

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:** Councillor Pam McConnell

**Seconded by:** Councillor Gary Crawford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sid Dolgay on December 25, 2014.

Sid Dolgay was a singer, musician, and pioneer in Canadian folk music, recording some of the country's best known folk classics and inspiring generations of performers.

Born in Winnipeg in 1923, Sid Dolgay grew up in Toronto and spent summers at Camp Naivelt, near Brampton. Camp Naivelt shaped his life as the place where he met Pete Seeger, who regularly performed at the camp, discovered the mandocello, which became his trademark instrument, met his future band mates and musical collaborators, and was introduced to Ida, who would be his wife for 72 years.

In 1953, Sid co-founded The Travellers, a quartet that performed Canadian folk songs, protest songs, children's music, and regional ballads. One of their best known songs was "This Land Is Your Land", adapting Woody Guthrie's lyrics to celebrate Canadian places. Their adaptation of the song remains popular and is considered to be Canada's "second national anthem".

Following the release of several albums, The Travellers became promoters of Canadian heritage and musical ambassadors, touring the Soviet Union during the Cold War and performing for Queen Elizabeth II.

Following his performing career, Sid nurtured new talent as a talent agent, manager of 3's a Crowd and Marti Shannon, and hosting workshops at the Mariposa Folk Festival. Sid was a director for the festival and was inducted into the Mariposa Hall of Fame in 2005.

Sid and Ida retired to the Performing Arts Lodge, where he hosted an annual hootenanny, and he was a frequent and beloved performer at events in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Sid Dolgay's family.

February 10, 2015