

Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2024 Progress Update

Date: March 5, 2025

To: Executive Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

2024 marked the sixth year since the inception of the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement. Adopted by City Council in 2018, the Agreement stands as a precedent-setting and award-winning¹ example of municipal policy innovation, community advocacy, and impactful public-private partnership towards inclusive economic development. By leveraging the expansion of gaming at the Woodbine Racetrack, the Agreement has harnessed a major development project into a vehicle for driving equity-focused opportunities and fostering meaningful community benefits.

This report provides an update on 2024 targets, the City's share of gaming revenues, and also reflects on the Agreement's progress and impact captured in a five-year review, led by City staff in 2024 in collaboration with One Toronto Gaming, the Agreements' Community Steering Committee and community partners. The 2018 Agreement requires annual progress reports from One Toronto Gaming to the City of Toronto, with corresponding updates from City staff to City Council. One Toronto Gaming's 2024 annual report is included in this report as Attachment 1.

Overall, the commitments within the agreement have been met or are on track for completion. Attachment 2 summarizes One Toronto Gaming's progress towards meeting the targets and requirements of the Agreement. Key Highlights of One Toronto Gaming's progress as of December 31, 2024 include:

- **Child Care Centre:** Children's Services has confirmed that the future child care centre will be connected to a Toronto Community Housing Corporation building unit nearby to the Casino and is accessible by public transit. This target has not yet been

¹ In 2024, The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement was recognized at the Building Diversity Awards as the recipient of the Community Benefits Project Award. For more information, see: Building Diversity Awards - Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement

fully met. Children's Services is currently in the agreement negotiation stage with Toronto Community Housing Corporation and are working with City Legal to draft and execute an agreement. Upon completion, Children's Services and Toronto Community Housing Corporation will be able to confirm construction development timelines for the child care centre.

- **Local and Social Hiring (Operations):** Of the 3,160 new hires since 2018, 42 percent (1,319 individuals) self-identified as a social hire² and 8 percent (257 individuals) were local hires³. The social⁴ hiring target has been met; the local hires target has not yet been met. Actions to meet this target are further detailed in this report.
- **Construction Hiring:** Of the 2,819 people employed on the construction site since 2018, 29 percent (807 individuals) self-identified as a social hire and two percent (65 individuals) self-identified as a local hire. The combined construction hiring target has been met.
- **Full-time Employment:** Of the 1,794 active employees, 61 percent (1,101 individuals) are employed on a full-time basis and 39 percent (693 individuals) are employed on a part-time basis. This target has been met.
- **Supply-Chain Diversity:** In 2024, One Toronto Gaming spent \$100.5 million across 18 local suppliers, representing 33 percent of their total procurement spend. One Toronto Gaming spent \$1.8 million across 3 diverse suppliers, representing less than one percent of their total procurement spend. The combined supply chain diversity target has been met.
- **Community Access to Space:** One Toronto Gaming finalized the Community Access to Space Policy and Procedures in November 2024 and hosted the first community event in December 2024. Four community events are scheduled to take place within the first half of 2025. This target has been met.
- **Responsible Gambling:** To identify negative impacts of expanded gaming and implement mitigation measures, Toronto Public Health and Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation developed a workplan with four workstreams that will guide Responsible Gambling work from 2025 to 2029 and fulfill Agreement requirements. This target has been met.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to negotiate with One Toronto Gaming to include the updated definitions of Woodbine Local Area and Equity Deserving Communities, as defined in Attachment 3 of this report, and authorize the City Manager to sign an Amending Agreement with One Toronto Gaming implementing the updated definitions, to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

2 Social Hiring means hiring of people who self-identify as a member of an equity-deserving group.

3 Local hiring means the hiring of people who live in the Woodbine Local Area

4 Of the 807 individuals who self-identified as a social hire, 55 percent (444 individuals) self-identified as youth. Categories for self-identification are not mutually exclusive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from the adoption of the recommendation in this report. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Community Benefits aim to create meaningful employment and economic opportunities, that prioritize Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving communities. Community Benefits initiatives are policy and program mechanisms for addressing systemic barriers and fostering equity-focused pathways, particularly in Rexdale and North Etobicoke where residents face disproportionate systemic barriers due to socio-economic inequities.

