



Executive Committee

City of Toronto

100 Queen Street West,

Toronto ON M5H 2N2

EX7.4.3

29 June 2015

Re: Woodbine Expansion

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I have reviewed the report entitled Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack and wish to comment on a number of issues concerning the possible expansion of Woodbine. The Labour Council does not have a position on casino expansion – we have affiliates who are in favour and affiliates who oppose gaming expansion. We do share the concern of many organizations about the impact of problem gambling, and would urge that a real commitment is made to the social impact that has on individuals and their families.

There are four areas I want to touch on.

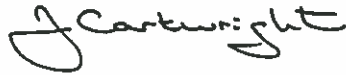
1. **Good Jobs** – It is clear from the consultations carried out for this project that the main reason for local residents to support it is the promise of good jobs. The existing jobs at Woodbine are seen as good jobs because they pay a decent wage. That is because the overwhelming majority of those jobs are unionized. If an expanded Woodbine is to help bring new prosperity to Rexdale and adjacent communities, the new jobs should be unionized and as many as possible should be full-time.
2. **Successor Rights** – The existing jobs in the gaming operation of Woodbine will transition to the new operator once the expansion is complete. There are shameful examples of workers losing jobs when service operators change, most recently at the airport. The City should insist that all current employees maintain their jobs with full union contract provisions and seniority in the new operation.
3. **Economic Development** – The proposal calls for a full-scale project that includes amenities such as hotel, retail and entertainment venues. The City should require a complete commitment to bringing significant development to the site that matches or exceeds the project scale agreed to in Woodbine Live! However, Labour Council does not agree with providing reduced City taxes for projects of this nature.

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4. Hiring – The labour movement worked hard on developing a commitment to local hiring for the Woodbine Live! Project and believes that a strong commitment to local hiring is necessary for shared prosperity in the Rexdale and nearby neighbourhoods. BY-LAW No. 1159-2008 Section 8.8 outlined a comprehensive approach to ensure success of this endeavour. The City should utilize similar language for this project. Recently, the Toronto Community Benefits Network developed a framework agreement with Metrolinx to undertake a targeted hiring approach for the Eglington Cross-Town project. That is the kind of verifiable and enforceable approach that should be part of the Woodbine expansion.

I trust that the Executive and staff will take these comments into consideration if a decision is made to move forward with expansion of Woodbine.

Sincerely,



John Cartwright

President