

# West Don Lands | Committee

June 13, 2023

By email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Citizens for the Old Town  
Corktown Residents & Business  
Association  
Distillery Historic District  
Dixon Hall  
Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation  
Friends of Corktown Common  
Goederham & Worts Neighbourhood  
Association  
Little Trinity Anglican Church  
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BI  
St. Lawrence Neighbourhood  
Association  
Bring Back the Don

Toronto City Council

Dear Mayor and Members of Council

**Re: TE 5.46 Report Back on Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction within the Toronto and East York District: Recommendation 3 – Construction Employment Benefits**

We are writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee, a coalition of community-based resident, business, service, environmental and heritage organizations that has strongly advocated for the development of community employment benefits as a component of the significant infrastructure projects undertaken to revitalize Toronto's Waterfront. To that end we were founding partners with Waterfront Toronto, the City and George Brown College in the development of the Waterfront Toronto Employment Initiative.

As plans for the Corktown Station on the Ontario Line developed, our members have been actively involved in stakeholder committees and have continued to advocate, along with the Toronto Community Benefits Network, for the inclusion of a range of community benefits including employment and procurement benefits for local youth, traditionally disadvantaged communities and Indigenous peoples.

We strongly support the recommendations from TEYCC that Council direct the Deputy City Manager to report back in July on a strategy for securing formal labour market agreements with Metrolinx.

We respectfully suggest, however that the scope of that direction go beyond target hours for apprenticeship and be expanded to include agreements to achieve:

- The required minimum 10% hiring targets to provide diverse employment opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities, equity-seeking groups, Black, Indigenous and people of colour,
- The assurance that contractors have in place an anti-racism strategy.

We also suggest that the scope of the direction include strategies for securing similar agreements for Infrastructure Ontario's Transit Orient Community program associated with the Ontario Line.

The Transit Oriented Community program will involve millions of square feet of residential and commercial development and should be structured to deliver the same level of community employment and economic benefits as the Ontario Line construction. The Waterfront Toronto Employment Initiative provides an example of a comparable type of community employment benefit program.

We are very concerned that at this late date in planning for both the Ontario Line South Civil construction and the TOC program, the province has not yet delivered on a promised Ministry of Transportation/Ministry of Labour coordinated provincial program for community employment benefits across its four major transit projects.

As we have learned, it is crucial that the commitment to deliver an effective community employment and economic benefits program be “baked into the process from the start” so all the players are aware of their obligations. It is crucial that the City vigorously pursue agreements with both Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario to ensure that the benefits of the transit related construction program can be spread as widely as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Yours truly,



Cynthia Wilkey, Co-Chair,  
[wilkeycj@gmail.com](mailto:wilkeycj@gmail.com)  
416-892-8941



John Wilson, Co-Chair  
[johnwilson338@gmail.com](mailto:johnwilson338@gmail.com)  
416 432-2544

cc. Councillor Malik  
Councillor Moise  
Councillor Fletcher  
Rosemarie Powell, TCBN