

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Anthony Perruzza

Seconded by: Councillor Frances Nunziata

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Kevin Jackson in early July 2019.

Kevin Jackson was one of the members of the Poverty Reduction Strategy's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). He passed away unexpectedly at the age of 48.

Kevin resided in Mimico and was committed to issues related to disability and improving accessibility in the City. Kevin channeled this passion into organizing the annual Toronto Disability Pride March and chairing the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto. Just last year, he had begun doctorate studies at York University in Critical Disability Studies. He was a tireless advocate and champion for change and social justice, particularly for those who identified with the disability and LGBTQ2S community.

In October 2018 just before the municipal election, Kevin was one of ten members of the LEAG who were featured in the Toronto Star (<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2018/10/08/10-people-10-solutions-for-poverty.html>). In this profile, he talked about how he used his personal struggles with poverty, learning and mental health to help others. When asked about the one big thing the City could do to end poverty, Kevin responded that the City must "stop the adversarial nature of accessing resources. It is a fight to get everything. That is not fair. That's not really democratic."

Kevin's expertise, passion and perspective made our work here in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Office better. He held us accountable. He made our work stronger.

Our thoughts go out to all those whose lives were touched by Kevin. We will miss him.

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

November 27, 2019