

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:** Mayor Miller

**Seconded by:** Deputy Mayor Pantalone

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council mourn the loss and are deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of John Niedra, who died suddenly at his home on October 27, 2009 at the age of 51.

John started with the former City of Toronto in 1983 as an engineer with the Works Department. His talent and abilities were quickly recognized and he rapidly rose through the ranks in the Works Department, and then after amalgamation, in the Transportation Services Division. Between 2001 and 2005, he held the position of Director, Transportation Infrastructure Management. Since then, he was the Director, Etobicoke-York District. He was well-known and highly regarded for tackling the most complex and sensitive issues head-on, and finding creative and innovative solutions. At the same time, he always managed to see the big picture and to think long term. A shining example of his innovative approach to complex issues was his role in the design and implementation of the St. George Street Revitalization Project, probably the first of its kind in the City. He was extremely proud of civic service and loved his City.

John was also an active and valued member of the Latvian-Canadian community, giving generously of his time and holding leadership positions with the boards of the Kristus Darzs Latvian Home, the Latvian Catholic Society of Canada and, most recently, serving as president of the Latvian National Federation in Canada.

But first and foremost, John was a proud and devoted family man. He enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his wife and four children – whether it be at home fixing things or listening to music; or at his cottage where he was an avid outdoorsman and boating enthusiast. John always approached every task and challenge with enthusiasm, dedication, determination and often with humour. He will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues at the City. We join his family in their grief and sorrow.

John is survived by his wife Sandra and his four children – Kristina, Elizabeth, Alexander and Michael.

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

December 1, 2009