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement exemplifies how municipalities can leverage their authority and policy levers to compel private corporations to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion. By linking the expansion of gaming at the Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto to robust community benefits requirements such as local and social hiring, supply chain diversity, a new child care centre, the Agreement sets a precedent for inclusive economic development and corporate accountability.

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement highlights the importance of monitoring and public oversight, mitigating potential negative impacts of expanded gaming on the community, ensuring a balanced approach to development. This innovative agreement underscores the power of municipalities to foster inclusive economic growth and create lasting positive impacts in historically underserved communities.

DECISION HISTORY

EX13.3 Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2023 Progress Update

On April 9, 2024, Executive Committee received for information the 2023 progress update for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX13.3>

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

On March 21, 2023, Executive Committee received for information the 2022 progress update for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX3.10>

EX31.15 Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement: 2021 Progress Update

On March 30, 2022, Executive Committee received for information the 2021 progress update report for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX31.15>

EY26.5 555 Rexdale Boulevard - Planning Act Applications - Status Report and Construction Schedule

On October 1, 2021, City Council adopted a report on the applicant's progress in constructing the integrated entertainment complex at 555 Rexdale Boulevard and approved the updated revised construction schedule
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EY26.5>

EX20.7 Advancing the Community Benefits Framework

On February 2, 2021, City Council adopted the 2020 update report for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement (Attachment 5) as part of the broader report on advancing the City's Community Benefits Framework.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX20.7>

EX11.12 Progress on the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement - 2019 Update

On December 11, 2019, Executive Committee received for information the 2019 update report for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EX11.12>

EC6.15 Community Benefits Framework

On July 16, 2019, City Council adopted the Community Benefits Framework, which established how the City of Toronto coordinates and maximizes the social and economic impact of its community benefits initiatives.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EC6.15>

EX4.4 Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack - Follow Up

On April 9, 2019, Executive Committee received for information a report on the progress to address remedies and possible penalties for failure to comply with requirements of the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EX4.4>

EX33.2 Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack - City Conditions

On April 24, 2018, City Council authorized a Community Benefits Agreement with One Toronto Gaming.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2018.EX33.2>

COMMENTS

Overview of the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement

City Council established the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement as a condition for expanding gaming at the Woodbine Racetrack site in 2018. Spanning 22-years, this Agreement is between City of Toronto and One Toronto Gaming⁵, (a collaboration between Great Canadian Entertainment^{6,7} and Brookfield Business Partners L.P.). One Toronto Gaming oversees the gaming expansion and casino operations at Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto.⁸

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Agreement is the City of Toronto's only standalone⁹ community benefits agreement and is a key initiative of the Community Benefits Framework¹⁰, adopted by City Council in 2019. The Agreement is a concrete example of the City's commitment to fostering inclusive economic development with a targeted initiative that addresses systemic barriers faced by equity-deserving communities. Through its focus on local and social hiring and supply chain diversity, the Agreement delivers tangible equity-based community benefits. The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement highlights the City's dedication to ensuring that the benefits of large-scale developments include creating lasting impacts and meaningful opportunities.

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement outlines specific social and economic outcomes that One Toronto Gaming must achieve, including:

- Prioritizing local and social hiring for both operations and construction employment
- Promoting supplier diversity
- Implementing responsible gambling practices
- Ensuring community access to the event venue
- Providing a \$5 million contribution towards the establishment of a child care centre benefiting both employees of the casino resort and local residents.

5 One Toronto Gaming is formerly known as Ontario Gaming GTA Limited Partnership (OGGLP).

6 In 2022, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation rebranded as Great Canadian Entertainment.

7 In 2021, Great Canadian Entertainment was acquired by an affiliate of funds managed by Apollo Global Management Inc.

8 In 2023, Casino Woodbine rebranded as Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto.

9 The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement is the only standalone, separate community benefits agreement signed by the City, leveraged through a unique opportunity related to the expansion of gaming at the Casino. All other City community benefits initiatives use clauses and requirements secured in City contracts when the City buys, builds or leases, for example.

10 More information is available at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/long-term-vision-plans-and-strategies/community-benefits-framework/>

Accountability and Oversight Structure

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement is overseen by three main oversight bodies, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the achievement of Agreement requirements. The oversight bodies include:

- Community Steering Committee - Led by City of Toronto
- The Great Canadian Toronto Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee 11 12, - Led by Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation
- Employment and Labour Market Advisory Working Group¹³ - Led by Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto
- Since 2018, the Toronto Employment and Social Services division has coordinated the Employment and Labour Market Partners Working Group. This working group operates outside of the Agreement's formal accountability structure. It provides strategic planning and coordination for workforce development pathways for local and social hiring at the Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto.

