

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by:**           **Councillor Paula Fletcher**

**Seconded by:**       **Councillor Janet Davis**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened by the passing of Rima Zavys on January 17, 2012.

For the past 16 years, Ms. Zavys worked with WoodGreen Community Services in a range of roles from Manager of Housing to Director of Neighbourhood Development where she developed the east end agency's housing help and homelessness programs, including harm reduction and housing support services. She also led the Mental Health and Development Services.

Among her many accomplishments, Rima Zavys played a lead role in developing an innovative, first of its kind, housing model known as "First Steps to Home". Located in a former hotel, the program provides on-site health services and wrap-around support, helping homeless, vulnerable seniors to make a successful transition from living on the street to a stable, healthy lifestyle.

Rima Zavys was actively engaged in combating the increasing problem of bed bugs in Toronto through her involvement in provincial, city and community initiatives. She was known as an international expert on the issue and her knowledge was sought after by housing providers, policy makers and media across North America.

Rima Zavys co-ordinated a North American forum on rooming house issues and was involved in several housing and capacity building initiatives in Lithuania, Latvia and Armenia.

Rima Zavys was an intelligent and caring advocate who had a deep understanding and respect for people who found themselves in difficult circumstances. She was a compassionate and effective leader whose work transformed the lives of many vulnerable people in our city. We have lost a champion whose commitment to social justice and legacy will resonate for years to come.

Rima Zavys is survived by her husband Dan Cox as well as her sons Nathan and Kalan and her mother, Stace Zavys.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of City Staff and the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Rima Zavys' family and colleagues.

February 8, 2012