

## **David M. Malone, February 7, 1954 – November 24, 2025**

David M. Malone died peacefully at home in Victoria, B.C. on November 24, 2025. Over the past year, he had been suffering from advancing Alzheimer's disease. David requested Medical Assistance in Dying, so that he could make his own decision about the time and place of his death.

David was born in 1954 into a distinguished foreign service family. Both his father, Paul Malone, and his older brother Anthony, served as Canadian Ambassadors. He took his baccalaureate while at school in France and, after completing a degree at the École des hautes études commerciales (HEC) in Montreal, he entered the Canadian foreign service in 1975.

David pursued two highly successful careers in parallel. The first was diplomacy. He began his foreign service career working on the Middle East with postings in Cairo and Amman. He then developed an expertise in international economic policy and was the Co-ordinator for the 1988 Toronto G7 Summit working for Sylvia Ostry. Through a posting to the Permanent Mission in New York as Deputy Permanent Representative, he developed a deep interest in global issues and the work of the United Nations. In successive assignments in Ottawa, he served twice as Director General and twice as Assistant Deputy Minister. His last posting was as High Commissioner to India with accreditation to Bhutan and Nepal. He returned to Ottawa in 2008 to serve as the President of IDRC for five years and then served for ten years as the Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo, with the rank of UN Under-Secretary-General.

David's second career was in academia: he completed a doctorate at Oxford during a two-year leave from the Department, which led to his first book – a case study of decision-making in the Security Council on Haiti. He was the sole author of four more books on international relations and was the co-editor of thirteen volumes of essays. The United Nations and India were two of his main scholarly interests. Among his best-known books are *Does the Elephant Dance? Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy* (2013) and *The Oxford Handbook on Indian Foreign Policy* (2015). He was an Adjunct Professor of International Relations at New York University, where he co-taught a course every autumn for sixteen years.

David was known for his quick and incisive mind, his keen ability to distinguish the important from the unimportant, and his readiness to champion the causes of people – especially students and young scholars – whose futures he believed in. He was a generous host and a natural convenor of people and ideas. He will be missed by his global network of friends, colleagues and former students.

For more information about his international civil service career, please view

the following In Memoriam notices:

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