

January 26, 2021

City of Toronto Executive Committee
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto M5H 2N2



Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Members:

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council is a founding member of the Toronto Community Benefits Network. We have been involved in local community organizing to achieve racial justice and good jobs for many years, and want to ensure that the City of Toronto Community Benefits Framework moves this work forward in substantive ways. Community Benefits organizing started in this city formally with the creation of CORD – Community Organizing for Responsible Development – to demand decent jobs, local hiring and equity in the original 2007 Woodbine Live project.

https://www.thestar.com/news/2007/05/10/woodbine_live_deal_galvanizes_community.html

When that project was deferred, the efforts focused on the Kodak lands with the Mount Dennis Community to require local an equity hiring for transit infrastructure. That grew into the original Community Benefits Framework signed by TCBN and Metrolinx in 2014.

<http://thecrosstown.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/communitybenefitsframework.pdf>

That framework established the objectives that have since been applied to the Eglinton Crosstown and Finch West projects, as well as the Woodbine Casino and Westpark Hospital projects.

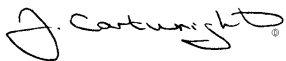
In the midst of a global pandemic, which has exacerbated the existing economic, social and environmental crisis in neighbourhoods across Toronto, it must be clear the only way forward is through racial economic justice, climate justice and regenerative local economies. NOW is time for the City to take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

The Labour Council, which represents 220,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy, urges you 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 the 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.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Cartwright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

John Cartwright
President

c.c. Mayor Tory; Paul Ainslie; Ana Bailao; Gary Crawford, Jennifer McKelvie; Denzil Minnan-Wong; James Pasternak; Michael Thompson

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