

# The Labour Party

**Rt Hon Keir Starmer KC, MP**  
**Leader of the Labour Party**

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26 January 2024

To the Broadbent family,

I am writing to offer my deepest condolences following Ed's passing.

Ed was a titan of social democratic politics. He led with integrity and, over many decades, demonstrated a commitment to public service matched by very few.

His hard work and dedication to grow the NDP over the 14 years he served as leader is something progressives around the world should learn from.

Ed saw politics from both sides of the lens – from the perspective of ordinary people and their everyday challenges, but also from the big-picture level of systems and institutions. While he grounded his politics in rigorous intellectual thought, he never lost sight of the link to tangible policy practice. And he held resolutely to his principles, without losing his sincere and straightforward pragmatism. These qualities, so evident yet always tucked behind his characteristic humility, made him a truly extraordinary leader.

Even after retiring from frontline politics – for the second time – he continued to relentlessly pursue a fairer society, enriching the policy landscape through the work of his Institute. And still, though we are all so much poorer for his absence, his legacy continues to change society in Canada and beyond. Not just through the institutions he helped to shape, and the foundations he laid in the NDP, but perhaps most importantly through the inspiration he instilled in the next generation of leaders.

The zeal with which Ed lived and worked makes the void he leaves all the more palpable, not just in Canadian politics but in the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Joining with you in your grief are your friends and colleagues in progressive social democratic movements right across the world, including here in the United Kingdom. On behalf of our Labour Party, I offer my thoughts and good wishes to you all as you celebrate Ed and all that he stood for.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KC, MP**  
**Leader of the Labour Party**