

Tribute

REMEMBERING MEL WATKINS

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It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Mel Watkins (May 15, 1932 – April 2, 2020). Mel was a “giant” among Canadian political economists, a savvy political organizer, and by all accounts, a person dear to many for his generosity of spirit and kindness. Mel was a frequent presenter and guest at the annual conferences of the Society of Socialist Studies and a contributor to this Journal. No student of Canadian political economy could consider their education complete without reading and engaging the work of Mel Watkins. Watkins attacked the political orthodoxy that pressed for endless growth derived from finite resources, challenged facile assumptions about resource extraction, and supported Indigenous rights to control and protect precious collective resources. His lifelong commitment to progressive politics did not end with the “Waffle Movement” but continued throughout the course of his life.

In this "Tribute to Mel Watkins" we have collected memories and recollections of colleagues and friends -- but this is just the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of the many scholarly and lasting contributions of Mel Watkins. We invite readers to share their own memories and recognitions here: <http://socialiststudies.ca/2020/04/socialist-studies-tribute-to-mel-watkins/>.

As would be expected, there have been many progressive publications that have recognized Mel Watkins since his passing. We invite readers to also view these wonderful acknowledgments of a truly brilliant and unique person. On behalf of the Journal, we offer our condolences to Mel's family and thank them for sharing Mel with all of us.

Other tributes to Mel Watkins:

Duncan Cameron, "Mel Watkins: Engagement for the Common Good", [rabble.ca](https://rabble.ca/columnists/2020/04/mel-watkins-engagementcommon-Good)
(<https://rabble.ca/columnists/2020/04/mel-watkins-engagementcommon-Good>)

Karl Nerenberg, "Remembering political economist Mel Watkins", [rabble.ca](https://rabble.ca/news/2020/04/remembering-political-economist-mel-watkins)
(<https://rabble.ca/news/2020/04/remembering-political-economist-mel-watkins>)

Council of Canadians, "In Memoriam: Mel Watkins"
<https://canadians.org/analysis/memoriam-mel-watkins>

Mel Watkins Obituary,
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theglobeandmail/obituary.aspx?n=mel-watkins&pid=195877949>