



# Toronto Community Benefits Network

March 21, 2023

## **EX3.10 - Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2022 Progress Update**

Dear Members of the Toronto Executive Committee and City Council,

The TCBN is a community-labour coalition with over 120 member organizations and groups from community, labour and social enterprise. The network has centred itself at the forefront of the economic justice movement in Canada by negotiating Community Benefits Agreements (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.

Through the RexdaleRising campaign, TCBN was successful in working with member networks, local community organizations and residents to advocate and secure the City of Toronto's first Community Benefits Agreement. Currently, we are one of the stakeholders who are part of the Community Benefits Oversight Working Group for the Casino Woodbine CBA.

We would like to thank One Toronto Gaming and City of Toronto staff for preparing this update report on the progress of the Casino Woodbine CBA. Public reporting on outcomes is an important element for CBAs and transparency that all projects should follow including proper monitoring, tracking and reporting frameworks agreed to in advance with the community.

We are encouraged by the social hiring targets that have been surpassed for construction (28%) and operations (48%) however we are concerned about local hiring targets that have failed to be met in both of these areas (2% construction, 10% operations).

We acknowledge the efforts being made by One Toronto Gaming, City staff and local organizations to engage community members in the Rexdale local area for operations positions and we encourage One Toronto Gaming to support partnerships, training and lead targeted outreach activities in the local community, especially as new and non-gaming related positions open up this year.



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As it relates to the construction opportunities as part of the project, we are extremely disappointed by the poor outcomes for local hiring in construction and the lack of transparency in providing disaggregated data on the hiring from equity seeking groups. Such disaggregated data was provided in the employment operations report and should be included in future reporting. As project owner, One Toronto Gaming should educate, inform and regularly engage contractors and subcontractors to ensure hiring commitments are fulfilled, monitored and reported.

In addition, support for procurement through diverse suppliers is strongly encouraged and should also be part of reporting to the Community Benefits Oversight Group and update reports to City Council as it was part of the CBA commitment to supply chain diversity. Outcomes in this area have been significant in previous years where purchasing from diverse suppliers has been reported.

In closing, we would like to recognize all stakeholders including One Toronto Gaming, City of Toronto staff and community organizations who have contributed to the implementation of the CBA thus far. We look forward to working with all stakeholders over the next year to address the concerns outlined in this letter and help to fulfill CBA commitments as initially promised.

Thank you,

Rosemarie Powell  
Executive Director  
Toronto Community Benefits Network