



Toronto Community Benefits Network

To: Executive Committee

Date: June 8, 2022

Re: EX33.2 Advancing City Priority Transit Expansion Projects - Eglinton East LRT and Waterfront East LRT

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

The Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) is writing in regards to item EX33.2 on Advancing City Priority Transit Expansion Projects - Eglinton East LRT and Waterfront East LRT.

Over the past 7 years, the TCBN has been actively engaged with Metrolinx, labour unions, contractors, industry representatives and local community stakeholders on new transit projects like the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and Finch West LRT to formalize Community Benefits Agreements that have ensured positive social, economic and neighborhood benefits for local communities impacted by these public transit investments.

Through commitments from Metrolinx in a signed Community Benefits Framework with TCBN (2015)¹, our network has supported [over 500 people from historically disadvantaged communities and equity deserving groups](#) to career opportunities in the skilled trades and professional, administrative and technical fields on the Eglinton and Finch West LRT projects.

A recent independent analysis commissioned by the TCBN on the local economic impact of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project estimates that by the end of 2023, the value of increased income earned by local Toronto residents will be \$33.8M². Our research also identified that people earning higher incomes reinvest a portion of the increase in their own local and cultural communities through purchases of food, goods, and services further providing benefits to small businesses and strengthening the local Toronto economy.

¹ <http://www.thecrosstown.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/communitybenefitsframework.pdf>

² Presenting the Value of Community Benefits Agreements (Preliminary SROI Calculation completed by economist Stephanie Robertson, SIMPACT) April 29, 2022

With the planning of Waterfront East LRT and Eglinton East LRT transit projects moving forward, we encourage the City of Toronto to remain steadfast in its support of Community Benefits Agreements, good jobs and leveraging public infrastructure investment to build a more inclusive, prosperous and just Toronto for local residents and equity deserving groups.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Powell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rosemarie Powell
Executive Director

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.