

**Name:** Sylvan Katz on behalf of the Katz families

**Address:** [REDACTED] Ball Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7K [REDACTED]

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Requested name:** Leon Katz

**Requested use:** Anything but preferably not a street

### **Background**



### **Leon Katz 1909-2004**

Dr. Leon Katz was a prominent contributor to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Canada's Science and Technology landscape from 1946 until his passing in 2004. For two decades, since the opening of the Canadian Light Source (CLS), Saskatoon has prided itself as being a science hub for Canada, using the slogan "Saskatoon Shines" to recognize the contribution of science to the community. The CLS was built in Saskatoon because of the existence of the Saskatchewan Accelerator Laboratory (SAL), and the expertise and infrastructure it brought. Dr. Katz, as founder and first Director of SAL, is directly responsible for that legacy.

Dr. Katz received his Ph.D. with distinction from the California Institute of Technology. His academic career was interrupted by World War II; during its latter years, he worked as a research engineer with the Westinghouse Electric Company in Pittsburgh designing radar equipment to measure the muzzle velocity of shells from large guns on US war ships. He

received a patent along with another colleague from Westinghouse for Beacon Radar System (US Patent #2,656,530).

In 1946, Dr. Katz joined the team of Drs. Harrington, Haslam and Johns to build a Betatron research and cancer treatment facility in the Physics department at the University of Saskatchewan. It opened in 1948 and the first patient received cancer therapy using the Betatron, on 29 March 1949 – beginning the world's first concerted clinical use of the Betatron. Later Katz's colleagues, Drs. Johns and Fedoruk along with others, went on to develop the cobalt-60 unit for the treatment of cancer.

In 1961 Dr. Katz became founding director of the Saskatchewan Accelerator Laboratory (SAL) and head of the Physics department in 1965. He is considered the grandfather of the Canadian Light Source (CLS) into which the SAL was incorporated. Many scientists received graduate training with Dr. Katz on the Betatron and SAL; among them was Harvard's renowned astrophysicist A.G.W. Cameron, the first physics Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1952.

Leon served his community in other roles such as an expert witness in court. In a locally famous case he earned the title 'forever amber' arguing that if the reaction time was taken into account it was more dangerous for the driver to brake for a yellow light rather than speed through it. As a result the timing of city traffic lights was modified.

Dr. Katz has also contributed significantly to the growth of science and technology in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. He was on the Board of Directors of SED Systems Limited for six years, on the Board of Directors of Sci-Tec Instruments for two years, and on the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Research Council for eleven years. He chaired the Saskatoon Board of Trade Technology Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee to the Saskatoon City Council and was Vice-chairman of the Management Advisory Committee of the Saskatoon Research Park.

Dr. Katz was the Permanent Secretary to the Saskatchewan Science Council from 1975 to 1979, a member of the Science Council of Canada from 1966 to 1972, a member of the Trustees Council of the Institute for Research on Public Policy from 1974 to 1989, and a Founding Member of the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome. He has published more than fifty papers on a variety of topics in physics and engineering, and was the author of three major reports for the Science Council of Canada.

In 1971 Dr. Katz chaired a committee of Science Council of Canada that recommended to the Trudeau Government that Canada build a Trans Canada Computer Communication Network – a "national spine" or Internet that linked together various regional computer networks tailored to and managed by provinces or territories.

Dr. Katz has received various honors. In 1952 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 1973 he was elected President of the Canadian Association of Physicists and in 1974 was awarded the Order of Canada. In 1989 he was awarded the High Tech Entrepreneur Award for Innovation or Scientific Breakthrough by the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association, given an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1990 and the Rotary Golden Wheel Award for Excellence 2000. He was listed as one of the “100 Saskatonians who made a difference” in Saskatoon 2005 Centennial history.

During the Honorary Doctor of Science degree ceremony at University of Saskatchewan not only was Dr. Katz recognized as a faithful employee, but also as “an outstanding teacher, an internationally renowned scientist and an individual who has made major contributions to the growth of science and technology in Saskatchewan, Canada and around the world.”

## Biography

**Leon Katz:** OC., Ph.D., FRSC., FAPS, Hon. Dr. Sci,

**Born:** Poland, August 9, 1909

**Married:** Georgina May Caverly

**Children:** Jacob Sylvan ( )  
Zender ( )  
David ( )  
Malka Faye ( )

**Educated:** Toronto, Ontario public School (1921-24)  
Central Technical School, Toronto Ontario (1924-27)  
Queen’s University, Kingston Ont. (B.Sc.1934, M.Sc. 1937)  
California Institute of Technology (Ph.D. Cum Laud, 1942)

**Research Engineer:** Monarch Battery Co., Kingston, Ont. (1931-33), Plant Foreman, Monarch Battery Co. (1933-36)

**Research Engineer:** Electronic and Electro Mechanical Division, Westinghouse Manufacturing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa. 1942-46

