



February 4, 2021

City Council
City of Toronto

Re: Agenda Item Ex. 20.7 - Advancing the Community Benefits Framework

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the [Scarborough Business Association](#), the voice of Scarborough's businesses, to express our support for *Advancing the Community Benefits Framework*, which aims to foster and develop an inclusive workforce and business landscape by creating opportunities for local hiring and training for Toronto residents and social procurement for local businesses and diverse suppliers.

The proposed Community Benefits Framework represents a focused, inclusive and equitable framework for sustainable community development which aims to maximize economic opportunities for Scarborough's businesses and residents as they relate to development projects in our community. For these reasons, the SBA stands ready, willing and able to work with Scarborough's anchor institutions, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) to help connect Scarborough's businesses, entrepreneurs and residents to opportunities resulting from the framework's adoption.

With many major developments planned for Scarborough in the near future, we believe the **framework's focus on workforce development, training and employment; social procurement from local businesses, diverse suppliers or social enterprises; and creating tangible community benefits, such as affordable housing and community space** is right for our community. In order to achieve these goals, **we strongly support TCBN's recommendations** that the framework include a minimum 10% equity hiring hard target for all large scale infrastructure projects that fall under its scope, that all such projects collect and report disaggregated data of all employees on a project by project basis and that the City of Toronto recognize TCBN as a strategic City partner to support the negotiation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation functions of the framework, including but not limited to implementing targeted programs to engage and support Black, Indigenous and racialized communities access to the jobs and opportunities created through the framework.

Throughout COVID-19, the SBA has remained intensely focused on highlighting Scarborough's economic advantages of location, skilled labour and diversity. The community benefits framework, as proposed by the City of Toronto and the TCBN, would help solidify these advantages and would help make Scarborough a more prosperous, inclusive and dynamic community for residents and businesses alike.

Sincerely,

Andrea Hazell
President of the Scarborough Business Association

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