



March 30, 2022

City of Toronto Executive Committee - Rexdale Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2021 Progress Update (EX31.15)

Toronto Community Benefits Network is a Black-led organization and 120 member community-labour coalition of community organizations, grassroots groups and social enterprises, unions, construction trades training centres and workforce development agencies. TCBN has centred itself at the forefront of the economic justice movement in Canada by negotiating CBAs into public infrastructure and urban development projects. In so doing, TCBN is addressing the challenges of access to good jobs, local economic development and neighbourhood revitalization particularly as they impact on historically disadvantaged communities and equity seeking groups in Toronto - women, newcomers, indigenous and racialized individuals, at-risk youth and veterans.

The Casino Woodbine CBA was a significant accomplishment for the Rexdale community coming after a decade-long fight to ensure any City of Toronto approval for a Casino includes commitments to a Community Benefits Agreement. With the advocacy from the Toronto Community Benefits Network and the RexdaleRising! Campaign, in 2018, Toronto City Council endorsed targets for local and social hiring and community benefits requirements to be included as part of the casino expansion project.

As a stakeholder and participant in the Community Oversight Committee and Employment and Labour Market Working group, TCBN would like to thank all stakeholders for their continued efforts and collaboration to ensure the commitments outlined in the Community Benefits Agreements not only achieved, but surpassed.

Despite the pandemic which have led to challenges and closures, we are encouraged by the efforts of One Toronto Gaming and the City of Toronto staff supporting the implementation of the Community Benefits Agreement. This approach to community, labour, government and industry partnerships is a proven model that should be applied to the next phases of development at Woodbine and as part of future large-scale developments in the City of Toronto to help ensure more inclusive, prosperous and just communities.



Toronto **Community**
Benefits Network

With the expected completion of the first phase of redevelopment in late 2022, we encourage One Toronto Gaming and the City of Toronto to accelerate its local engagement efforts by providing timely information and early grassroots outreach in the local Rexdale community, including information about the expected new positions and training programs available. We also encourage One Toronto Gaming to develop outreach plans to engage Indigenous, Black and other cultural organizations and business networks to promote procurement opportunities available.

TCBN looks forward to continuing to work with all project and CBA stakeholders over the next year to successfully achieve the outcomes outlined in the Community Benefits Agreement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Powell', written over a horizontal line.

Rosemarie Powell
Executive Director,
Toronto Community Benefits Network