

January 27, 2021

Dear Mayor Tory and members of the Executive Committee,

Re: EX20.7 Advancing the Community Benefits Framework

We believe that when we invest in people and in our communities, we invest in the meaningful changes required to transform our world in powerful ways.

As you may know, Toronto City Council approved the Community Benefits Framework in 2019. This aligned the City's poverty reduction and economic development efforts with the organizing taking place in neighbourhoods for over a decade. It also set a course for how we can better leverage our public resources (investments, land, tax incentives) to ensure equitable economic opportunities for community members who have been historically and persistently economically, politically and socially marginalized.

In the midst of a global pandemic, which has exacerbated the existing economic, social and environmental crisis in neighbourhoods across Toronto, it must be clear the only way forward is through racial economic justice, climate justice and regenerative local economies.

Now is time for the City to take bold leadership to deliver a well-built society that is also worth living in—a society that is built on the values of collective well-being and intelligent investment.

TCBN is our representative on matters related to community benefits at the City and we support their recommendations.

As an active member of the Toronto Community Benefits Network, OCASI calls you to work with your colleagues to support a strong City of Toronto Community Benefits Framework by implementing the following recommendations:

- Require signed Community Benefits Agreements for all large-scale capital projects and ensure equitable community engagement processes for each
- Set a 10% minimum hard target for equity hiring on all large scale capital projects ▪ Collect, track and report disaggregated data (gender, race, age and geography) of all employees on projects that apply under the Community Benefits Framework
- Designate TCBN as a strategic City partner to support the negotiations, implementation, monitoring and evaluation functions of the City's Community Benefits Framework, including but not limited to implementing targeted programs to engage and support women, youth, Black, Indigenous and racialized communities access to the jobs and opportunities created through community benefits. We will be paying close attention to the amendments we are calling for at January's Executive Committee and City Council meetings.

We ask you to support these recommendations to ensure that this framework includes measurable commitments to equity and inclusion and falls in line with the best practices achieved not only in other jurisdictions, but more importantly right here in Toronto within the past four years through the achievements of TCBN and its network members and partners.

I also look forward to how the Gender Equity Office, Anti-Black Racism Office, and other related offices can inform and complement the City's Community Benefits Framework.

We will be paying close attention to the amendments we are calling for at January's Executive Committee and City Council meetings.

Sincerely,



Debbie Douglas
Executive Director

OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

110 Eglinton Ave. West, Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario
M4R 1A3

Telephone: 416-322-4950
Fax: 416-322-8084
TTY: 416-322-1498

generalmail@ocasi.org
www.ocasi.org
www.settlement.org

