

***Expression of Condolence for Sheldon Fainer
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin

Seconded by: Councillor Shelley Carroll

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sheldon Fainer.

Born in 1930 in Poland, Sheldon was the sole survivor of his immediate family, losing his two siblings and parents in the Holocaust. Managing to escape the Nazis, Sheldon survived his pre-teen and early years by hiding in the forest, eventually making his way to Toronto via South America and Brooklyn, New York.

In Toronto, Sheldon found work in a textile shop, where his acute business sense and charming personality led him to grow the business and woo his wife, Beverley, with whom he eventually built the world-renowned Designer Fabric, a textile institution located in Parkdale. Serving Torontonians who loved to sew and work with fabric, as well as professionals from the design, fashion, and film industry for decades, Sheldon and Beverley created a thriving business and travelled the world curating the store with textiles from across the globe.

Beyond these accomplishments, Sheldon was an active and engaged citizen, serving the City of Toronto for many years in a variety of capacities. Sheldon's office tells a story of a life of civic engagement and service to others. Lined with certificates and letters of appreciation from countless politicians and organizations, Sheldon was deeply committed to our city, sitting on the Parkdale Business Improvement Area, the Toronto Film, Television and Media Board, and on the Metropolitan Toronto Board of Police.

Sheldon was someone who truly loved people. He could often be found at the front of his store, greeting customers and chatting with them about their families and work.

As a young Jewish man who experienced what were surely excruciating conditions and such tremendous loss at the hands of nations that turned against their Jewish citizens, Sheldon never lost faith in people, humanity, or government. Instead, he threw himself

into civic life, spending his time building a large and loving family, growing a successful and creative business, and focusing his time and energy on giving back through philanthropy and service to his community and city. Affectionately known to many as the “Mayor of Parkdale”, he was a true city and community builder.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of City Council, our sincere sympathy to Sheldon Fainer’s family.

July 29, 2026