

Agenda Item: GL 22.10

2050 Finch Avenue West - City Acquisition of Property from Metrolinx for Development of Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

Dear Governance and Licensing Committee members,

We are submitting this letter of support on behalf of the Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN). Since 2014, the TCBN has built a strong community-labour coalition with a support base of over 120 members organizations from across the City of Toronto including workforce development agencies, community organizations, community groups, labour unions and social enterprises.

As part of the Metrolinx community benefits negotiations process for the Finch West LRT project, TCBN worked closely with local residents and community group CAPG to ensure the commitment from Metrolinx and City of Toronto for a 32m land setback that would meet the community's vision for a Community Hub and Centre for the Arts as a neighbourhood improvement.

After years of community work and advocacy, we are proud to see Jane-Finch residents and supporters who have successfully secured the land along Finch between Norfinch and York Gate to build a Community Hub and Centre for the Arts.

Building on the history of work done by the community of Jane-Finch (residents, community leaders and organizers, grassroots groups, community agencies, and other supporters) and recognizing that community facilities work best when they are developed by, not for the community, we ask for your support on the following community recommendations:

1. City of Toronto and the Hub Organizing Committee to develop a framework for collaboration for working together within the next three months.
2. City of Toronto to support the Hub Organizing Committee with defining the Phase 2 community consultation process for the project, including scope, timeline, stakeholders, as well as their roles and responsibilities:
 - a) Phase 2 process will build on previous work undertaken in Phase 1 by the community on the feasibility study as well as the initial business and governance plans

3. City of Toronto to support the Hub Organizing Committee to explore potential funding from the City and other sources

At the TCBN, we recognize that this significant accomplishment would not be possible without the strength and dedication of the Jane-Finch community, who have organized tirelessly over the last 10 years to gain the support of local residents and community groups, elected officials, the City of Toronto, Metrolinx and now the Ontario government to make this vision possible.

We look forward to your support on the community's recommendations highlighted in this letter and that you will be supporting the leadership of the Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts Organizing Committee to identify a path forward in realizing the vision for a community owned and controlled space for a Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts.

Thank you.



Rosemarie Powell
Executive Director
Toronto Community Benefits Network