

November 11, 2016

Government Management Committee
City of Toronto
c/o Carol Kaustinen
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2



RE: Item GM 16.10 - Award of Request for Proposal No. 0203-16-0091 to TBM Service Group Inc., for Custodial Services for Various City Divisions

Dear Chair Councillor Ainslie, and Committee Members;

I am writing on behalf of Toronto Neighbourhood Centres to support the call for City staff to develop a Job Quality Assessment Tool to assist in evaluating bids for City contracts, and ensuring such contractual arrangements are supporting decent work practices in our city.

Toronto Neighbourhood Centres (TNC) is an association of 29 multi-service community agencies working in neighbourhoods across the city of Toronto. Over the past two years we have partnered with the Ontario Nonprofit Network to champion and advance a decent work agenda in our nonprofit sector.

As part of this effort, we have developed a "Decent Work Charter" which articulates some important objectives that we believe employers should embrace. And to support organizations to identify their current capacity to support decent work, we have also developed a Decent Work Checklist. This checklist is very basic, and would need further refinement to be used in a rigorous way as part of any rfp and contracting processes. But we would be happy to share these tools with City staff, as well as our learnings from developing them.

We believe that the City has a critical leadership role to play in advocating for and enabling decent work objectives. Your policy choices can encourage and support both for-profit firms and non-profit organizations to join with the City in pursuing these decent work objectives.

We urge you to take immediate steps to develop a Job Quality Assessment Tool and apply it to all upcoming City contracting processes, and take any other measures that will help promote the expansion of decent work practices in our city.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Howarth", is written over the printed name.

Rob Howarth
Executive Director
Toronto Neighbourhood Centres