CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Chin Lee

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Del Grande

The Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Benson Wong.

Mr. Wong was born in Haiyn Taishan County, Guangdong Province, China. Following the advice of his father, he immigrated to Canada in 1950 and lived with him in Windsor, Ontario. While in Windsor, Benson continued his studies in photography.

In 1960, Benson moved to Toronto and married Christina Chan in 1962 and together had two sons and one daughter. Their beloved daughter passed away at a young age. Benson started his own photography studio in Toronto's Chinatown, Dundas and Chestnut, in 1968 and ran the business until his retirement in 1984.

Throughout his life, Benson was a man dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate, and helping those around him. His efforts were tireless and his contributions numerous.

During the 1990's, Benson established the Canadian-Chinese Participation in Politics Society to promote, encourage and support visible minorities' involvement in municipal, provincial and federal politics. He established the Scarborough Seniors Chinese Chess Club at the L'Amoreaux Community Centre in 1988. Benson actively organized activities such as annual picnics, Christmas dinners and Tai-chi Traditional Martial Arts exercise programs, providing many seniors with better physical and mental health.

In recognition of his contribution to Canadian society, the Government of Canada presented Mr. Wong with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.

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

June 10, 2014