

April 20, 2026

**Re: EC27.3 City of Toronto Inclusive Economic Development Framework**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council

On behalf of the Atkinson Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed Inclusive Economic Development Framework coming to City Council this month.

Atkinson and our collaborators share a deep commitment to a democratic, inclusive, and growing economy. That is why I was pleased to be asked to co-chair the Inclusive Economic Development Working Table and to contribute to the development of this framework alongside leaders from labour, community, philanthropic, academic, and policy organizations.

The City, and everyone who contributed, can be proud of the result. The Inclusive Economic Development Framework is an important tool for making Canada's largest municipality and economic centre, even stronger, more resilient, and more competitive. By naming social and economic rights and decent work as goals of economic development, the Framework points us in a direction that serves current and future generations of Torontonians.

Further, the emphasis placed on measurement and accountability is particularly encouraging. The addition of new indicators to the Toronto Economic Dashboard, alongside deeper periodic reporting based on census data, is a positive, pragmatic approach. Measures such as temporary and involuntary part-time work will help us understand the quality of work in the local economy, and how tools and resources should be directed toward the outcomes we want—invaluable information for strategic, cross-sectoral policy and programmatic decision making.

The process leading to the Framework, and proceeding from it, is about the muscles all of us need to work together over the long haul. For our part, Atkinson is committed to using this framework as a basis for continued collaboration with the City and leaders in other sectors to help build democratic power to realize the overarching goal of a more equitable Toronto.

For all of these reasons, we urge Council to adopt the Inclusive Economic Development Framework.

Sincerely



Colette Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer