

## **CONDOLENCE MOTION**

**Moved by: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong**

**Seconded by: Councillor Cesar Palacio**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bruce Edward Bell on December 14, 2011.

Bruce was the last of the major cab operators in Toronto. Literally born into the taxi business, as some would say, his involvement in the family's Christie Taxi, began from his early youth; washing cars, answering the phone and dispatching to drivers. Bruce would say his earliest memory of the taxi business was as a five year old walking up and down the street pulling a red wagon full of Christie Taxi business cards.

After 10 years as a mechanic in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Bruce returned in 1962 to the family business, working with his father and brother in Christie Taxi. He drove night shifts and eventually became night shift supervisor for what at the time was a fleet of 25 taxis, operating within the Diamond Taxi brokerage.

Bruce went on to serve as the President of Diamond Taxi in Toronto from 1977 until his death and was a leader in the Toronto taxi industry. He served as the Canadian Vice-President and Director of the International Taxicab and Livery Association for many years and was honoured as the Operator of the Year in 1993 for his leadership and life-long contributions to the industry. He will be sorely missed in the industry.

Bruce died at home with his family, after a long battle with emphysema. He was 76 years old. Bruce is survived by his wife of 55 years, Verna and his three children, son, Jim, and daughters, Christine and Diane. He is also survived by ten grandchildren.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of Bruce Edward Bell.

January 17, 2012