CENTRAL ONTARIO BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

December 10, 2019

City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON   M5H 2N2

Dear City Clerk,

I am writing today on behalf of the Central Ontario Building Trades in support of Mayor Tory's announcement regarding the City Building Fund.

We recognize that, as Torontonians, we all need to do our part by paying for the types of services we know will improve our City on both an economic and social level. Through implementing this levy, Mayor Tory is taking action to invest in public transit and affordable housing, vital components which we need to focus on improving in drastic fashion.

As this levy looks to invest in this vastly needed infrastructure overhaul, we also need to be cognizant of those residents who are most vulnerable and who struggle daily from social and economic disadvantage. With all residents contributing their share financially, our City has a stronger voice when engaged with the provincial and federal governments to discuss investing in Toronto. As the Building Trades, we would like to ensure government at all levels is writing mandatory community benefit language into their infrastructure RFP's so we can see these investments result in opportunities being created for programs such as Hammer Heads.

To date, our Hammer Heads Program has removed 150 youth from Social Assistance, saving the City approximately $3.5 million since 2010. As the City moves forward, we would encourage investment in both our City and our youth, simultaneously, by partnering with programs that deliver tangible, quantifiable results through providing those from under-resourced communities with an opportunity to obtain meaningful and gainful employment in the construction industry.

Sincerely,

James St. John
Business Manager / Financial Secretary
Central Ontario Building Trades
Director, Hammer Heads

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COBT & AFFILIATES SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN THE TRADES THROUGH HAMMER HEADS