

Expression of Condolence for the Honourable Bill Saunderson by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Stephen Holyday

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened by the passing on March 7, 2026, of the Honourable Bill Saunderson, dedicated public servant, and former Member of Provincial Parliament for Eglinton and Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism.

Bill began his career as an accountant after receiving his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto. He spent many successful years in the profession, co-founding his own firm in 1971, Sceptre Investment Counsel Limited.

Long before seeking elected office, Bill was deeply engaged in Canadian politics. He participated in fundraising activities for numerous municipal, provincial, and federal campaigns, and served as financial comptroller for the Progressive Conservative Party's national election campaigns in 1984 and 1988.

In 1995, Bill left a successful career in finance to serve the public. That year, he was elected as the Progressive Conservative Member of Provincial Parliament for Eglinton, and was appointed Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. Known across party lines as a true gentleman, he earned the respect of colleagues for his dedication and thoughtfulness.

Bill chose to serve only one term and declined to seek re-election. Nevertheless, his commitment to community service remained. Bill served on innumerable boards including: the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Shaw Festival, multiple healthcare institutions and he also received honorary doctorates from the University of Ottawa and Trinity College, University of Toronto. Alongside his wife Meredith, he also demonstrated a philanthropic commitment to education and health care by establishing a research chair at the University of Toronto in 2000 to advance studies in brain injuries, inspired after their daughter sustained injuries in a cycling accident years earlier.

Bill is survived by his wife of 68 years, Meredith (Robinson), their three children Janet (Ian), Brian (Susan), and Pamela (Stephen), grandchildren Madeleine (Taylor), Jacob (Ania), Nathan (Stephanie), Nicole, Dylan, Max, Cole, Spencer, Hayley and great grandchildren Josah, Norah, Luna, Silvy, and Billie.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Bill's family.

March 25, 2026