

Definition

The 519 catchment area was changed in 2024 to match the boundaries of City of Toronto Municipal Ward 13, which means the area bounded by **Bay, Bloor/Danforth, the Don Valley Parkway, and the railway lands south of The Esplanade**. This update was made after an 18-month by-law review period, which included the catchment expansion, led by the Board and staff of The 519, and including various opportunities for member input and feedback into the process. The membership approved the catchment expansion at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, and City of Toronto Council formally approved the expansion at its July 24, 2024 meeting.

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 help shape programming and strategic governance oversight. (There are currently 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 2SLGBTQ+ organizations into the space to offer community activities. The tradition of serving the 2SLGBTQ+ community was therefore established early in The 519’s history.

In the 2007-2010 strategic plan, The 519 Board enshrined “service to the LGBT communities” as well as our local neighbourhood in the new Mission Statement. In the 2024 by-law update, The 519 Board enshrined the commitment to providing community space, and a range of programs and services to both the local community and the broader 2SLGBTQ+ communities of common interest into its by-laws. The 519 is committed to serving two communities—one geographic and the other demographic.

Governing Framework

The 519’s General By-Law No 2 of The 519, 2024, Article A, Section 2, f:

The 519 Catchment means the area bounded by Bay, Bloor/Danforth, the Don Valley Parkway, and the railway lands south of The Esplanade.

A **map** of the catchment area can be found on the next page.

The 519 Catchment Area

