

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by: Councillor Pam McConnell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Joe Mihevc**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Susan Douglas Rubes on January 23, 2013.

Susan Douglas Rubes was an actor, director, producer and the founder of Young People's Theatre, Toronto's beloved theatre for children. She had a remarkable career in radio, television, theatre and film, appearing on Broadway, acting for 10 years on the soap opera *The Guiding Light*, serving as the head of CBC Radio Drama from 1982 to 1986, and as the president of the Family Channel from 1987 - 1989.

Born Zuzka Zenta in Vienna, Austria in 1925, Ms. Rubes moved with her family to New York, and settled in Toronto in 1959. In 1950, she met and married the renowned actor and singer Jan Rubes. They had three sons and remained together until Jan's death in 2009.

In 1963, Ms. Rubes began producing plays at the Royal Ontario Museum and in 1966, founded Young People's Theatre with the goal of establishing a permanent home for professional theatre for young audiences. She found that home in a heritage building at 165 Front Street East, a former TTC building that had once served as a 19th Century stable. The renovated building opened in 1978 and is going strong as one of Toronto's core arts institutions. Ms. Rubes' fierce commitment to quality drew the work of Canada's finest actors, singers, directors and designers to its stages. Now in its 47th season, Young People's Theatre continues to serve children, employ artists, and contribute to the vitality of the St. Lawrence community.

Ms. Rubes was awarded the Order of Canada in 1975 for her outstanding dedication to children's theatre and was named Woman of the Year by the Toronto chapter of B'nai Brith in 1979.

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

February 20, 2013