



Photo courtesy of Olivia Chow

The Hon. Olivia Chow, P.C., M.P.

A highly respected public figure, Olivia has served in municipal politics and on the national stage for over 30 years.

Her bestselling memoir, *My Journey*, was published in 2014.

Olivia was at the forefront of the ultimately successful campaign to achieve a national apology and redress for the discriminatory “Chinese Head Tax”; outside politics, she’s known as a tireless spokesperson, fundraiser and champion of numerous charities. She and her husband, NDP Leader of the Opposition Jack Layton (who died of cancer in 2011), together forged one of Canada’s most remarkable political partnerships.

Olivia gained national recognition as Toronto’s first Children and Youth Advocate. In this capacity, she enhanced the far-reaching child nutrition programs; free dental care for children living in poverty; expanded pre- and post-natal services; and an award-winning approach to delivering Early Learning and Child Care (First Duty). Her work as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University focuses on community engagement and leadership development. As a founder of the Institute for Change Leaders, Olivia and her team of 30+ trainers have taught community and political organizing to over 1350 people since March of 2015.

