MINUTES: Board of Management, Meeting 6 (2025-2026)

Monday, June 8, 2026 @ 6:30 – 8:45 PM, Hybrid via Zoom & Room #304

Board Members

Chair: Tom Spence	Bobby Hrehoruk	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Vice-Chair: Zoe Robinson	Victor Huynh	Jaris Swidrovich
Secretary: Erika Voaklander	Natalie Miller	Dennis Yu
Treasurer: Vanshika Dhawan	Mohamed Omar	
Ex-Officio: Councillor Chris Moise (absent)		

The 519

Executive Director	Maura Lawless
Head, Organizational Services	Maria Martinez
Head, Strategy	Becky McFarlane
Head, Community Programs	Lisa Duplessis
Head, Development	Dane Bland
Director, Community Wellbeing & Strategic Partnership Initiatives	Jaymie Sampa
Director, Housing Advocacy and Support Services	Martha Singh Jennings
Director, Legal Initiatives	Johanna MacDonald
Project Director, Community Resilience Project	Harper Jean Tobin
Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning (minutes)	Laura Gibbon

Guests: Tyler Johnson (Councillor Chris Moise's Office), Lauren Picchetti (Doane Grant Thornton, LLP)

Item	Minutes
BD-6.1	**Welcome and Introductions** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led a round of introductions.
BD-6.2	**Land Acknowledgement** – Victor Huynh (Board member) Victor Huynh delivered the land acknowledgement. Tom also noted that June is National Indigenous Peoples Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day and encouraged Board members to engage in Indigenous events and programming where possible.
BD-6.3	**Approve Agenda** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence requested the Board to review the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 8, 2026. Proposed changes: • Item 6.9.5 will be addressed under 6.9.3 • Item 6.10.4c was an error and does not exist • Move item 6.10.1 to the very beginning after the approval of the minutes **MOTION 6.3:** To approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 8, 2026, as amended. **Moved by:** Jaris Swidrovich

	That the Board of Management approve the agenda for the Board Meeting of June 8, 2026, as amended. **Recorded vote:** Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried
BD-6.4	**Declaration of Conflict of Interest(s)** – Tom Spence (Chair) Tom Spence confirmed no conflicts of interest were declared.
BD-6.5	**Approval Meeting Minutes** – Tom Spence (Chair) **6.5.1 April 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes** Tom Spence requested the Board to review the minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **MOTION 6.5.1:** To approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu

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Decision carried

6.5.2 April 27, 2026 In-Camera Meeting Minutes

Tom Spence confirmed that no one wished to go in-camera to review or provide edits to the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026.

MOTION 6.5.2: To approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026.

Moved by: Erika Voaklander

That the Board of Management approve the in-camera minutes for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2026.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

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BD-6.6

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Chair Report/Executive Committee – Tom Spence (Chair)

6.6 Chair Updates

- Tom congratulated staff on publishing the Housing Justice Report: "Where We Belong: Housing Rights & Recommendations for 2SLGBTQ+ People" in May.
- Tom thanked staff and Board members who organized and participated in Doors Open, the Heritage Plaque unveiling event, and the Canada Post: Places of Pride stamp unveiling event.
- Tom noted that The 519 will have two contingents marching in this year's Pride Parade, and that Board members are welcome to participate and to recommend other individuals who may be appropriate to participate as well.

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BD-6.10.1

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6.10.1 2025 Audited Financial Statements – Lauren Picchetti (Doane Grant Thornton, LLP)

- The independent auditors, Doane Grant Thornton LLP, issued a qualified audit opinion, consistent with prior years. The qualification relates solely to the inability

