

**David Balfour Meynell, Q.C.**

**Sept. 24, 1931 to Oct. 5, 2008**

For over 14 years David Meynell was an invaluable, dedicated volunteer and staunch supporter of March of Dimes. He passed away on October 5th, 2008 after a battle with cancer.

David volunteered for March of Dimes because he wanted to make a contribution, to make a difference and to use his governance and advocacy skills to help Canadians with disabilities to reach their full potential.

David wore a number of hats in his volunteer life with March of Dimes, becoming the Chair of a number of different committees, including the Human Resources Committee, Planning and Priorities Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and eventually both Ontario March of Dimes and March of Dimes Canada. He also sat on the Ontario March of Dimes Non-Profit Housing Corporation board for ten years. David was a founding member of the Risk and Audit Committee, was a member of the President's Advisory Council and was on the Executive of Ontario March of Dimes for eight years. All those who had the chance to work with him throughout his tenure with March of Dimes benefited tremendously from his insight, kindness and dedication.

It was often said of David that he was sage, insightful, analytical, witty, and committed. March of Dimes was so much the better for the service of David Meynell, and there are thousands of clients and hundreds of employees - who while they may never have known him personally - gained from his extraordinary commitment to their well-being. David was truly their "champion."

In his time with March of Dimes, David championed issues such as supportive housing for people with physical disabilities, employment equity, accessibility, and equality of citizenship. In recent years, David contributed to discussions and negotiations that set the stage for March of Dimes to be launched nationally.

With his quiet strength, David excelled at making his position known, never overlooking or discounting another's point of view, but never going off-course or giving up if he felt a policy or action would move forward the important work of March of Dimes.

"I could always count on David's personal support. When he served as Board Chair, we traveled to various regions of Ontario together to meet with staff and volunteers. I learned first hand how much he cared about the important work we do every day, how much he valued the people we serve and the employees we develop. David could be counted on to speak passionately on our behalf, and proudly," says Andria Spindel, President and CEO of March of Dimes, who worked closely with David throughout his 14 years with the organization.

David was genuine in his encouragement of those contributing to the mission of March of Dimes. He loved connecting with March of Dimes volunteers and hearing their stories, learning about what the

organization meant to them and why they supported it. So many people involved with March of Dimes had the opportunity to benefit from his experience and are the better for it.

“My colleagues and I are so grateful that David was in our lives,” says Andria. “I am especially grateful that he was my friend and mentor, and that he shared his love of his family with me, as well as his great mind and kind heart. He will be deeply missed at March of Dimes.”

If you would like to make a donation to March of Dimes Canada in memory of David Meynell, you can use the [In Tribute/ in Memoriam Giving](#) section of our website.