory George Spearn by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gregory George Spearn who passed away on September 19, 2025, at the age of 73.

Mr. Spearn dedicated his career to urban planning and community development, holding a Bachelor of Applied Arts in Urban Planning from Ryerson (now Toronto Metropolitan) University, advancing his studies in the Urban Planning Program at the University of Waterloo. He is known for his leadership in the real estate and housing sectors of which he was a part of for over 30 years, managing and developing multiple diverse projects which included a deep commitment to social housing.

Mr. Spearn's early career in Toronto included serving as a Senior Consultant for the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, where his work significantly shaped the Redevelopment Plan for the Toronto Waterfront and related railway lands.

Mr. Spearn was also Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Toronto Community Housing Corporation, from 2014 to 2017, where he led a comprehensive rebuilding process to significantly improve tenant living conditions and customer service for more than 110,000 residents. Mr. Spearn was passionate about his work, guided by the belief that every tenant deserved a safe, well-maintained home.

During his time at Toronto Community Housing Corporation, he led revitalization initiatives for communities such as Regent Park, Lawrence Heights, and Alexandra Park. He expanded partnerships with the private and social services sectors and was dedicated to tenant safety and security, which led to a significant expansion of the Community Safety Unit. Under his leadership, Toronto Community Housing Corporation was recognized as one of the *Globe and Mail's* Top Employers in the Greater Toronto Area for 2017, a testament to his successful efforts to strengthen the company's foundation and clarify its mandate.

Mr. Spearn will be remembered for his leadership, vision, humour and the warmth that

he shared with family, colleagues and friends. His legacy will live on in his family and in the communities, he helped to shape.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Gregory George Spearn's sister Ann, his brothers John, Scott and Rob, and their families, his extended family and all those whose lives he touched.

November 12, 2025