Ed Broadbent is known to most Canadians as a political leader: specifically, he is renowned for leading the New Democratic Party through four elections in 1979, 1980, 1984 and 1988, before stepping down in 1989. He briefly returned to the House of Commons as an NDP MP from 2004 until 2006.

Ed Broadbent has also had a distinguished career beyond the Canadian political arena. He served as Vice-President of the Socialist International from 1979 until 1989 while Willy Brandt was President, and is a lifelong student of political philosophy.

Between 1990 and 1996 he was the first President of the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (which regrettably was closed down by the Conservative government). In 1996-97 Ed spent a year as a visiting fellow at All Souls College, Oxford.

He was one of the earliest to raise concerns about growing economic inequality and the challenges it presents to democracy. In 1989, the House of Commons unanimously adopted Ed Broadbent’s motion to end child poverty in Canada. Twenty-five years later, Canada had made limited progress, if any, toward this goal.

Ed is a justly celebrated social democratic politician with a passion for social and economic justice that has also been nurtured by his own scholarship and that of others.

Ed is the founding and current President of the Broadbent Institute.