



January 26, 2020

Mayor John Tory and Members of Executive Committee
c/o Cathrine Regan
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Submitted via email to: exc@toronto.ca

Office of the
Vice-President
Finance and
Administration

4700 Keele St.
Toronto ON
Canada M3J 1P3
Tel 416 736-5282

Re: EX20.7 Advancing the Community Benefits Framework

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee:

York University appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the review process for the vitally important City of Toronto Community Benefits Framework. In doing so, the university brings firsthand perspectives to bear leveraging our experiences through our own Anchor York initiative which has comparable aims to the city's own program. Providing economic opportunities for racialized and disadvantaged communities by way of social purpose initiatives, be they related to infrastructure development or renewal and/or other ongoing government activities, is good public policy, particularly in these particularly challenging times brought about by the pandemic. In that regard, York University fully supports the broad policy goals that underpin the Community Benefits Framework.

York University strives, and is recognized internationally, as an institution for its significant social impact. With regards to community benefits, we enjoy a strong relationship with the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) that is leading pioneering work in the promotion and advancement of community benefits agreements in partnership with public and private entities on some of the country's largest infrastructure projects. These agreements are delivering real results by providing high quality employment and business opportunities for individuals in racialized communities. TCBN can draw on a wealth of practical experience from its efforts over the past five years working with industry, labour groups and government to contribute to the further advancement of community benefit policies and strategies.

York University has reviewed and supports TCBN's goals for the review of the City of Toronto's Community Benefits Framework. In many respects, TCBN's goals are similar in nature to those the university is pursuing through our Anchor York program. It is for this reason that the university asks City of Toronto Economic and Community Development Committee to incorporate the following elements into its renewed Community Benefits Framework policy:

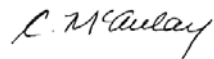
1. Ensure a minimum hard target for equity hires in the construction industry, focus definition on specific groups
2. Track and Report Disaggregated Data
3. Establish TCBN as key City partner in this work
4. Establish and resource a Community Benefits Office at City of Toronto
5. Strengthen the Social Procurement Program



The recommendations proposed by TCBN will support enhanced coordination across initiatives among City departments, allow for the implementation of more consistent approaches, support community engagement, and contribute to the development of data tracking to monitor and report on outcomes. At a macro level, TCBN's recommendations will help to broaden the scope and reach of community benefits initiatives as well as stabilize the activity given the linkage to ongoing, year-over-year public investments.

We applaud the City of Toronto and its efforts to pursue, implement, revisit, and enhance its community benefits policy through the application of continuous improvement – all indicative of good governance, public policy and administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. McAulay".

Carol McAulay
Vice-President Finance and Administration
Division of Finance and Administration

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