

Nisbet driving force behind accessible taxis

# Licensing head retires after 25-year career

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After 25 years, Ron Nisbet is retiring as the city of Mississauga's licensing manager.

Among Canada's most prominent taxi-cab and limousine regulators, Nisbet has been influential in building Mississauga's Public Vehicle Advisory Committee into one of the country's most progressive licensing bodies.

Nisbet, 59, notes regulators from several other Canadian cities have examined the Mississauga system, in which industry gets viable input into hot issues such as new plate issuances and meter rate increases.

"I think my satisfaction has been watching our Advisory Committee develop into a solid, fair, hardworking process. It's unique across Canada," Nisbet comments.

"(Other cities) are all interested in it, and are surprised by the number of industry members on the committee, and that they're voting on issues."

With a Business and Commercial degree from Charlottetown's Prince of Wales College, the P.E.I. native received a solid grounding in taxi-cab regulation through eight years with Toronto's Metro Licensing Commission.

Overseeing a staff of 15, Nisbet has also been responsible for the licensing of refreshment cars, vendors, driving school operators, and tow truck drivers. But his biggest challenge was in helping to regulate taxis and limos, within the City proper, including Pearson International Airport (where 152 of the city's 472 plates are licensed to work).

To prevent problems associated with absentee ownership, and widespread leasing of plates, the City places some strict conditions on being a plate-holder. Mississauga has also been a Canadian front-runner in getting behind the Province's wheelchair accessible taxi initiative.

"He has exceptional knowledge of how the taxi and limo industry works," says Mayor Hazel McCallion. "The City of Mississauga is going to miss him. Ron has played a major role in the co-operation that has evolved between the industry and the City. And he has been of valuable assistance to me in dealing with the controversial issues arising in the industry."

Nisbet now becomes director of the Airport Ground Transportation Association, an amalgamation of 16 out-of-town operators who run shuttle vans out of Pearson International

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

NISBET, RON

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