

---

January 27, 2026

Dear John,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Group of 78 to send our love and wishes to you at this difficult time.

Last week at our Board meeting, members paid tribute to the cascade of important contributions you have generated over the decades in building a better Canada and a better world.

Powered by your unstoppable drive for justice, razor-sharp analysis, and permanent joie de vivre, the range and depth of your leadership as an activist, scholar and administrator have been exemplary and inspiring to us all.

Board members recalled your student activism in the 1960s; your political work, including running for the NDP, in the 1970s; your coalition-building with the United Church for human rights and international development; your leadership as executive director of Oxfam Canada and engagement with the North-South Institute; your academic teaching and mentoring at Regina and Carleton universities; and, throughout your working life, your advocacy for the rights and development of poor and marginalized communities across Latin America.

We fully endorse this summary from the Circle of Elders, of which you are a member: “John W. Foster has contributed significantly to building Canadian civil society's moral and analytical capacities in solidarity with Latin American peoples. His praxis, rooted in critical history, transnational dialogue, and institutional bridge-building, offers a compelling model of public intellectual engagement in the service of global justice and human dignity.”

You have created enormous impact. Please know that we at the Group of 78 are thinking of you now.

Sincerely,



Ted Jackson, Chair

Mobile: 613 296 9934