



12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To Toronto City Council,

The Toronto Community Benefits Network supports the adoption of a strong Toronto Community Benefits Framework and ask that Council make some amendments to strengthen the proposed framework.

Every year, governments invest billions in communities across Toronto to build and upgrade buildings, roads, bridges and more. But all too often, the jobs and opportunities that come with these projects bypass local workers and businesses.

Around the world, governments are recognizing that a new transit line or maintaining a bridge is more than just a construction project, it's a way to extend new opportunities and jobs to those who are left out.

For the past five years, TCBN has built a strong coalition of over 112 community and labour organizations and social enterprises. Since its launch, the TCBN has developed deep relationships in many neighbourhoods across the City and has a democratic process in place to ensure the voice of the community is heard.

As a network, we have been able to achieve community benefits commitments on four large scale infrastructure projects¹; Eglinton Crosstown LRT, Finch West LRT, West Park Healthcare Centre, and worked with the City of Toronto on a Community Benefits Agreement for the Rexdale Woodbine Casino expansion.

TCBN's expertise in supporting neighbourhoods to negotiate these community benefits agreements has given us the confidence in their leadership to work with the City as a key stakeholder in setting baseline targets and a strong framework that should be applied to all projects where the City buys, builds or procures.

¹ All four projects include a 10% target; 10% of all trade or craft working hours to be completed by Toronto residents from historically disadvantaged communities or equity seeking groups

We endorse TCBN's proposal for a comprehensive framework that includes a process for community engagement, a 10% hard target for Apprenticeships on all City projects, local procurement and other community benefits opportunities for Toronto's equity seeking groups and historically disadvantaged communities. It is not too late to act and we look forward to your support on these proposed recommendations at Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Powell', written in a cursive style.

Rosemarie Powell
Executive Director, Toronto Community Benefits Network

Statement signed off by:

Afghan Women's Centre - Adeena Niazi, Executive Director
Afro Caribbean Business Network - Ryan Knight, President
Black Urbanism TO - Romain Baker
Colour of Poverty Colour of Change - Michael Kerr, Coordinator
Community Share Food Bank - Diane Enhorning, Chair
Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women - Sunder Singh, Executive Director
Good Jobs For All Coalition - Tam Goosen, Co-Chair
Jane-Finch Community Centre - Clara Stewart-Robertson, Mgr Community Planning & Design
Youth Unlimited - Carmine Ferrone, Director of Development
Toronto Environmental Alliance - Emmay Mah, Executive Director
United Steelworkers' Toronto Area Council - Carolyn Egan, President