

***Expression of Condolence for Leslie Newton Forbes
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Jamaal Myers

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Leslie Newton Forbes on January 27, 2026, at the age of 89.

Leslie was a devoted educator, community advocate, and youth mentor. After years of establishing himself as an educator in Trinidad, he immigrated to Canada in 1970 and immediately began shaping the multicultural fabric of our city. He spent more than 20 years working for the Toronto District School Board as a teacher, administrator, vice-principal and principal, with a focus on special education. He was also a dedicated community leader, serving 15 years as a coach for the Malvern Soccer Club and over five years as a director of the East Scarborough Boys and Girls club.

Beyond his professional and mentorship accomplishments, Leslie touched countless lives through his unwavering dedication and involvement within Toronto's Caribbean community. For more than 25 years, he played an active role in Caribana and Carnival, serving as the chairman and Chief executive officer on several occasions and helping guide the continued growth of the festival. He further contributed to the King and Queen of Carnival competitions, serving as an event coordinator in the mid-2000s, helped lead Pan Alive in 2008 and 2009, and supported fashion initiatives beginning in 1994.

His legacy will continue to inspire multiculturalism and inclusivity in Toronto and beyond.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to his wife, Jean Forbes; his children, Donna-Mae (Brian), Don, and Lesley-Ann; his step-children, Paul and Sharon; his grandchildren, Monique (Panyin), Cadyn, Garrison and Marlee; and his cherished great-grandchildren, Kai and Rhys as well as many friends and colleagues.

March 25, 2026