

Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Submission to City of Toronto Executive Committee, Feb. 29, 2024 – exc@toronto.ca

EX12.2 – Update on Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026

February 28, 2024

The City of Toronto has agreed to host six FIFA Men's 2026 World Cup games. The total cost had already ballooned to \$300 million and is now increasing even more to \$380 million. Previously, the costs have been roughly split three ways between the City, province of Ontario, and the federal government. It is still to be determined and negotiated who will bear the new \$80 million costs, but ultimately it is the public that pays. That is a substantial amount of public money, and steps should be taken to ensure there is social and economic benefit for local workers and communities, and especially equity-deserving communities.

As Toronto Community Benefits Network (TCBN) outlined in its submission on the update:

In 2022, when Toronto City Council was considering how it would participate and approach the planning of FIFA2026 games in Toronto, TCBN advocated for the inclusion of a Community Benefits Agreement. Toronto Executive Committee and City Council voted in support for a Community Benefits Plan that would include minimum targets for the equitable participation of Toronto residents in employment opportunities, small businesses participation through social procurement and supply chain diversity commitments.

Currently, the City does not have an overarching strategy or plan for how it intends to follow through on these commitments to benefit local residents and businesses during the FIFA2026 games, raising our concerns and a "yellow card".

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council is writing in support of a City of Toronto Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) such as that outlined by TCBN in its statement (see <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/ex/comm/communicationfile-177759.pdf>). We were surprised to learn that the City does not believe it can incorporate a Community Benefits Plan into plans to host the FIFA 2026 games in Toronto, as was approved in 2022.

For more than a decade, the Labour Council has supported locally negotiated, effective, and legally enforceable Community Benefits Agreements that respond directly to communities' distinct needs. CBAs promote equitable economic inclusion and workforce development as well as neighbourhood and environmental improvements.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council urges you to support TCBN's recommendations for a FIFA 2026 CBA.

Andria Babbington
President
Toronto & York Region Labour Council