Toronto Employment and Social Services: Employment Services Transformation and implications for the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement

As of March 2025, all employment services for individuals receiving Ontario Works in Toronto are now provided through [Employment Ontario](#) instead of Toronto Employment and Social Services. This change has been implemented by the Province as part of its Employment Services Transformation plan which is a key component of its overarching Social Assistance Renewal strategy to modernize and build a more responsive, efficient, and person-centered social assistance system. Following a competitive selection process over 2023-2024, the Province selected WCG Services as the new Employment Services System Manager for Toronto. It is responsible for managing a large network of Employment Ontario employment service providers that assist all job seekers (social assistance and non-social assistance recipients) in preparing for and obtaining employment. As of March 1, 2025, responsibility for employment services for Toronto Employment and Social Services clients transitions to Employment Ontario, with oversight responsibility maintained by WCG.

As a result of these changes, the Province has significantly reduced Toronto Employment and Social Services Ontario Works Program delivery funding. This change effectively means that provincial funding which was traditionally leveraged to support a variety of workforce development initiatives is no longer available. In addition, Toronto Employment and Social Services has shifted from providing employment supports to its clients, to focusing on supporting clients with person centered supports such as housing, food security and mental health and wellness. Toronto Employment and Social Services' emergent role in the new employment services system will be to support

11 The Terms of Reference for the Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee is available at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-222920.pdf>

12 City Council approval of expanded gaming also required the Ontario Lottery and Gaming corporation to implement a Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee for Casino Woodbine.

13 The Terms of Reference for the Employment and Labour Market Advisory Working Group is available at: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2022/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-222921.pdf>.

Ontario Works recipients to address areas of instability in their lives and assist them in transitioning to employment services provided under Employment Ontario.

This transition has implications on the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement. Specifically, Toronto Employment and Social Services will no longer have either the resource capacity or the mandate to lead and coordinate employment activities through the Agreement's Employment and Labour Market Partners Working Group. This work has historically been focused on operationalizing local community hiring pathways in partnership with local employment service providers and liaising with the One Toronto Gaming to better understand and meet local workforce needs.

During this period of transition, the City, through Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, will continue to collaborate with One Toronto Gaming to ensure that residents connected to local employment partners have access to employment and training opportunities as part of the local hiring requirements in the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement. The City will also explore options for collaborating with WCG as a key partner in the new employment service system.

Five Year Review of Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement

In 2023, City staff conducted an in-depth five-year review of each Agreement clause in the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement for current relevance, implementation status, and outcomes achieved to date. Where applicable, staff made recommendations for future improvements. The five-year review resulted in 16 recommendations and 80 action items for One Toronto Gaming. The review highlighted key areas for improvement such as:

- Local hiring for operations employment
- Local and social hiring for construction employment
- Reporting on local and social procurement

In 2024, One Toronto Gaming began implementing and completing recommendations and action items, in collaboration with the City of Toronto and relevant community partners. As of December 31, 2024, 11 of the 16 recommendations were fully implemented, and 65 of the 80 associated action items have been completed. All remaining recommendations and action items are in progress towards completion. The five-year focus for reviewing the Agreement has proven to be a suitable timeframe for both providing deep analysis, oversight and crafting meaningful recommendations to support the successful implementation of all Agreement requirements. One Toronto Gaming has been a strong partner in the execution of a thorough evaluation process and concrete follow up.

Progress of Targets and Achievements (2018 to 2024)

The following section provides information on requirements and targets established in the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement. Attachment 2 provides a detailed summary of Agreement progress to date.

Child Care Centre

One Toronto Gaming is required to contribute \$5 million towards the creation of a new child care centre to benefit Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto employees and local residents. One Toronto Gaming provided a Letter of Credit for the \$5 million contribution to the City's Children's Services Division in 2018.¹⁴

In April 2023, Children's Services completed a feasibility study with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. The feasibility study provided important information on whether the proposed child care program could be successfully accommodated within the limitations of the site. Additionally, the study provided high level insight into the constructability of the project.

