

Murray Koffler (b. 1924) and Marvelle Koffler (b. 1929)

Born in Toronto and educated at the University of Toronto, pharmacist and businessman Murray Koffler developed the Shoppers Drug Mart chain. He built on his experience in Canada by introducing a similar chain of stores, known as Super-Pharm, in Israel. Koffler has also been prominent in encouraging Canadian investment in Israel serving on the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his business pursuits, Koffler is known as a community leader and philanthropist. He has received the B'nai Brith Distinguished Citizen's Award; the Canada Council of Christians and Jews Humanitarian Award; and, with his wife, Dr. Marvelle Koffler, the Israel Cancer Research Fund Humanitarian Award. He has served on the board of governors of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, as well as on the boards of Mount Sinai Hospital, the United Jewish Welfare Fund, and the Jerusalem Foundation, and is a past chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. In 1979 Murray Koffler was the Toronto Negev Dinner honoree.

Both Murray and Marvelle Koffler are major supporters of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Both sit on the Institute's board of governors, and Murray Koffler is chair of the international board of directors. He is also chairman emeritus of the Canadian Society for the Weizman Institute. Another of his contributions to the Weizmann Institute is his funding of the Koffler Accelerator—a sophisticated twin-tower instrument for nuclear research.

Murray Koffler was named to the Order of Canada in 1977 and in 1996 was promoted to an Officer. He was also named to the Order of Ontario in 1992 and received an honorary doctorate from the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1976.

FROM:

David J. Azrieli, *Rekindling The Torch: The Story Of Canadian Zionis*, 2008. Key Porter Books Ltd.