

# METCALF FOUNDATION

April 20, 2026

## EC27.3 - City of Toronto Inclusive Economic Development Framework

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Metcalf Foundation, as its Inclusive Local Economies Program Director, to express our support for the adoption of the City of Toronto's Inclusive Economic Development (IED) Framework.

Metcalf Foundation is a private foundation that works with people and organizations to imagine and build a just, healthy, and creative society. Since 2012, concerned about working poverty and economic precarity, we have partnered with over 100 community organizations to create pathways to good jobs, invest in decent work and build community wealth in our neighbourhoods. Our goal is to advance economic dignity and community prosperity for low-income people in Toronto.

We participated in the IED Working group because we believe the IED framework will accelerate intention, collaboration, innovation, and impact between City divisions, and among the City, civil society, and the private sector. The IED framework will foster longer term planning and encourage more meaningful commitments, which is necessary for the progress and the durability of systemic approaches. When municipal leadership collaborates with community to design and deliver inclusive economic development, we see the potential including:

- Community benefits agreement embedded in the Casino Woodbine development.
- Community development plans formed as part of the secondary plans in Jane/Finch and Downsview Park.
- Building Up's (a construction-focused social enterprise) social procurement partnership with Toronto Community Housing and nonprofit housing providers, resulting in employment pathways and skills development for hundreds of youth.
- FoodReach's (North York Harvest Food Bank's social enterprise) distribution of food to schools, City programs, and nonprofits, and now as a City partner in the School Food Hub model.
- Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust's acquisition of 80+ at-risk rental housing properties and their policy co-creation with the City resulting in the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA) Program.

We view the IED Framework as a cornerstone to advancing community wealth and well-being in Toronto, strengthening the City's levers to implement the City's 10-year Action

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Plan for Toronto's Economy. The IED Framework provides clarity and garners credibility through a working definition, key principles, indicators, and scope of action.

We commend the Economic Development and Culture and Social Development divisions for bringing forward this report and working collaboratively with the IED Working Group, to build, enable, and accelerate inclusive economic development throughout Toronto. Other municipal jurisdictions around the world are showing leadership against rising inequalities (i.e. the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth), offering relevant learning.

Metcalf Foundation supports the adoption of this framework as an important step forward to building an economy that works for all.

Sincerely,



Adriana Beemans  
Inclusive Local Economies Program Director  
Metcalf Foundation

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