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	to independently verify the completeness of donations and fundraising revenue, a common limitation for many not-for-profit organizations, and does not indicate concerns with the organization's financial reporting or internal controls. The auditors concluded that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, The 519's financial position, results of operations and cash flows in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards for government not-for-profit organizations. Overall, the 2025 audited financial statements demonstrate a financially stable organization with strong liquidity, prudent reserve management, continued investment in strategic priorities, and sustained support from government, donors and community fundraising. • The Board of Management for The 519 Church Street Community Centre reported another strong financial year in 2025, recording an operating surplus of $203,400, compared with $26,177 in 2024. Total revenue increased to $11.96 million, up from $11.45 million in the previous year, driven primarily by higher government grants, particularly from the City of Toronto (Program Funding) and the Government of Canada. The 519 continues to maintain a solid financial position, ending the year with net assets of $2.29 million, an increase of approximately $158,000 over 2024 after accounting for externally restricted fund activity. Cash and cash equivalents totalled $2.36 million, providing strong liquidity despite planned decreases resulting from the use of deferred contributions. The organization also strengthened its long-term financial sustainability by increasing the 50th Anniversary Legacy Fund from $175,345 to $378,745, following a Board-approved transfer of the year's operating surplus. **MOTION 6.10.1:** To approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried *Lauren Picchetti left the meeting at 6:53pm.*

BD-6.7	**Executive Director Report** – Maura Lawless (Executive Director) **6.7.1 ED Update – Community Legal Services Brief Report** • See in-camera reports section. **6.7.2 2026 Pride Event Calendar** • The June calendar with key events and dates was shared. Board members are encouraged to attend and volunteer as they are able.
BD-6.8	**SCD Committee Update** – Lisa Duplessis (Head, Community Programs) & Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo (Chair, SCD) **6.8.1 50th Anniversary Update** • No discussion. **6.8.2 Community Resilience Project Update** • No discussion. **6.8.3 Newcomer Services Program Review Report / Advocacy Campaign: Supporting LGBTQ+ Refugees Presentation** • Staff delivered a presentation to highlight sector trends and provide an overview of The 519's current service model for LGBTQ+ newcomers and refugees, including the broader global context and the external pressures that have shaped and continue to influence the evolution of Newcomer Settlement Services at The 519. • Staff highlighted the current state: increased anti-refugee rhetoric and public sentiment, funding cuts for service providers, harmful legislative changes all negatively impact queer and trans refugees' ability to stabilize and settle in a new country. • Staff have been working with Taylor Newberry Consulting (TNC) to develop a series of recommendations for the Board's consideration in responding to the needs of LGBTQ+ community accessing services at The 519. Staff have also been leading a cross-sector refugee advocacy working group to organize and • Board members expressed support for The 519 continuing to prioritize working with queer and trans refugees and discussed some 519-led advocacy initiatives that are starting to take shape related to this. **MOTION 6.8.3:** To (a) Support in principle that staff continue to review and implement service enhancements outlined in the Taylor Newberry Consulting report to effectively support LGBTQ+ newcomers and streamline administration; and (b) Adopt and participate in The 519's Here to Stay Advocacy campaign (see Attachment B: The 519 Newcomer Settlement – Advocacy Campaign Here to Stay Report). **Moved by:** Victor Huynh

	That the Board of Management (a) Support in principle that staff continue to review and implement service enhancements outlined in the Taylor Newberry Consulting report to effectively support LGBTQ+ newcomers and streamline administration; and (b) Adopt and participate in The 519's Here to Stay Advocacy campaign (see Attachment B: The 519 Newcomer Settlement – Advocacy Campaign Here to Stay Report). **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried **6.8.4 Green Space Festival Planning** • See in-camera reports section.
BD-6.9	**Governance Committee Update** – Maura Lawless (Executive Director), Laura Gibbon (Manager, Strategic and Executive Planning) & Victor Huynh (Vice-Chair, Governance) **6.9.1 Board Training and Development Update** • Based on a summary of Dennis's conversations with individual Board members regarding Board effectiveness, two priorities were identified: (1) meeting efficiency and critical discussion, and (2) social and relationship building. Each priority has a number of proposed initiatives. • Tom and Dennis drafted a Board effectiveness survey, and other Board members had a chance to provide feedback. Staff will circulate the survey to the Board in August, for results to be reviewed and analyzed by the Governance Committee in the fall, and to repeat in 2027 to assess change. The results will not inform recruitment priorities in this new cycle. **6.9.2 Records Retention Schedule Report** • Staff have drafted a Records Retention Schedule (RRS) in order to comply with the requirements under the Relationship Framework. The draft is heavily based on the City of Toronto and Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre's RRS. Staff have worked with City Legal and Corporate Information Management Services divisions of the City to seek advice and support for the draft.

