



July 4, 2022

Planning & Housing Committee
c/o Nancy Martins
phc@toronto.ca

Re: PH35.1: Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods: Neighbourhood Retail and Services Study Final Report Phase One

Dear Councillors:

On behalf of our members, the Toronto Region Board of Trade (“the Board”) is a strong advocate for policies to grow our economy and create jobs.

The proposals in this component of the City’s Expanding Housing Options in Neighbourhoods (EHON) work present an opportunity for Council to cut red tape and remove unnecessary barriers to creating jobs and strengthening neighbourhoods. The Board strongly supports permitting more neighbourhood retail and service businesses across the city and encourages the adoption of the recommendations contained in this staff report.

Having small local coffee shops and convenience stores strengthens the appeal of neighbourhoods. It also creates new employment opportunities that may be more accessible for newcomers and first-time entrepreneurs. Small businesses were the hardest hit by the pandemic – with the Toronto Employment Survey showing that 84% of businesses that permanently closed during 2021 had four employees or fewer.¹ Allowing small shops to open in more parts of the city can help spur more distributed economic growth.

As the city seeks to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, it must continue to remove barriers to business growth. The Board applauds the efforts of Mayor Tory and councillors over the past term to promote the city’s recovery and encourages the implementation of these recommendations to further support the vitality of Toronto’s business community.

Sincerely,

Craig Ruttan
Sr. Director, Policy – Housing, Energy and Economic Enablers

¹ <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/9581-CityPlanning-Toronto-Employment-Survey-2021.pdf>, page 33.