

***Expression of Condolence for Sandy Keshen
by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor James Pasternak

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Sandy Keshen, dedicated community member and Reena President and Chief Executive Officer from 1976 to 2013.

Sandy passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 28, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Murray. Loving and devoted mother and mother-in-law of Bryan and Belinda, and Rena and Mark. Cherished Savta of Elysa, Rebecca, Elan (Tony), and Noah. Proud Savta Rabah of Ari. Survived by her stepsister Rose. She will be deeply missed and remembered by her Reena Foundation Family for her 41 years of leadership, unwavering dedication, compassion, and vision.

Sandy cared deeply for the disabled community. The lack of space in organized Jewish religion for children with differences frustrated Sandy and she eventually joined with Rabbi Joseph Kelman and other concerned parents in establishing an organization to find a housing solution for the Jewish community.

Always one to believe in sharing and collaboration, Sandy led the way not just for Reena, but for the entire developmental services sector. When people asked for Sandy's help, they were shocked to find how willingly she helped handing over fully completed grant proposals for other agencies to use.

Sandy not only advocated for the Jewish community but reached beyond the community to raise awareness and worked tirelessly on behalf of all vulnerable people.

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

February 5, 2025