Nov. 20, 2013

Members, Planning and Growth Management Committee
City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Re: Proposed Official Plan Policies for Employment Areas

Dear Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee

The Toronto Women’s City Alliance (TWCA) is greatly concerned that the proposed Employment Area policies - and their accompanying introductions - fail to acknowledge any connection between employment and social equity. TWCA has raised this concern at public meetings and through detailed policy suggestions (see our submission of March 25, 2013).

At this stage, we wish to express this concern by adding two general policy recommendations, 3.5.1.i and 3.5.1.j, to Chapter 3, "Creating a Strong and Diverse Civic Economy",

i) supporting employment and economic development that meets the objectives of Toronto's Workforce Development Strategy, including people-based planning and the Vision Statement on Access, Equity and Diversity. (include this statement as a sidebar) [http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=2d17959d20d99310VgnVCM1000003dd60f898RCRD&vgnextchannel=065ae03bb8d1e310VgnVCM10000071d60f898RCRD]

and promoting infrastructure and support programs to ensure that all Torontonians, particularly equity-seeking groups, such as racialized youth, persons with disabilities, single mothers and new comers, especially refugees, have equitable access to employment opportunities.

j) recognizing the full diversity of employment activities that are increasingly taking place in non-traditional employment areas, such as homes and public spaces, and strengthening the necessary regulatory frameworks and policies to support this employment.

Yours

Reggie Modlich
On behalf of the Planning Team
Toronto Women’s City Alliance