**Associate Professor of Physics:** University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask. 1946-52

**Professor of Physics:** University of Sask. 1952-75

**Director, Linear Accelerator Laboratory:** University of Saskatchewan, 1961-75

**Head, Department of Physics:** University of Saskatchewan, 1965-75

**Director Science Policy Secretariat:** Government of Saskatchewan, Regina, Sask. 1975-1980

## Honours and Appointments:

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada 1952  
Officer of the Order of Canada 1974  
President Canadian Association of Physicist, 1973-4  
Fellow American Physical Society 1966  
Canadian Association for the Club of Rome, Founding member  
Member, Board of Directors, SED Systems Ltd. Saskatoon,  
Member, Board of directors of Sci-Tec Instrument Inc. Saskatoon  
Member, Board of Directors Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatoon (1975-88) & advisor to board 1989-93  
Vice Chairman Innovation Place, Saskatoon (1977-1999)

## Reports of Science Council Chaired ([Click to follow hyperlinks](#))

*Report #6: A policy for Science and Technical Information Dissemination* (1969)

*Report #13: A Trans Canada Computer Communication Network: Phase 1 of a Major Program on Computers.* This was the first Canadian and possibly the first international report, which set forth a policy for a national digital communication system (1971).

*Report #21: Strategies of Development for the Canadian computer Industry* (1973).

## Internet Sources ([Click to follow hyperlinks](#))

- [Leon Katz - Wikipedia](#)
- [Physics in Canada - In Memoriam - Leon Katz \(1910-2004\)](#)
- [Doctor of Science, honoris causa](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan](#)
- [FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan](#)
- [Fighting the future of the Internet - Cross Country Checkup CBC Radio](#)
- [The Sheaf - Spectres of science: Campus is rich with stories of discovery, innovation and curiosity](#)
- [1948: First Betatron in Canada](#)
- [Nuclear Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan – Timeline](#)
- [Leon Katz 1909-2004](#)
- [The Time Canada Wanted Its Own Internet Because It Thought the US Would Mess It Up](#)
- [Patent - Beacon Radar System – Westinghouse](#)

## Newspaper

- ["Katz Named Delegate To Geneva" \[n.s. 28 Aug 1958;\]](#)
- ["Harwell Visit For Physicist" \[n.s.2 Apr 1959\]](#)
- ["Leon Katz To Head Physics Department" \[SSP 29 Jun 1965;\]](#)
- ["Katz Receives Honor" \[SSP 15 Dec 1973\]](#)
- ["Our mistake" \[SSP 2 Jan 1974\]](#) relating to the article "Katz Receives Honor"
- ["Dr. Katz To Order of Canada" \[The Commentator 9 Jan 1974\]](#)

- “Leon Katz Reviews High-Tech Material” [SSP p. A7; 27 Dec 1984]
- “Entrepreneur Vital Element In Reaching Marketplace” [SSP 28 Dec 1984]
- “Dr. Leon Katz: Worldwide Reputation In Nuclear Physics” [SSP 12 Dec 1987]
- “A Scientist’s Curiosity” [SSP 11 Jan 2000]
- “Rotary Club Applauds outstanding Members” [SSP 17 Apr 2000]
- “Saskatoon Companies Honored For Their Successful Entrepreneurship” [SSP 5 May 2001]
- “Four to Receive Honorary Degrees” [Saskatoon Mirror 11 May 1990]
- “Physicist left memorable mark on local science community” [SSP 3 Mar 2004; A7]
- OBIT [SSP 3 Mar 2004; C4]
- “100 Saskatonians who made a difference” [SSP 26 May 2006; Souvenir Newspaper]

Note: SSP = Saskatoon Star Phoenix

## Photographs



**Former Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Professor Emeritus Leon Katz cut the ribbon at the newly-named Leon Katz Room at the Canadian Light Source in November 2000. Katz's efforts laid the groundwork that made the synchrotron project possible at the U of S.**

*Photo by Lawrence McMahan*

<https://ocnarchives.usask.ca/04-mar-19/news13.shtml>



Canadian Light Source

November 6, 2018 · 🌐

54 years ago today, our predecessor, the Saskatchewan Accelerator Laboratory (SAL), hosted its grand opening ceremony. Here's a picture of the SAL's first director, Dr. Leon Katz, standing in our linear accelerator, and our current CEO standing in almost exactly the same spot, 50 years later.  
University of Saskatchewan



<https://www.facebook.com/CanLightSource/posts/1952532148176992>





University of Saskatchewan, University Archives and Special Collections, Lecture Hall in Physics Photograph Collection, A-4126. Photographer: Gibson

<https://thesheaf.com/2019/03/26/spectres-of-science-campus-is-rich-with-stories-of-discovery-innovation-and-curiosity/>