

## **Condolence Motion**

**Moved by:**                **Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam**

**Seconded by:**        **Councillor Pam McConnell**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Helen Rykens on June 26, 2015.

Helen retired from The 519 in 2013 following over 30 years with the organization. An integral part of The 519 from almost the very beginning, Helen joined as a member years before she was hired on as staff.

She was integral in supporting the creation and administration of the AIDS Memorial in Barbara Hall Park, provided support and leadership to the AIDS Vigil Committee and was the central liaison to the community-led programs and user groups that call The 519 home. Helen was the tireless project manager for the 2001-2010 capital expansion project and guided the organization through unprecedented growth.

In the years since Helen's retirement, her absence has been real and tangibly felt by staff, volunteers, members and the broader community of The 519. A life-long ally and supporter of lesbian, gay, bi and trans human rights, Helen's commitment to ensuring safe and welcoming spaces in our city where people could truly be themselves was a hallmark of her work with The 519 and the communities it serves.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Helen Rykens.

July 7, 2015