

Definition

The 519 was established to serve the catchment area bound by Bloor, Bay, Gerrard and Parliament Streets. This area represents the residential downtown core of Toronto and includes over 40,000 households, only 1,600 of which are single-family dwellings. Low-, Mid-, and High-Rise condominium and apartment buildings make up the majority of The 519's catchment area.

Background

The 519 Church Street Community Centre, established in 1975, was the very first City-funded and community-controlled community centre in the City of Toronto. This model enabled residents of the catchment area to vote at annual meetings, become board members, and decide on the programming that would take place in The Centre. (There are now 9 additional centres of this type in Toronto which together make up the "Association of Community Centres" or AOCC.)

Soon after being established The 519's locally elected Boards of Management began welcoming LGBT organizations which offered community activities. The tradition of serving the LGBT community was therefore established early in The 519's history.

In the strategic plan of 2007 – 2010 the Board enshrined 'service to the LGBT communities' as well as our local neighbourhood in the new Mission Statement. We now serve two communities – one geographic, and the other demographic.

Governing Framework

Article 2, (b) The 519's Constitution:

The 519 shall be community-oriented and controlled with priority given to residents of the catchment area bounded by Bloor, Bay, Gerrard and Parliament Streets.