The feasibility study concluded that the proposed child care centre would be suitable for 62 children in total (10 infants, 20 toddlers and 32 preschool aged children) with all other required ancillary space accommodated within the limitations of the site. The site selection factored accessibility for local residents and Great Canadian Resort Toronto employees and is strategically located close to transit. The study concluded that the project could be constructed to achieve its program goals.

Children's Services is currently in the agreement negotiation stage with Toronto Community Housing Corporation and are working with City Legal to draft and execute an agreement. Upon completion, Children's Services and Toronto Community Housing Corporation will be able to confirm construction development timelines for the child care centre.

Local and Social Hiring (Operations)

One Toronto Gaming is required to ensure that a minimum of 40 percent of new hires is achieved through local or social hiring; with at least 20 percent being local hires. The current expectation is that at least 50 percent of total employees are required to be employed full-time.

Since 2018, there has been a total of 3,160 employees hired for operations as a result of expanded gaming.

- 42 percent (1,319 individuals) self-identified as a social hire.¹⁵
- eight percent (257 individuals) were local hires.¹⁶

14 Section 4.2 of the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement requires One Toronto Gaming to provide the City an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$5 million as security for the obligation.

15 Social hires are determined through a voluntary Personal Disclosure Form given to all new hires during the onboarding process. Individuals can identify as members of one of more equity-seeking group. One Toronto Gaming now collects these forms electronically (with an option for a hard copy if needed).

16 Local hires are identified through postal code data provided as part of the payroll process.

As outlined in the Agreement, youth hiring, in particular for youth who also identify as a member of an equity-deserving group, should be prioritized. Since 2018, 20 percent of social hires (264 individuals) have identified as youth.¹⁷

In 2024, a total of 392 individuals were hired to support casino operations. Of the 392 individuals hired for casino operations in 2024, 28 percent (108 individuals) self-identified as a social hire and 5 percent (18 individuals) identified as a local hire.

Also in 2024, Toronto Employment and Social Services hosted one information session attracting 73 attendees and conducted a hiring event that brought in 322 participants. Through their job board, Toronto Employment and Social Services posted 131 operations-related positions and forwarded 294 resumes to Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto, resulting in 28 successful hires.

While One Toronto Gaming has made progress in consistently meeting and exceeding its social hiring targets, it has faced significant challenges in meeting the 20 percent local hiring target. To address these ongoing challenges, One Toronto Gaming has committed to strengthening local hiring efforts in 2025 through the following key actions:

- Working with the City of Toronto, the Employment and Labour Market Partners Working Group, and local employment partners to strengthen targeted strategies to improve connections between local residents and employment opportunities.
- Prioritizing local hiring objectives within Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto's organizational recruitment plans and strategies.
- Establishing new metrics to track and report on local applicant data with a focus on hiring outcomes for residents from the Rexdale community.
- Utilizing the City of Toronto Community Benefits Labour Forecasting Templates to provide employment service providers and community partners with relevant insights into current and future employment opportunities at the Casino.
- Working with the City of Toronto to draft an amendment to the Agreement to reflect an enhanced definition of the Woodbine Local Area.
 - In 2024, staff established an Ad-Hoc Working Group to review the current definition. The Group was comprised of Community Steering Committee members, including the Toronto Community Benefits Network, and members from the Agreements oversight structures.
 - The Group recommended updating the existing boundaries to include nearby Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Toronto Community Housing properties in the adjacent communities. Details about the updated definition are outlined in Attachment 3.
 - An enhanced definition of the Woodbine Local Area broadens the Rexdale-Community Benefits Agreement reach, increasing equity impact and creating more opportunities for local communities.¹⁸

¹⁷ Of the 1,319 individuals who self-identified as a social hire, 20 percent (263 individuals) self-identified as youth.

¹⁸ In 2025, staff from Social Development, Finance and Administration and Legal Services, in consultation with One Toronto Gaming, will draft an amendment to the Agreement to reflect the enhanced definition of the Woodbine Local Area.

Construction Hiring

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement requires that a minimum of 10 percent of overall hours worked by trades and craftspeople be worked by apprentices or journeypersons hired through local or social hiring, and that youth hiring initiatives be prioritized, particularly for youth who also identify as a member of an equity-deserving group.

Since construction began in 2018¹⁹, a total of 2,819 individuals have worked on the redevelopment project.

- 29 percent (807 individuals) self-identified as a social hire.
- Two percent (65 individuals) self-identified as a local hire.

