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 Mr. Roger Abbott on March 26, 2011.

After graduating from college and working various jobs in Canadian radio, Mr. Abbott co-founded the improvisational comedy ensemble The Jest Society in 1970. Three years later the troupe made its first appearance on CBC Radio as the Royal Canadian Air Farce. Following the success of their radio show, Air Farce brought their act to CBC Television.

Royal Canadian Air Farce became one of the country's best-loved comedy teams, using political and cultural satire to create some of Canadian television's most recognizable and memorable skit characters. The success of the group went international, with broadcasts of Air Farce being aired in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Israel.

The success of Air Farce earned Mr. Abbott many honours including 15 ACTRA awards, a Juno, the Governor General's Performing Arts Award and a Gemini Humanitarian Award. The group was also given a star on Canada's Walk of Fame in 2000.

Known to his peers as "the guiding light of Royal Canadian Air Farce", Mr. Abbott inspired those around him with his leadership, generosity and infectious sense of humour. His contributions to Canadian comedy, radio and television will not soon be forgotten.

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

April 12, 2011