

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

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

**Seconded by:** Councillor Janet Davis

It is with deep regret that Toronto mourns the loss of Kyle Scanlon, born September 5, 1971 and who passed away on July 3, 2012.

Kyle Scanlon was a trans activist, researcher, writer, educator, and front-line community worker who strove for social justice and had a passion for community capacity building and mobilization. He was a driving force behind most of the groundbreaking programming now available in Toronto to support transgendered and transexual people.

Kyle moved to Toronto from Hamilton in 1997 as a young dyke in search of queer community. Kyle (living under a different name and gender at that time), first found community at the City of Toronto, 519 Community Centre's Monday night drop in lesbian discussion group. Kyle then went on to volunteer with the Dyke March, directing a variety show fundraiser in 1999 that was the first step in saving the march from cancellation. The annual Dykeiversity Art Shows were also his idea.

Eventually Kyle began to see himself as a transman rather than a dyke. After transition he was hired by the Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Line. He became the first openly transsexual man to be the Executive Director of an agency in Canada.

Later he was hired by the City of Toronto as the 519 Meal Trans Program Coordinator. At that time, Meal Trans was one of the only services available for transexual people. This long serving program provides hot healthy meals and community for street involved transexual people. Kyle recognized the need for other services to support this diverse under - served community. Over his 10 years of work for the City, Kyle expanded the work of the 519. He became the Co-ordinator of the now diverse Trans Programming at the 519. His work expanded to include finding emergency housing and engaging homeless shelters to implement trans-positive policies, and often simply providing a supportive ear and a safe space for distressed clients.

Kyle co-wrote an early free educational resource that provided vital information for community organizations striving to become trans-positive/trans-accessible. Kyle provided expertise on trans access and equity to a range of service providers across Ontario. He traveled widely, co-facilitating trainings for agencies including the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, The Centre

for Addiction and Mental Health, Planned Parenthood Federation of Canada, and the Law Society of Upper Canada and many more. Kyle was a popular guest speaker at conferences across North America. After hours, Kyle was a member of Toronto's LGBT Police Consultative Committee and he worked with the Sherbourne Health Centre to improve access to medical services for trans, two-spirited, and intersexed communities.

In 2001 he was recognized for his extensive community involvement with the Grassroots Trans Community Activist of the Year award from the Serving Our Youth (SOY) program.

His writing has been published various newspapers, feminist essay collections, health advocacy websites, and academic journals.

He played an advisory role in a number of research projects related to trans issues. He was a key player in the Youth Migration Project, a large-scale research study evaluating HIV vulnerability in youth who have migrated to Toronto, the AIDS Committee of Toronto's Trans Needs Assessment, and Fred Victor Centre's document "Where We Are All Welcome", highlighting the unique issues of homeless trans people trying to access space in hostels and shelters. The groundbreaking Trans Pulse project originated in a collaboration between Kyle Scanlon and Anna Travers. Trans PULSE used respondent-driven sampling, where access to a comprehensive online or paper survey is shared through networks of trans people who already know each other. This method allows the project team to access an appropriate sample of what they've called "hidden populations" who can't be randomly sampled.

His work at the 519 developed further and he became the Education, Training and Research Coordinator. Thanks in part to Kyle, the 519 now offers a wide range of internationally renowned Trans Programs and Services.

Kyle was equally passionate about animals. His life goal was to actually touch as many kinds of animals as possible. He traveled around the world to achieve this goal. His gentleness and spirit came through in interactions with all living beings. His compassion for people and animals will be sorely lost as Toronto mourns the loss of a dear friend and a remarkable community leader.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to family and friends to remember Kyle Scanlon, and the leadership and support he provided to so many.

July 11, 2012