

Tribute to Dr. John Loxley

CANDO

CANDO and Indigenous people in Canada lost an important friend and ally when Dr. John Loxley passed away on July 28, 2020, in Winnipeg. He was in his 77th year and leaves behind his wife, Aurelie, as well as his children — Salim, Camille, Raina, and Matthew.

John was a very broad-based and progressive economist, serving as a senior advisor to governments in Africa, at the United Nations, and the Government of Manitoba. While he reached the upper levels of academia, being elected, for example, as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was also grounded in the lives of communities, including work with Winnipeg’s inner city and social justice groups as well as with the All Chiefs Budget Committee in Manitoba to train community economic development officers. He was also a past member of Cando’s Education Committee.

John will always be remembered for his outstanding contribution to First Nation children through the First Nation Child and Family Caring Society. In particular, his work documented the net benefits that would be obtained if the funding formula for First Nation child welfare agencies were changed to promote the strengthening of families and communities rather than having financial incentives that encouraged agencies to take children into care. His research and testimony before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal had a significant influence in the decisions reached by the panel, resulting in better services for thousands of children.