

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong

Seconded by: Mayor Rob Ford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Robert Michael Laidlaw on June 19, 2012.

Mike, as he was known by his friends and colleagues, was a senior engineer in the City of Toronto's Bridges and Structures Division. He began his career at Dominion Bridges before joining the City of Toronto, where he spent twenty-two years, initially as part of the Metro Bridge group, and later with the Structures and Expressways Unit of Technical Services. Mike was the City's project engineer for many bridge rehabilitation projects including bridges on and over the Don Valley Parkway, Allen Road, and Gardiner Expressway and the installation of the "Luminous Veil" barrier on the Prince Edward Viaduct.

As a Professional Engineer, Mike combined the technical skills of structural engineering with administrative skills of contract management to ensure the City of Toronto received work of the highest quality from consultants and contractors in delivering the City's projects. As a member of the Toronto Public Service, Mike was an exemplary ambassador for the City of Toronto, serving with passion, professionalism and a deep commitment to public service values. Mike was a tremendous asset to the Bridges and Structures unit.

Along with his passion for engineering, Mike was a very active man, with a passion for both cycling and skiing, and could often be found riding his bike around the City. He also loved to skate, water-ski, golf and hike. He enjoyed playing hockey as well, and was a volunteer hockey coach in the Knights of Columbus Hockey league. Mike was a gifted handyman, having completed many home improvements and helping many others with theirs. The signs of his hard work and talent are visible throughout the City and in his home renovation projects.

Mike passed away in a tragic cycling accident while travelling in Italy. He was 56 years old. Mike is survived by his wife of thirty years, Susan and his four children, Katherine, Caroline, Sarah, and Christian.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of Robert Michael Laidlaw.

July 11, 2012