

## 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 Krin Zook on October 16, 2016. Krin was born in 1953, and was best known as a community educator and advocate for LGBTQ+ youth.

In 1986, Krin was a teacher in Vancouver and enjoying her seven year anniversary with her partner, Annette Clough. Two-decades before Canada would legalize same-sex marriage, Krin decided that Annette should receive spousal medical benefits just like any other teacher's husband or wife.

Facing opposition from the Vancouver School Board, Krin filed a grievance with the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union. The union took a stance and demanded that the spouses of lesbian and gay employees should have access to the same benefits their other employees enjoyed. The success of this fight started a chain reaction in union negotiations across Vancouver with gay and lesbian couples getting the medical benefits they deserve, all because Krin was the first person there to stand up and ask to be treated equally.

Krin would later move to Toronto, teaching youth and youth workers about the necessity of creating safe, inclusive spaces for youth to explore their identities. Her lessons and workshops tackled LGBTQ+ myths and stereotypes, all with the purpose of combating homophobia, breaking down the barriers and cultivating safe spaces for youth.

She was a devout Buddhist, a feminist and an outspoken advocate against nuclear weapons during the Cold War. And she will be remembered for her passion and her kind heart.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Krin's partner-in-life, Annette Clough and her daughter Makeda Zook.

December 13, 2016