



November 27, 2017

10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Josephine Archbold

RE: EX29.12 Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy 2017
Report and 2018 Work Plan

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Executive Committee,

We are writing to express our **disappointment about the City's lack of action on developing a Toronto Community Benefits Framework**. Flemingdon Community Legal Services (FCLS) is a community legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario, and a member of the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN). Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) have the potential to create jobs, and increase apprenticeship training and opportunities for local companies and residents.

In 2014, Premier Kathleen Wynne endorsed the concept of CBAs as a mechanism to address youth unemployment, job creation, apprentice training and local economic development.

The construction by Metrolinx of the Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit project is a multi-year \$5.3 billion dollar project now subject to a CBA. Hundreds of jobs and apprentice training opportunities have resulted from the agreement.

On April 22, 2015, Executive Committee adopted a motion directing staff to create a Community Benefits Agreements protocol to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits for the local communities impacted by proposed development and infrastructure projects, and to support the employment objectives of Toronto's Workforce Development Strategy including the Youth Employment Action Plan, Youth Equity Strategy and NewcomerStrategy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX5.20>

While Community Benefits is mentioned in the current staff report back on the Poverty Reduction Strategy (paragraphs 2 and 19), **there is no indication that the report called in 2015 is forthcoming**; instead Recommendation 2 reads:

2. City Council requests the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to work with relevant City divisions and agencies and report back on the development of a City of Toronto Community Benefits Framework that includes:
 - a. a comprehensive inventory of existing City processes and practices that leverage community benefits outcomes, including analyses of best practices, challenges, gaps, and opportunities;
 - b. ways to maximize community benefits outcomes from large-scale private development proposals, through the enhancement of existing City practices and processes, or the leveraging of untapped opportunities.

Recommendation 3 dealing with procurement, scheduling and equitable hiring, i.e. end of 2019?

These types of programs have the potential to increase community wellbeing and job opportunities for residents in our catchment. **We would request that the City accelerate the delivery of this report.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rawal Piyant
Acting Executive Director
on behalf of
Shamsh Kara,
Chair

C.c. Chris Brillinger, Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director, Toronto Community Benefits Network