- Staff currently do not have the people resources required to effectively manage the implementation of the RRS and are seeking the Board's support to request additional core funding to meet this requirement.
- The Board discussed the possibility of working with other AOCCs to request this core funding increase for all AOCCs.

MOTION 6.9.2: To (1) adopt The 519 Records Retention Schedule attached to this report as Attachment A, with such by-law coming into force on the day it is adopted by City Council; (2) request that staff work with the City Manager's Office to prepare the relevant reports for Toronto City Council; (3) authorize the Board Secretary to forward the Board's decision and request to the City Manager for action, as needed; and (4) request staff, as part of the 2027 Core submission to the City of Toronto, to submit a request for 1 FTE (permanent) dedicated staff to be responsible for the implementation management of the RRS obligations.

Moved by: Jaris Swidrovich

That the Board of Management (1) adopt The 519 Records Retention Schedule attached to this report as Attachment A, with such by-law coming into force on the day it is adopted by City Council; (2) request that staff work with the City Manager's Office to prepare the relevant reports for Toronto City Council; (3) authorize the Board Secretary to forward the Board's decision and request to the City Manager for action, as needed; and (4) request staff, as part of the 2027 Core submission to the City of Toronto, to submit a request for 1 FTE (permanent) dedicated staff to be responsible for the implementation management of the RRS obligations.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

6.9.3 Recruitment Priorities

- The 2026 recruitment priorities are in line with previous years, with minor updates proposed by the Governance Committee.

- The Board discussed a process whereby the Nominations Subcommittee members could connect with existing Committee Chairs to seek input on specific skills to look out for in recruitment, and to build into the interview and selection processes.

MOTION 6.9.3: To (a) approve the 2026 Recruitment Priorities, as listed in the report, and (b) appoint Vanshika Dhawan, Dennis Yu and Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo to the Nominations Subcommittee.

Moved by: Erika Voaklander

That the Board of Management (a) approve the 2026 Recruitment Priorities, as listed in the report, and (b) appoint Vanshika Dhawan, Dennis Yu and Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo to the Nominations Subcommittee.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

6.9.4 AGM Timeline

- The 2026 AGM Timeline aligns to previous years and ensures compliance with relevant by-law deadlines. Membership will be closed for 30 days leading up to the AGM for clarity of process.

MOTION 6.9.4: To approve the 2026 AGM Timeline.

Moved by: Victor Huynh

That the Board of Management approve the 2026 AGM Timeline.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar

	Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried **6.9.5 2025 Annual Health and Safety Report (+ in-camera reports)** • The 2025 Annual Health and Safety Report is consistent with years past. Outstanding trainings are typically due to scheduling through the City's platforms/opportunities and will be completed as soon as it is possible to do so. • See in-camera reports section.
BD-6.10	**Finance Committee Update** – Maura Lawless (Executive Director), Maria Martinez (Head, Organizational Services) & Zoe Robinson (Board Vice-Chair) **6.10.2 2026 Q1 Variance and Year End Forecast** • The financial results for 2026 Q1 reflect a favorable net variance of $89.86k over budget. Overall, the surplus is driven by cost containment and newly awarded funding agreements. • The financial outlook for the 2026 year-end is in alignment with the budget. As of Q1, we are projecting a year-end deficit of -$150.64k after applying the $363k from the 50th Anniversary Reserve - original budget deficit of -$148.34k. • Consolidated Revenues are projected to end the year at -1.8% below budget while overall Expenses are also projected to end the year at -1.8% below target. Staff will continue to pursue all funding/philanthropy efforts to achieve improved year-end results where possible. **MOTION 6.10.2:** To receive and approve the 2026 Q1 Variance and Year-end Forecast report. **Moved by:** Zoe Robinson **That** the Board of Management receive and approve the 2026 Q1 Variance and Year-end Forecast report. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson

Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

6.10.3 City of Toronto Core Budget – Authority and Direction Report

- This practice is consistent with years past, wherein staff must seek Board authority to draft and submit the core budget because the City of Toronto's deadline for budget submissions is before the Board's next meeting.
- Staff highlighted that the budget submission will include increase requests as a result of increased cybersecurity costs and need to meet information management requirements which would include the addition of 1 FTE (permanent) position.

