CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Vincent Crisanti
Seconded by: Mayor Rob Ford

SUMMARY:

Mayor Rob Ford and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of William Dinkha, a proud Torontonian and Assyrian Canadian.

William passed away on May 5, 2013 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, leaving behind a loving family and a legacy characterized by kindness, gentleness, good deeds and a generous spirit. He was a father and grandfather, and husband to his one true love and childhood sweetheart, Rapka. Love was the thread binding William's many endeavours throughout life - whether building a church, fixing computers, singing in a choir or figuring out new and fascinating ways to entertain the grandchildren. William found a way to do all of these things with ingenuity and good humour.

William's love for his Assyrian community led him to achieve many things including organizing the church choir and playing the organ. He worked to draft the first Constitution for the Assyrian Society of Canada, helping establish the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church in Canada by the written authority of the Late His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun in 1971. This is a place where many people have baptized their children. Before this time he had made arrangements to bring the priests to Canada to hold mass, and the family home was described by one of his sons to have been "full of Qasheh and Matranah during those days".

William's love of music led him to the study of various instruments, including the accordion, banjo mandolin, acoustic guitar, electric organ and recorder. He created his own band, the Diamond Band, and took the role of composer, publishing and recording many songs including Khabooshe Smooqeh, Weela Ishta, Weela Showa, and Taneel when among others. William instilled a love of education and knowledge in his children early in life, encouraging his children to go to university. He pursued higher education himself later in life, earning a diploma in Business Administration from York University at the age of 55.

Approaching the end of his life, William struggled with his health. His passing was nevertheless sudden and has left a void in the lives of the many people who liked what he did and loved who he was. They will be comforted by their confidence that he is now at peace, and by the memories of his wonderful and interesting life.

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

May 9, 2013