



Grand Challenges Canada®
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News Release

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GRAND CHALLENGES CANADA SADDENED BY DEATH OF CHAIRMAN JOSEPH L. ROTMAN

Toronto, Canada - Grand Challenges Canada has learned with deep regret and great sadness that its legendary Chairman, Mr. Joseph L. Rotman, O.C., has passed away.

Mr. Rotman was appointed Chair of Grand Challenges Canada in 2009 and has been



instrumental in the success of the organization. He was a strong proponent of the power of integrating science, technology, social and business innovation to generate long-lasting impact in global health, and to save and improve the lives of the world's poorest. Mr. Rotman believed in nurturing local leadership and involvement to effectively and sustainably address health challenges in the developing world, and advocated for strong partnerships with public and private partners.

Mr. Rotman, together with his wife Sandra, made long-term commitments in the fields of arts, education and healthcare, while promoting and developing internationally-renowned Canadian institutions. They have supported the creation of new knowledge in science and technology, business practices, and public policy.

“Everyone at Grand Challenges Canada is devastated by the news. Canada has lost a visionary leader,” said Dr. Peter A. Singer, O.C., Chief Executive Officer at Grand Challenges Canada. “The thoughts of our entire Board of Directors and team, and our community of global health innovators, go out to Mr. Rotman’s family.”

“We have been proud and privileged to work with Mr. Rotman as the Chair of Grand Challenges Canada and we will remember him. A successful businessman an entrepreneur, Joe Rotman moved away from business 20 years ago to apply the business principles he had learned to philanthropy and as a trusted advisor to Governments. Joe Rotman loved Canada. An Officer of the Order of Canada, no one better personified – and acted upon – the motto of the Order: ‘They desire a better country’.”



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“For me personally, Joe has been an inspiration and mentor for more than 15 years,” Singer continues. “Joe Rotman was a great Canadian who transformed Canada’s role in the field of global health and international development. I mourn his passing and will never forget what he taught me. May his memory be a blessing.”

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About Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is dedicated to supporting Bold Ideas with Big Impact® in global health. We are funded by the Government of Canada and we support innovators in low- and middle-income countries and Canada. The bold ideas we support integrate science and technology, social and business innovation to find sustainable solutions to health challenges – we call this Integrated Innovation®. Grand Challenges Canada focuses on innovator-defined challenges through its Stars in Global Health program and on targeted challenges in its Saving Lives at Birth, Saving Brains and Global Mental Health programs. Grand Challenges Canada works closely with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) to catalyze scale, sustainability and impact. We have a determined focus on results, and on saving and improving lives.

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