MOTION 6.10.3: To authorize the Executive Director (or delegate) to submit to the City of Toronto 2027 Core Budget for consideration and approval as part of the annual City of Toronto budget in alignment with this report and report back to the Board for final approval at the September 2026 Board meeting.

Moved by: Zoe Robinson

That the Board of Management authorize the Executive Director (or delegate) to submit to the City of Toronto 2027 Core Budget for consideration and approval as part of the annual City of Toronto budget in alignment with this report and report back to the Board for final approval at the September 2026 Board meeting.

Recorded vote: Unanimous
Vanshika Dhawan
Bobby Hrehoruk
Victor Huynh
Natalie Miller
Mohamed Omar
Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo
Zoe Robinson
Tom Spence
Jaris Swidrovich
Erika Voaklander
Dennis Yu

Decision carried

Tyler Johnson suggested that staff should develop advocacy strategies for requesting more funding at the AOCC level, so that City Council develops a full picture of the funding needs.

	Martha Singh Jennings, Harper Jean Tobin, Jaymie Sampa left the meeting at 7:56pm. **6.10.4 Risk Management Semi Annual Progress Report** • See in-camera reports section.
IN-CAMERA ITEMS	
BD-6.11	**MOTION 6.11a:** To go in-camera. **Moved by:** Mohamed Omar **That** the Board of Management go in-camera. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried **Item 6.7.1 - ED Update – Legal Services Brief Report** **Item 6.8.4 – Green Space Festival Planning** **Item 6.9.5 – 2025 Annual Health and Safety Reports (in-camera)** **Item 6.10.4 – Risk Management Semi-Annual Progress Report** **MOTION 6.11b:** To come out of in-camera. **Moved by:** Victor Huynh **That** the Board of Management come out of in-camera. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo

	Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried --- **MOTION 6.9.6:** To receive the 2025 Annual Health and Safety Report and Injury Report for information. **Moved by:** Erika Voaklander **That** the Board of Management receive the 2025 Annual Health and Safety Report and Injury Report for information. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried --- **MOTION 6.10.4:** To receive the Risk Management Semi Annual Progress Report for information. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management receive the Risk Management Semi Annual Progress Report for information. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan

	Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried --- **MOTION 6.7.1:** To designate Tom Spence, Erika Voaklander, Vanshika Dhawan and Natalie Miller, the Executive Director and key staff, including Johanna Macdonald and Zara Mercer, to work with the City of Toronto to draft the joint report to ensure that the interests of The 519 and program model and reflected in the final report, and to report back to the Board after the July Toronto City Council meeting. **Moved by:** Vanshika Dhawan **That** the Board of Management designate Tom Spence, Erika Voaklander, Vanshika Dhawan and Natalie Miller, the Executive Director and key staff, including Johanna Macdonald and Zara Mercer, to work with the City of Toronto to draft the joint report to ensure that the interests of The 519 and program model and reflected in the final report, and to report back to the Board after the July Toronto City Council meeting. **Recorded vote**: Unanimous Vanshika Dhawan Bobby Hrehoruk Victor Huynh Natalie Miller Mohamed Omar Juan Camilo Rendon Ocampo Zoe Robinson Tom Spence Jaris Swidrovich Erika Voaklander Dennis Yu **Decision** carried

BD-6.11	**Adjournment** – Tom Spence (Chair) • The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Approved by The 519 Board of Management on September 14, 2026.

Signed by:
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9/20/2026

Tom Spence
Board Chair