



INSTITUTE
FOR
CHANGE
LEADERS



2022 LAYTON ACTIVISM AWARD CELEBRATION

POST-EVENT REPORT

AUGUST 22, 2022

Event Zoom Recording

<https://ryerson.zoom.us/rec/share/glyWoqw5SoqUMhv5Qblh8nFPK9aTGHHN3eK3WIFNdd007nUO2a9vyhF3vk3jHsiT.qInGFsOo1vKVNOft?startTime=1661187638000>

Executive Summary

The 2022 Layton Activism Award Celebration was held on Monday, August 22nd, at the Sears Atrium, Toronto Metropolitan University and also live-streamed over Zoom. This initiative, in partnership with the Douglas Coldwell Layton Foundation, honours Jack's Legacy and is designed to amplify, grow, and support community-level activism from change makers around the country. With 100+ nomination applications submitted for this event, the expert panel of judges named one Layton Activism Award recipient and one Honourable Mention, both of whom were recognized at the event.

Roots Community Food Centre received this year's Layton Activism Award for their work providing people in Thunder Bay, Ontario with access to affordable, fresh food while building a community centred on advocating for food security. They became a member of Community Food Centres Canada and are now part of a national effort to improve fresh food access around Canada.

Ryan's Hope, a volunteer-led non-profit that supports vulnerable populations in Barrie, was named this year's Honourable Mention. Started in memory of their son Ryan who tragically lost his life to a drug overdose, Christine and Tom Nayler founded Ryan's Hope in late 2020 to provide people experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental health issues with breakfast, laundry service, and other critical community supports and connection.

Highlight of Program:

The highlight of this year's event was the panel discussion between Jack's former Chiefs of Staffs Anne McGrath (current Director of Canada's NDP) and Bob Gallagher, along with Jack's former Press Secretary Karl Bélanger (current President of the Douglas Coldwell Layton Foundation). On the 11th anniversary of Jack's passing, they were able to provide anecdotes of Jack, his personal life, the movement he inspired, and reminded everyone of the importance of local-level community activism. This panel was highly engaging for both people on Zoom and those in-person, and something to replicate for future events. Stories of Jack as told by some of the people who were closest to him motivated those present and solidified the high distinction of the Layton Activism Award.

QUOTES FROM ATTENDEES

"Jack built a 'story of us' that was so strong, it still brings people together today."

“[Jack] demonstrated dignity, integrity and determination with respect, inclusion and with a welcoming leadership. A doer...”

"The true character of a person is reflected in those who gather to remember them, because they are still impacting people through those they impacted. There have been and will always be people who are impacted by Jack Layton, even if not directly."

“[Jack had an] incredible heart, a brilliant mind and a genuine inspiration. The epitome of true leadership. He is greatly missed.”

PHOTOS FROM THE IN-PERSON EVENT



Christine Nayler accepting the Honourable Mention Award for Ryan's Hope.



MC Mike Perry displaying Jack's cane that he brought to the event.



(From left) Olivia Chow, Darnel Harris, Christine Naylor (Ryan's Hope), H  l  ne Leblanc, and Bob Gallagher.



(From left) Bob Gallagher, Anne McGrath, and Karl Bélanger speaking on their panel about Jack & his legacy.