

June 15, 2020

Planning and Housing Committee  
c/o Nancy Martins  
Committee Secretariat  
phc@toronto.ca

## **Re: PH14.3 - Housing Now Initiative - Annual Progress Report**

In 2019, Toronto City Council approved the Housing Now initiative. As part of the approvals, two motions were passed to ensure that community benefits (motion #33 for small sites) and Community Benefits Agreements (motion #35 for large sites) were considered during the Market Offering Process of these projects.

As the first few Housing Now sites are near financial close, we want to ensure that Community Benefits and/or Community Benefits Agreements opportunities are maximized on these projects. This includes:

1. **Apprenticeships** - Hard targets for apprenticeship hiring from equity seeking and indigenous communities.
2. **Professional, Administrative, Technical, Operational opportunities** - other hiring opportunities for long term positions for equity seeking and indigenous communities.
3. **Social Procurement** - hard targets for social procurement; supporting diverse owned, local suppliers and social enterprises.
4. **Neighbourhood and Environmental Improvements** - Neighbourhood improvements through building new infrastructure which ensures long term community benefits. We applaud the efforts of the Housing Now initiative to maximize the use of these sites to include affordable housing and much needed community, child care and social spaces.
5. **Accountability and Reporting** - Ensure clear commitments and accountability from all parties to deliver on community benefits. A regular monitoring and reporting process should be established.

## Community Benefits Framework

In 2019, the City of Toronto adopted a Community Benefits Framework that identified unique initiatives like Housing Now as immediate opportunities to secure economic opportunities for Toronto's equity seeking and Indigenous communities while helping to meet our City's social objectives like the Poverty Reduction Strategy.<sup>1</sup>

We look forward to working with CreateTO, the Housing Secretariat and Social Development and Finance to maximize community benefits opportunities on these projects to ensure inclusive, accountable and complete communities where everyone has a safe, clean, and affordable places to live, work, learn and play.

Sincerely,



Rosemarie Powell,  
Executive Director

### About TCBN:

***The Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) envisions Toronto as an inclusive, thriving city in which all residents have equitable opportunities to contribute to building healthy communities and a prospering economy. Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) are a proven approach to achieve this vision. Currently, the community-labour coalition has over 120 member organizations and groups from labour, community and social enterprise. Learn more at [communitybenefits.ca](https://communitybenefits.ca)***

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<sup>1</sup> **Recommendation #13** of the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction strategy seeks to leverage the economic power of the City to stimulate job growth, support local businesses, and drive inclusive economic growth.