Since construction began in 2018, 55 percent (444 individuals) of social hires have identified as youth.

In 2024, a total of 79 new construction hires joined the Great Canadian Casino Resorts Toronto team. Of the 79 individuals hired for construction related employment, 38 percent (30 individuals) self-identified as a social hire and 6 percent (5 individuals) self-identified as a local hire.

Despite Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto having minimal construction employment opportunities, in 2024, One Toronto Gaming began using City of Toronto community benefits resources, including the disaggregated data collection "Welcome Form", and community Benefits glossary, terms, and definitions. The resources provide the Employment Labour Market Partners Working Group, Agreement oversight committee members, and prospective applicants, with detailed and pertinent information related to current and future Great Canadian Casino Toronto construction trade employment opportunities. The resources allow for the collection of additional disaggregated sociodemographic data from new hires, adding depth and greater aggregate reporting insight.

Supply Chain Diversity

One Toronto Gaming is required to ensure a minimum of 10 percent of annual non-construction procurement be through Local or Diverse Suppliers. The procurement of specialized items used in the gaming industry is exempt. Table 3 below provides an overview of One Toronto Gaming's local and social procurement spending since 2018.

¹⁹ The majority of the construction project has been completed; Great Canadian Entertainment Casino Resort Toronto will continue to collaborate with the City to assess where these tools could be used for the remainder of this project.

Table 3: Local and Social Procurement Totals (2018 to 2024)

Year	Local Procurement	Social Procurement
2018	\$105 million (24 local suppliers)	\$1.65 million (19 diverse suppliers)
2019	\$125 million (30 local suppliers)	\$1.33 million (8 diverse suppliers)
2020	\$116 million (26 local suppliers)	\$645,000 (3 diverse suppliers)
2021	\$67 million (17 local suppliers)	N/A
2022	\$9.9 million (27 local suppliers)	N/A
2023	\$87.7 million (14 local suppliers)	\$4.6 million (10 diverse suppliers)
2024	\$100.5 million (18 local suppliers)	\$1.8 million (3 diverse suppliers)

One Toronto Gaming has reported a total spend of \$308.9 million in 2024. Of that amount, the sum of \$100.5 million was spent through local suppliers, representing 33 percent of total procurement. In 2024, One Toronto Gaming reported spending \$1.8 million on diverse suppliers²⁰, representing less than one percent of their total procurement spend.

The overall target of 10 percent local or social hiring is currently being met; however, efforts are still being made to address challenges related to spend on diverse suppliers. One Toronto Gaming developed an outreach plan to proactively engage, educate and inform local businesses and diverse suppliers' networks in advance of their annual Business Opportunity Fair. The outreach plan was developed and informed through external engagement with York University, Buy Social Canada, AnchorTO, and the City of Toronto.

Some of the challenges related to local and social procurement reporting include integrating Agreement objectives into existing Great Canadian Entertainment platforms and systems to identify sufficient local and diverse suppliers in a timely manner. In 2024, City staff recommended One Toronto Gaming identify ways to enhance capacity to report on Agreement metrics related to local and social procurement. As a result of these recommendations, One Toronto Gaming undertook a number of steps to address these challenges, including:

- Updated internal tracking systems to consistently report on local and social procurement targets outlined in the Agreement.
- Increased reporting frequency to now report biannually on all procurement related targets within the Agreement.
- Updated Great Canadian Toronto website to include more information about procurement opportunities.

²⁰ To date, One Toronto Gaming has focused on Diverse Suppliers located in the Greater Toronto Area.

- Implemented a Supplier iO platform to improve engagement with local and diverse suppliers.

As a result of the efforts described above, social and local procurement is expected to increase in 2025 and beyond.

Community Access to Space

One Toronto Gaming is required to make the Entertainment Venue available to the local community at little or no cost for at least one large-scale event per month or 12 large-scale events per calendar year. One Toronto Gaming is also required to develop and implement Community Access to Space Policy and Procedures.

In November 2024, One Toronto Gaming finalized the Community Access to Space Policy and Procedures ('CASPP'). The policy was informed by engagement with the Employment and Labour Market Advisory Group, the Community Steering Committee, Agreement oversight committee members, Rexdale community tables such as the North Etobicoke Resident Council and the North Etobicoke Community Custer, and a jurisdictional review of comparable access to space policies related to community eligibility, available spaces, and accessible pricing.

