

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor Rob Ford

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of David French on December 4, 2010.

An actor and playwright born in Newfoundland, Mr. French was best remembered for his creation of the fictitious Mercer family, a group of characters from French's home province transplanted to Toronto. Throughout the years Mr. French penned a number of what simply became known as "the Mercer plays" including *Salt-Water Moon*, *Jitters* and perhaps his most well known work, *Leaving Home*.

Leaving Home became a landmark play in Canadian theatre. After premiering in Toronto in 1972 at the Tarragon Theatre, it went on to become the first Canadian play to be produced at almost every regional theatre in the country. Today, the play is still taught at schools and universities across Canada.

Mr. French was an instantly recognizable name in Canadian theatre and his unparalleled talent and creativity made him an inspiration to the many Canadian playwrights he mentored. He also spent much of his time speaking to amateur theatre groups and high schools where his work was studied.

Along with the many accolades received throughout his career, Mr. French was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal and was made an officer to the Order of Canada in 2001.

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

December 8, 2010