In December 2024, Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto hosted its first community event that was attended by over 70 youth and their families for the Rexdale Youth Mentorship Holiday Event.

Responsible Gambling Measures

One Toronto Gaming is required to maintain all existing Responsible Gambling measures in place at Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto as required by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and the standards enforced by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation has confirmed that all Responsible Gambling measures are being met at the Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto.

In 2024, One Toronto Gaming participated in the PlaySmart Forum, launched its external-facing statement of commitment on their corporate website and committed to promoting player health and well being through their “Player Health, Players First” strategy.

Identifying and Mitigating the Negative Impacts of Expanded Gaming

The expansion of gambling opportunities is generally associated with increased gambling, increased problem gambling and increases in related negative health and social impacts on individuals, families, and the broader community. Gambling related health harms are commonly related to mental health and financial security but can also include family and community breakdown, increased alcohol and other substance use, and increased rates of crime, unemployment, and intimate partner violence.²¹

21 [Health Impacts of Expanded Gambling at Woodbine Racetrack](#)

Under the Rexdale Casino-Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement, the Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee is required to identify negative impacts of expanded gaming and to implement mitigation measures. The Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee is convened by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation partnered with Toronto Public Health to develop a workplan with four workstreams to guide Responsible Gambling work from 2025 to 2029. The workplan also fulfills the requirements the Rexdale Casino-Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement to identify negative impacts of expanded gaming and implement mitigation measures. The four workstreams are:

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Partnership Development and Stakeholder Engagement
- Strategic Initiatives
- Outcome Measurement

In 2025, the workplan focus will be on two workstreams; data collection and analysis and enhancing community and health sector partnerships and stakeholder relationships. This focus will allow staff to better understand the population health status of the local communities and the health and social impacts on the expanded gaming complex. Throughout 2025, the Responsible Gambling Oversight Committee will bring forward regular progress updates to the Community Steering Committee. This work aligns with the City of Toronto’s five-year mental health and substance use strategy, [Our Health, Our City Strategy](#) and the new [TPH Strategic Plan](#) 2024-2028 priorities.

City of Toronto's Share of Gaming Revenues

The City has received a share of gaming revenues from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation through a Municipal Contribution Agreement since the introduction of the casino at the Woodbine Racetrack in 2000. Table 4 below highlights the City's share of gaming revenues received since the Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement came into effect in 2018²².

Table 4: City of Toronto Share of Gaming Revenues (2018-2024)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
City of Toronto Share of Gaming Revenues - Casino Woodbine	\$19.2 million	\$26.7 million	\$3.1 million ²³	\$12.7 million ²⁴	\$24.7 million	\$26.4 million	\$27.1 million

22 Information on share of gaming revenues prior to 2018 can be found at: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/city-administration/city-managers-office/intergovernmental-affairs/city-of-toronto-olg-municipality-contribution-agreement/>

23 Revenue for January 1-March 31, 2020 only. Residual payments were received in Q3 of 2020: \$42,205 and Q4 of 2020: \$101,207 No revenue payments for remainder of 2020 were received as a result of government-mandated closures of Casino Woodbine to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

24 Revenue for July 1-December 31, 2021, only. No revenue payments in Q1 or Q2 2021 (January-June) as a result of government-mandated closures of Casino Woodbine to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Conclusion

The Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement serves as a model for implementing and advancing inclusive economic development. The Agreement demonstrates how municipal authority can effectively leverage large-scale infrastructure development in order to create meaningful economic opportunities for local residents.

Key milestones in 2025 include continued collaboration with One Toronto Gaming to implement five-year review activities, as well as amendments of the Woodbine Local Area Definition as a step towards meeting local hiring requirements. The City's focus remains on accountability, monitoring and oversight to ensure that all Agreement requirements are completed successfully.

During the transition of employment services responsibilities between Toronto Employment and Social Services and WCG, the City, One Toronto Gaming, and the Employment and Labour Market Partners Working Group will work together to ensure that the Rexdale community and local employment service providers remain fully connected to employment and training opportunities at the Casino.

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SIGNATURE

Denise Andrea Campbell
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: One Toronto Gaming 2024 Annual Report
Attachment 2: Summary of 2024 Progress and Achievements
Attachment 3: Updated Definitions
Attachment 4: Original Woodbine Local Area Map (2018)
Attachment 5: Rexdale-Casino Woodbine Community Benefits Agreement